

## DEACONS' CORNER

### Consecration to St. Joseph

On 20 July 2020, ten men from Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church began a spiritual journey of discovering the Wonder of Our Spiritual Father – St Joseph, culminating with making an Act of Consecration in the Presence of the Church on 22 August 2020.

Facilitated by Monsignor Makarewicz, these ten men would read, Consecration of St. Joseph The Wonders of a Spiritual Father, by Father Donald Calloway, MIC, then meet weekly via zoom internet to pray, discuss, and reflect on what we read.

As part of this prayer group I wanted to provide some of my insights, reflections, and takeaways.

As a cradle Catholic, I have always known of St. Joseph being the earthly father of Jesus and the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Probably the most vivid memory as a young child is Advent and the Christmas Plays that we would all perform as young children with Joseph trying to find an inn in Bethlehem to house his wife Mary, who was with child and ready to give birth. The next scenes we know of Joseph is the presentation at the Temple, his flight into Egypt with the Holy Family to avoid the killing of Jesus as Herod kills innocent children to destroy the newborn King of the Jews; his flight with the Holy Family back to Egypt; his joy in Nazareth with the Holy Family; losing and finding Jesus in the Temple. That is it, oh, I forget, he was a carpenter. There, now we know all about Joseph. Or do we?

Through our discussions there are some interesting things about Joseph. He never says a word in the Gospels! It is through angels speaking to Joseph in dreams that tell Joseph what he must do for the Holy Family to include

taking Mary as his wife versus quietly divorcing her; taking the Holy Family to Egypt and finally to return to Nazareth. We had some discussions and speculation on the age of Joseph being an older man as some had indicated or being much younger as we have seen portrayed in books and movies. One of the things we discussed was that older men would have had a hard time traveling the distances and journey to and from Egypt to include making a required pilgrimage twice a year to the temple as a devout Jew. Something to contemplate with regards again to Joseph's age.

During our discussions, my understanding of St. Joseph was renewed in that I believe that he is one of the greatest of all Saints, just below Mary, Our Virgin Mother. As Mary is at the right hand of Jesus, Joseph is at the left hand of Jesus. Who was with Jesus any longer, nurtured him from birth, taught him a trade, taught him to be humble and a religious person? Many of the mannerisms, how we talk, how we pray and how we interact with others comes from being with, observing and interacting with our fathers. Such was the case for Jesus and his interaction with St. Joseph.

St. Joseph, by taking Mary as his wife and Jesus as his fostered son, can be compared to the same fiat as with Mary saying yes to being the Handmaid of the Lord. That yes indicated that henceforth, St. Joseph would become not only chaste but also the head and defender of the Holy Family.

St. Joseph has a litany, prayerful petitions to include Chaste Guardian of the Virgin, Zealous Defender of Christ, Model of Workmen, Pillar of Families, Patron of the Dying, Terror of Demons and Protector of the Holy Church.



Finally, we read about a long-standing tradition in the Church that designates each day of the week with a recognized theme at Mass. Those include Sunday – Resurrection of Jesus; Monday – Souls in Purgatory; Tuesday – Holy Angels; Wednesday – St. Joseph; Thursday – Eucharist; Friday – Passion of Jesus; Saturday – Our Lady. As you can see, St. Joseph is held in High Esteem by our Holy Mother Church!

St. Joseph's yes made him the father of Jesus on earth, the husband of the Mother of God. St. Joseph who now sits at the left hand of Jesus and is our spiritual father and intercessor in heaven.

Foreshadowing of St. Joseph – step father of Jesus – was in the Old Testament, with Joseph son of Jacob. *Ite ad Ioseph et quicquid vobis dixerit facite, – Go to Joseph and do all that he shall say to you (Gen 41:55).*

In time of need, sorrow, and joy, go to him!

Blessings – Dcn Jim

## BETTER TOGETHER

Our Lady of the Lake was privileged to sponsor Lake Area Helping Hands Homeless Shelter for a Grant from Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri. The grant for \$5,000 will go towards operating costs and new air conditioning for the shelter. Msgr. Makarewicz and Dcn. Jim were happy to present the check to the staff.





## DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Decree on pastoral activities during the COVID-19 pandemic and after 11 September 2020

Whereas the Department of Health and Senior Services of the State of Missouri and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States federal government continue to recommend the observance of social distancing and the use of face masks when in gatherings; that persons 65 years of age and older, as well as those with certain medical conditions, avoid public gatherings as much as possible; and the practice of frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizers; and

Whereas the common good demands that the public health requirements and recommendations of the state are to be observed whenever possible; and

Whereas having received the recommendation of the Presbyteral Council to extend the current norms with regard to the pandemic;

I therefore declare, as the diocesan bishop, the following:

1. All the faithful of the Diocese of Jefferson City, and those who are present in the territory of the diocese, are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation until 27 November 2020, provided that for days of precept they do one of the following:

1. Prayerfully participate in the Sunday or holy day of obligation Mass livestreamed from their parish church or chapel, the Cathedral, the Vatican, or of any Mass of the day celebrated in communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

2. Prayerfully read and meditate on the readings of the Mass for the Sunday or holy days of obligation, and recite the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet.

2. Parishes are highly encouraged to livestream Masses for Sundays and holy days of obligation indefinitely.

3. Those who are symptomatic for COVID-19 are not permitted to enter church properties, in accordance with national, state and local health directives. All are asked to check their temperature at home before going to church.

4. Those who are 65 years of age or older, and those with medical conditions, are highly encouraged not to go to Mass, especially when it is likely that there will be a large number of the faithful in attendance or if social distancing and the wearing of face masks are not observed.

5. Those who do not attend Mass on Sundays are encouraged to attend Mass on a weekday if it would be easier to observe the proper social distancing and other health recommendations.

6. The celebration of weddings outside of Mass may take place outdoors on the grounds of and in proximity to the parish church or chapels, according to the judgement of the pastor, parochial administrator, or parish life collaborator.

7. Pastors, parochial administrators, parish life collaborators, and the presidents and principals of Catholic schools are strictly obliged to follow the public health requirements, directives or orders of local government officials for gatherings of the faithful, including for the celebrations of Mass, weddings and funerals, other liturgies, devotions, school and catechetical activities, social events, sports activities, and meetings.

8. All other public health recommendations of state authorities should be followed whenever possible, especially with regard to singing in church, according to the judgment of the pastor, parochial administrator, parish life collaborator, president or principal. Consultation with the bishop, vicar general, moderator of the curia, local dean, liturgy commission chairman, or superintendent is recommended.

9. The use of face masks upon entering the church, during the celebration of Mass except when in place in the pew, during the Communion procession, and upon leaving the church is required. If social distancing cannot be maintained in the pew, then the wearing of face masks is obligatory even in the pew.

10. The offertory procession, the sign of peace, and Holy Communion from the chalice shall continue to be suspended. One or more stationary collection baskets are to be used rather than baskets passed or taken up by ushers. Where it has been the practice, the holding of hands during the Our Father must not be done.

11. Communion ministers are to sanitize their hands before and after distributing Holy Communion, and they must use face masks during the distribution of Holy Communion.

12. Those who persist in their desire to receive Holy Communion on the tongue may do so but only after those who receive Holy Communion in the hand, or in a Communion line designated solely for Holy Communion on the tongue. Communion ministers must purify and then sanitize their fingers after distributing Holy Communion on the tongue to each household.

13. High use areas within the church must be sanitized before each service, including the pews used by the assembly, restroom facilities, door handles, push plates, and knobs. It is advisable to have entrance and exit doors propped open during high traffic volumes before and after Mass.

14. Hymnals and other books are to remain stored for the duration of the pandemic. No materials may be left in the pews or adoration chapels. The faithful are encouraged to bring their own missals, hymnals and devotional books.

15. Holy water fonts shall remain empty.

16. Hand sanitizer should be made available throughout church and school facilities.

17. Other directives from the chancery for Catholic schools and religious education programs are to be followed.

This decree is effective from 12 September 2020 and until 27 November 2020, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Jefferson City on this 21st day of August 2020.

Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City