**Presentation for the First Week of Advent by Msgr. Joseph Diermeier**

**St. Joseph: The Man Selected by God to be Closest to Mary and to Jesus**

QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out for you in the presentation? Were there any thoughts that might lead you to further meditation?

2. The Litany in honor of Saint Joseph includes several titles by which he is known – for example, as “guardian of the Blessed Virgin” or “Light of the Patriarchs.” If you were to choose one title from the Litany in honor of Saint Joseph that has meaning for you, which title would you choose and why? See the list on page 2 with the titles of Saint Joseph bolded. Or if you could create a title to honor an aspect of Saint Joseph’s life, what might that be?

3. In addition to the ways mentioned in the presentation about how Saint Joseph was the guardian of the Blessed Virgin, what other ways could he have shown himself to be the guardian of Mary and of Jesus?

4. It was mentioned that we can go to Saint Joseph when we are experiencing doubts. How else could we “Go to Joseph” during this Advent season?

5. As you reflect upon the Scripture passage (given below) that was read during the presentation and consider the two interpretations that were mentioned, do you find any new insights?

*When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive a bear a Son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us).*

(Matthew 1:18-23)

**Litany of St. Joseph**

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| Lord, have mercy on us | Christ, have mercy on us. |
| Lord, have mercy on us. | |
| Jesus, hear us, | Jesus, graciously hear us. |
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| God the Father of heaven, | have mercy on us. |
| God the Son, Redeemer of the World, | have mercy on us. |
| God the Holy Spirit, | have mercy on us. |
| Holy Trinity, one God, | have mercy on us. |
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| Holy Mary, | pray for us. |
| St. Joseph, | pray for us. |
| **Renowned offspring of David,** | pray for us. |
| **Light of Patriarchs,** | pray for us. |
| **Spouse of the Mother of God,** | pray for us. |
| **Chaste guardian of the Virgin,** | pray for us. |
| **Foster father of the Son of God,** | pray for us. |
| **Diligent protector of Christ,** | pray for us. |
| **Head of the Holy Family,** | pray for us. |
| **Joseph most just,** | pray for us. |
| **Joseph most chaste,** | pray for us. |
| **Joseph most prudent,** | pray for us. |
| **Joseph most strong,** | pray for us. |
| **Joseph most obedient,** | pray for us. |
| **Joseph most faithful,** | pray for us. |
| **Mirror of patience,** | pray for us. |
| **Lover of poverty,** | pray for us. |
| **Model of artisans,** | pray for us. |
| **Glory of home life,** | pray for us. |
| **Guardian of virgins,** | pray for us. |
| **Pillar of families,** | pray for us. |
| **Solace of the wretched,** | pray for us. |
| **Hope of the sick,** | pray for us. |
| **Patron of the dying,** | pray for us. |
| **Terror of demons,** | pray for us. |
| **Protector of Holy Church,** | pray for us. |
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| Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, | spare us, O Jesus. |
| Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, | graciously hear us, O Jesus. |
| Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, | have mercy on us, O Jesus. |
|  |  |
| He made him **the lord of His household** | And prince over all his possessions. |

Let us pray: O God, in your ineffable providence you were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the **spouse of your most holy Mother**; grant, we beg you, that we may be worthy to have him for **our intercessor in Heaven** whom on earth we venerate as **our Protector**: You who live and reign forever and ever. Saint Joseph, pray for us.