

MAY 1, 2021
Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
Matthew 13: 54-58

“WORKING SILENTLY AND WITH DIGNITY”

St. Joseph is the man who raised Jesus to become a person, a dedicated worker in following the will of God, and loved and uplift the dignity of labor. Jesus learned to be a devoted and humble worker from his legal father, Joseph the Worker. Today’s mass I chose to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker to highlight the significance of work in glorifying God, and as we celebrate this year as the Year of St. Joseph.

In our gospel, Jesus was described as the carpenter’s son. The people of Nazareth knew Him as one of them, a craftsman, a stone mason, a carpenter who labored all day and night to have foods in the dining table everyday. The people were astonished why a son of a carpenter possessed that kind of wisdom and perform mighty deeds. For them, Jesus is like his father Joseph, just a carpenter. Joseph was a hard-working man who raised Jesus and Mary with dignity and love. He loved his work, and even if he is poor in the eyes of the people, he gave everything for Jesus and Mary because he loved them.

As patron of workers, we can relate to St. Joseph because everyday we work, we love to work and tried our best to make it a reflection of serving others and God. “And we could relate with him in what was told of us in the scriptures. We are told that he took his family to Jerusalem every year for Passover, something that could not have been easy for a working man. We know he was a carpenter, a working man, and in the gospel a sceptical question was asked about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55). He wasn't rich for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified, he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24). There is much we wish we could know about Joseph, about where and when he was born, about how he spent his days,

about when and how he died. But Scripture has left us with one of the most important knowledge of who he was - "a righteous man" (Matthew 1:18)."¹

My brothers and sisters, as we celebrate his feast day, let us ask his intercession, and pray and turn to him before and at the end of our daily work. May we also imitate him to be righteous and honest, dedicated, and humble in our dealings at work, with our superiors, and co-workers so that in all we do, we give glory to God the master craftsman who created the great world for us His own human family.

My brothers and sisters, how do we look at our work? Do we look at it as part of our way to holiness? Do we do it with love and humility, with dedication and passion for the greater glory of God? Is our work a burden or a way closer to God because we are participating in the whole work of God to build His kingdom here on earth?

So, let us always turn to St. Joseph for his intercession before and at the end of our work. May we also be righteous and honest in our dealings at work and with our superiors and colleagues so that in all we do, we give glory to God. May St. Joseph the Worker pray for us.

¹ www.stories4homilies.co