The Handy Saint

He is the greatest after Mary. Humble, silent, hidden. He was the handy man at Nazareth. He is now the handy saint in heaven. His name is Joseph! There is no concern of a man, woman, or child, that does not interest this humble carpenter, reigning gloriously with Jesus and Mary. He will just as easily listen to the prayer of a little child as defend the Church in its persecuted members behind the Iron Curtain.

Whatever your state in life, if you want to make a success of it for all eternity, you will have need on more than one occasion to Go To Joseph. But St. Joseph is a hidden saint. Where shall you find him? Take out your Beads. Our Blessed Mother, who shared the intimate secrets of his heart, will introduce him to you. “You will find him,” she says, “in the Third Joyful Mystery,” in the bosom of the family; and you will find him there kneeling in prayer . . . in silent adoration of the Word Made Flesh. . . . You may be sure he will be present to add his prayers to yours in your daily Rosary.

“You will also meet him,” she continues, “in sacrifice and sorrow! Was he not my support when Simeon prophesied that a sword of sorrow should pierce my heart—not once, but seven times?

“When your heart is heavy, meditate on the Fourth Joyful Mystery. St. Joseph will bring his silent strength to help you, too, in your trial; and turn it into a joy to bear for the love of God.”

Then, if you want to remain in the company of Joseph always, as did Jesus for thirty years, be docile to the lessons he teaches in his life. Above all, imitate him in fidelity to your daily routine. He is, like most of you, at home in the workaday world, silent, busy, and happy.

—Adapted

Retreat for Graduate Students begins Friday evening at 7:30 in Farley Chapel