Today, we celebrate the feast of Joseph, a saint who was a family man. He was the head of the Holy Family, the perfect household. His home was a happy one, replete with peace and harmony, and charity. It was not elaborate, nor elegant; it probably wasn't a show-place in the village of Nazareth. That is unimportant when you recall that within those walls dwelt the holy trio.

Seniors who go to the Marriage Institute tonight to discover the ingredients of a successful home-life, will do well to go to Joseph to learn the virtues of a model husband. And so should you, because most of you are destined to become family men. It may be a little early to worry about choosing a wife -- but it isn't too early to ask St. Joseph to help you acquire his domestic virtues.

His Intercessory Power

Would he be interested if you prayed to him? St. Teresa of Avila has something to say about his position and his power in Heaven. Listen:

"I do not remember to this day ever having asked him for anything he did not grant me. I am amazed at the great mercies which the Lord has done me through this blessed saint; and from what perils, both of body, (paralysis) and soul, he has delivered me.

"The Lord seems to have given other saints grace to help in some troubles; but I know by experience that this glorious saint helps in all. For His Majesty wishes to teach us that, as He was Himself subject to him on earth for having the title of father, though only his guardian, St. Joseph could command Him -- so in Heaven the Lord does what he asks. This has also been the experience of some other persons whom I have told to command themselves to him; and there are many more who lately have come to revere him, through having newly discovered that this is true...

"I wish that I could persuade everyone to venerate this glorious saint, for I have great experience of the blessings that he obtains from God. I have never known anyone who was truly devoted to him, and offered him particular service, who did not visibly increase in virtue. For he gives very real help to those souls who commend themselves to him. For some years now, I have always made some request of him on each of his festival days, and it has always been granted. If my petition is wrong in any way, he corrects it for my greater good... I beg for the love of God, that anyone who does not believe me shall try it for himself. Then he will learn by experience what great good comes of recommending oneself to that glorious patriarch, and paying him service..."

Why single out St. Teresa of Avila? For two reasons: 1) Sound authority; and 2) because popular devotion to St. Joseph came very late in the history of the Church, largely through the efforts of St. Teresa and the Carmelites.

Tonight at 6:45: The Lenten Series in Sacred Heart Church.

FRAYERS REQUESTED - Deceased: brother of Father Furstoss, CSC; father of Irma Konya; grandfather of Tom Elliott of Cavanaugh; mother of Prof. Paul Morin (Eng. Dept.) and of Brother Garnier, CSC; Sisters Mary Wilhelmina, Mary Louis and Mary Crescentia (former summer school students); grandfather of Jim Schuh of Howard. Ill: grandmother of Joe Ryan of Dillon; father-in-law of George Fanelli.