

# JOSEPHITE SPIRITUALITY SEEDS

Monthly publication of the International Josephite-Marellian Center

May 2019

1. Welcoming
2. Opening Prayer
3. Theme of the Month:

**With Joseph and Mary,  
let us be sowers of Peace.**

**"The growth of Jesus "in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man" (Lk 2:52) took place within the Holy Family under the eyes of Joseph, who had the important task of "raising" Jesus, that is, feeding, clothing and educating him in the Law and in a trade, in keeping with the duties of a father."**

(Pope John Paul II - *Redemptoris Custos* 16).

**In this Josephite Spirituality Seed we continue to reflect on the Beatitudes with Pope Francis, and we will see that in the Apostolic Exhortation "Gaudete et Exsultate = Rejoice and Be Glad", in items 87 to 89, the Pope exhorts us to "sow peace within our surroundings." Let us see:**

***"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"***

**“This Beatitude makes us think of the many endless situations of war in our world. Yet we ourselves are often a cause of conflict or at least of misunderstanding. For example, I may hear something about someone and I go off and repeat it. I may even embellish it the second time around and keep spreading it... And the more harm it does, the more satisfaction I seem to derive from it. The world of gossip, inhabited by negative and destructive people, does not bring peace. Such people are really the enemies of peace; in no way are they “blessed”.” (N. 87).**

**"Peacemakers truly “make” peace; they build peace and friendship in society. To those who sow peace Jesus makes this magnificent promise: “They will be called children of God” (Mt 5:9). He told his disciples that, wherever they went, they were to say: “Peace to this house!” (Lk 10:5). The word of God exhorts every believer to work for peace, “along with all who call upon the Lord with a pure heart” (cf. 2 Tim 2:22), for “the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (Jas 3:18). And if there are times in our community when we question what ought to be done, “let us pursue what makes for peace” (Rom 14:19), for unity is preferable to conflict.” (N. 88)**

**"It is not easy to “make” this evangelical peace, which excludes no one but embraces even those who are a bit odd, troublesome or difficult, demanding, different, beaten down by life or simply uninterested. It is hard work; it calls for great openness of mind and heart, since it is not about creating “a consensus on paper or a transient peace for a contented minority”, or a project “by a few for the few”. Nor can it attempt to ignore or disregard conflict; instead, it must “face conflict head on, resolve it and make it a link in the chain of a new process”. We need to be artisans of peace, for building peace is a craft that demands serenity, creativity, sensitivity and skill.”**

**“Sowing peace all around us: that is holiness.” (N. 89).**

**Pope Francis teaches us that to those who take care of sowing peace everywhere, Jesus makes a wonderful promise: "they will be called children of God". And the Pope uses an enlightening term: we must be builders of the "evangelical peace," that founded on justice and communion with the Lord Jesus and his teachings.**

**When Pope Francis teaches us that building peace "requires serenity, creativity, sensitivity and dexterity", we remember that Jesus also went through this formative process. Jesus could say one day, "I leave you peace, I**

**give you my peace. I do not give it to you as the world gives it. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (Jn 14:27), but for this he had to go a long journey.**

**It was no less than thirty years for Jesus to begin his public life and to begin the proclamation with words of the Good News that he was already proclaiming with his life among us, started at the Incarnation, after the "yes" of Mary, and inserted in the history of a People, after the "yes" of Joseph.**

**A fundamental part of the Good News teaches us that we are all Sons of God, and therefore Brothers, and we can live the Peace that surpasses every human understanding. In order for us to become builders of peace we must go through a process similar to that of Jesus. But, how was his formative process? This simple question has no simple answer: how to glimpse and understand the foundation of the relationship that Jesus had with his family, his People, his God, and everything else that led him to discover himself as the Only Begotten Son, and to love us so much as to give his life so that we would become fully partakers of the communion with him and, in him, with the brothers?**

**Pope John Paul II teaches us that it was Joseph's responsibility, certainly with the support of Mary, to educate the Child Jesus, the Teen Jesus, and the Young Jesus.**

**"The growth of Jesus "in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man" (Lk 2:52) took place within the Holy Family under the eyes of Joseph, who had the important task of "raising" Jesus, that is, feeding, clothing and educating him in the Law and in a trade, in keeping with the duties of a father. In the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the Church venerates the memory of Mary the ever Virgin Mother of God and the memory of St. Joseph, because "he fed him whom the faithful must eat as the bread of eternal life."**

**For his part, Jesus "was obedient to them" (Lk 2:51), respectfully returning the affection of his "parents." In this way he wished to sanctify the obligations of the family and of work, which he performed at the side of Joseph."**

**(cf. Pope John Paul II - Redemptoris Custos, 16).**

**We have to be builders of the Evangelical Peace, but we are not alone:**

**"May St. Joseph become for all of us an exceptional teacher in the service of Christ's saving mission, a mission which is the responsibility of each and every member of the Church: husbands and wives, parents, those who live by the work of their hands or by any other kind of work, those called to the contemplative life and those called to the apostolate. This just man, who bore**

**within himself the entire heritage of the Old Covenant, was also brought into the "beginning" of the New and Eternal Covenant in Jesus Christ. May he show us the paths of this saving Covenant as we stand at the threshold of the next millennium, in which there must be a continuation and further development of the "fullness of time" that belongs the ineffable mystery of the Incarnation of the Word." (Redemptoris Custos, 32).**

**Happy are those who, under the guise of St. Joseph and following his example, learn to exercise, with justice and dignity, their professional activities; their rights and duties as citizens; their commitments to family and life; and, finally, in all the activities inherent to their mission. In so doing, they will be sowing peace in their family and society and will be called children of God. With Joseph and Mary, let us strive to sow peace all around us: this is holiness.**

#### **4. Reflection and Sharing**

**Share on the words of Pope Francis: "Peacemakers truly "make" peace; they build peace and friendship in society. To those who sow peace Jesus makes this magnificent promise: "They will be called children of God" (Mt 5:9). He told his disciples that, wherever they went, they were to say: "Peace to this house!" (Lk 10:5). The word of God exhorts every believer to work for peace, "along with all who call upon the Lord with a pure heart" (cf. 2 Tim 2:22), for "the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (Jas 3:18). And if there are times in our community when we question what ought to be done, "let us pursue what makes for peace" (Rom 14:19), for unity is preferable to conflict."**

#### **5. Commitment of the Month**

**Practice "evangelical peace," by exercising yourself at all times in humble and ordinary activities, animated by the spirit of prayer and union with God.**

#### **6. Final Prayer.**