

# **JOSEPHITE SPIRITUALITY SEEDS**

**Monthly publication of the International Josephite-Marellian Center**

**June 2019**

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

**WITH JOSEPH AND WITH MARY,  
REMAIN FAITHFUL IN THE GOSPEL'S WAY.**

**"From the example of St. Joseph we all receive a strong invitation to carry out with fidelity, simplicity and modesty the task that Providence has entrusted to us. I think especially of fathers and mothers of families, and I pray that they will always be able to appreciate the beauty of a simple and industrious life, cultivating the conjugal relationship with care and fulfilling with enthusiasm the great and difficult educational mission."**

**(Pope Benedict XVI, at Angelus, 03/19/2006)**

**In this Josephite Seed we conclude the reflections on the Beatitudes with Pope Francis, and we will see that in the Apostolic Exhortation "Gaudete et Exsultate = Rejoice and Be Glad", in the items from 90 to 94, the Pope exhorts**

us to "accepting daily the path of the Gospel, even though it may cause us problems." Let's see:

*"“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”*

Jesus himself warns us that the path he proposes goes against the flow, even making us challenge society by the way we live and, as a result, becoming a nuisance. He reminds us how many people have been, and still are, persecuted simply because they struggle for justice, because they take seriously their commitment to God and to others. Unless we wish to sink into an obscure mediocrity, let us not long for an easy life, for “whoever would save his life will lose it” (Mt 16:25).” (N. 90).

"In living the Gospel, we cannot expect that everything will be easy, for the thirst for power and worldly interests often stands in our way. Saint John Paul II noted that “a society is alienated if its forms of social organization, production and consumption make it more difficult to offer this gift of self and to establish this solidarity between people”. In such a society, politics, mass communications and economic, cultural and even religious institutions become so entangled as to become an obstacle to authentic human and social development. As a result, the Beatitudes are not easy to live out; any attempt to do so will be viewed negatively, regarded with suspicion, and met with ridicule." (N. 91).

"Whatever weariness and pain we may experience in living the commandment of love and following the way of justice, the cross remains the source of our growth and sanctification. We must never forget that when the New Testament tells us that we will have to endure suffering for the Gospel’s sake, it speaks precisely of persecution (cf. Acts 5:41; Phil 1:29; Col 1:24; 2 Tim 1:12; 1 Pet 2:20, 4:14-16; Rev 2:10).” (N. 92).

"Here we are speaking about inevitable persecution, not the kind of persecution we might bring upon ourselves by our mistreatment of others. The saints are not odd and aloof, unbearable because of their vanity, negativity and bitterness. The Apostles of Christ were not like that. The Book of Acts states repeatedly that they enjoyed favour “with all the people” (2:47; cf. 4:21.33; 5:13), even as some authorities harassed and persecuted them (cf. 4:1-3, 5:17-18).” (N. 93).

**"Persecutions are not a reality of the past, for today too we experience them, whether by the shedding of blood, as is the case with so many contemporary martyrs, or by more subtle means, by slander and lies. Jesus calls us blessed when people "utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account" (Mt 5:11). At other times, persecution can take the form of gibes that try to caricature our faith and make us seem ridiculous. Accepting daily the path of the Gospel, even though it may cause us problems: that is holiness." (N. 94).**

**Pope Francis reminds us that "persecution is not a reality of the past, because today we suffer it both in a bloody way, as many contemporary martyrs, and in a more subtle way, through slander and falsehood." And he exhorts us to remain faithful in the way of the Gospel, even though this brings us problems.**

**Pope John Paul II teaches us that in this struggle to remain faithful we must count on the help of from on high, and he testifies, with words and example, how much he trusted in St. Joseph:**

**"Even today we have many reasons to pray in a similar way: "Most beloved father, dispel the evil of falsehood and sin...graciously assist us from heaven in our struggle with the powers of darkness...and just as once you saved the Child Jesus from mortal danger, so now defend God's holy Church from the snares of her enemies and from all adversity."(49) Today we still have good reason to commend everyone to St. Joseph."**

**(Redemptoris Custos, 31)**

**With Joseph and Mary, we must remain faithful on the path of the Gospel in our educational mission. "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."**

**(Redemptoris Custos, 32)**

**"From the example of St. Joseph we all receive a strong invitation to carry out with fidelity, simplicity and modesty the task that Providence has entrusted to us. I think especially of fathers and mothers of families, and I pray that they will always be able to appreciate the beauty of a simple and industrious life,**

**cultivating the conjugal relationship with care and fulfilling with enthusiasm the great and difficult educational mission."**

**(Pope Benedict XVI, at Angelus 03/19/2006)**

**With Joseph and with Mary, we must remain faithful in the way of the Gospel, whether the road is easy or difficult, whether the human eye sees the goal or not. Let's hear Saint Joseph Marelllo:**

**"We will then say to our Great Patriarch (Saint Joseph): here we are all for you and you are all for us. You show us the way, sustain us at each step and lead us wherever Divine Providence wants us to go: long or short, easy or difficult, whether or not the human eye sees the goal, quickly or slowly, we are sure to walk always secure."**

**(Saint Joseph Marelllo)**

**Blessed are those who, under the watchful eye of St. Joseph and following his example, learn to embrace the Gospel daily, even though it may cause them problems.**

**Blessed are those who, under the watchful eye of St. Joseph and following his example, learn to treat others with serenity and dignity, even and especially on unjust occasions or persecution.**

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

**Share on the words of Pope Francis: Jesus himself warns us that the path he proposes goes against the flow, even making us challenge society by the way we live and, as a result, becoming a nuisance. He reminds us how many people have been, and still are, persecuted simply because they struggle for justice, because they take seriously their commitment to God and to others. Unless we wish to sink into an obscure mediocrity, let us not long for an easy life, for "whoever would save his life will lose it."**

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

**Practice faithfulness and accept daily the path of the Gospel, even though it may cause you problems.**

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