

St Joseph - in the Shadows

Today let us pray for all those men and women who during this pandemic are serving in the shadows like Joseph to protect, care, heal and support the vulnerable.

Throughout Jesus' life he was constantly aware of the nurturing, protective and loving presence of Abba, Father. Joseph became for Jesus this earthly presence and so is often spoken of as 'Father in the Shadows.' Today he becomes a wonderful inspiration for all those men and women who generously 'take on the responsibility for the life of another' as if they were the parents.

Pope Francis spoke of Joseph as a man of deep love.

'The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.

Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift.

His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust.

Joseph recognised the truth expressed by Pope Francis.

"Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father (mother, caregiver) who respects that child's freedom."

'Joseph's noble heart never faltered, never was deterred by the most trying obstacles'

Mary MacKillop (1893)

In what ways does the witness of Joseph who ministered in the shadows challenge you to reflect the Presence of Love and the gift of self?

Prayer

Joseph, we turn in prayer to you.

Enable us to heed God's call to raise 'our consciousness of love and to seek new possibilities wherever we are that will heal, include and untether.'

Gift us with humility of heart and the wisdom of silence.

Amen

St Joseph with Jesus, St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Adelaide

St Joseph, Deeply Loved – pray for us
St Joseph, Tender and Loving – pray for us
St Joseph, the Obedient One – pray for us
St Joseph, the Accepting One – pray for us

St Joseph, the Creative and Courageous Believer and Guide - pray for us
St Joseph, the Worker – Providing for all – pray for us
St Joseph, in the Shadows – pray for us