



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As we arrive into May this week, we immediately and happily call to mind our Blessed Mother, our biological mothers, flowers and all things Spring! Complementing these May themes, May is also a time to salute workers, St. Joseph and the dignity of human work.

Ever since the late 19th century, May 1st—May Day-- has been particularly known for its association with workers. For socialists and communists, May Day is their high holy day — the annual major feast day on their ideological calendar, a calendar that is absent of God.

To counter this, in 1955, Pope Pius XII established the feast day of St. Joseph the Worker, which highlighted ***not the ideology*** of work and workers ***but the dignity*** of both, a dignity that we find in St. Joseph. The Pope wrote: “The spirit flows to you and to all men from the heart of the God-man, Savior of the world, but certainly, no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus, who lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work.”

It is Joseph, said Pope St. John Paul II, who offers a balanced ideal of workers’ rights and human rights—that is, *with* God rather than without God. In his 1989 apostolic exhortation *Redemptoris Custos* (On the Person and Mission of St. Joseph in the Life of Christ and of the Church), John Paul II characterized Joseph as the Guardian of the Redeemer, the “custos,” the protector of the child Jesus. He was a worker who raised a carpenter son, but with eyes fixed on a divine mission and vocation.

Pope Francis in 2021 – the Year of St. Joseph – reiterated this powerful truth: “Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion.... Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us.... Saint Joseph’s work reminds us that God himself, in becoming man, did not disdain work.”

Friends, as we enter May and the work begins on our project, how wonderful it is to salute St. Joseph and all those who have worked and do work for all of us day in day out. Men and Women who sacrifice for their families and even for strangers, so many vocations, so many manifestations of God’s Love!

Next week, we welcome the Little Sisters of the Poor to St. Patrick. Their community cares for the elderly poor throughout the work but close to us in Newark, Delaware. Their community is dedicated to St. Joseph. They will be here asking for your financial support for their good work.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

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VOCATION OFFICE FOR THE
DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
HEED THE CALL

Quo Vadis

June 26-29, 2023

High school men are invited to join the Philadelphia seminarians for this 4 day, 3 night camp. Quo Vadis will take place between June 26-29, 2023 and is full of opportunities for fun, prayer, and discernment with fellow young men from around the Archdiocese.

To register, or for more information, visit:

HeedTheCall.org/QuoVadis



St. Patrick Parish Rosary
Sundays at 7:00 PM via Zoom

To join us online visit www.zoom.us. Select JOIN and enter Webinar ID: 878 5447 9881 / Passcode: stpatsksq

Please visit the parish website for additional login details and to submit your prayer requests.