



## FR. DANIEL'S CORNER

### PATRIS CORDE

*(With a Father's Heart)*

Pope Francis, in *Patris Corde*, describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. This entry will reflect on the first two and take on the others going forward— two for each.

#### ***1. A beloved father***

St. Joseph was the foster father of Jesus and the husband of Mary. His spousal relationship and fatherhood were unique and special in all of human history because, by fulfilling these roles, St. Joseph participated in a very special way in the salvific work of God. St. Joseph, aware of his unworthiness, tried his best to lead a life of humility and love for Jesus and Mary. They must have been delighted to have had such a caring and gentle protector. St. Joseph took his vocation very seriously, which allowed him to turn “his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home.” St. Joseph’s intercession is powerful, and devotions to him are wide-spread and familiar to many Christians. St. Joseph was given the opportunity to humbly witness how both the Old and New Testament came together in the person of Jesus, his God, and his son.

Questions for reflections:

- i. St. Joseph placed himself at the service of the entire plan of salvation. How are we called to the service of the entire plan of salvation?
- ii. How can we cultivate a devotion to St. Joseph?
- iii. What does “go to Joseph” mean in our life?

#### ***2. A tender and loving father***

As a man of great faith, St. Joseph must have learned how to be a good father from God through his Jewish tradition. Jesus must have experienced God’s tender love radiating to Him from St. Joseph. The world today may see tenderness as something that is not desirable because it may appear to imply weakness and frailty. However, in the genuine tender love of St. Joseph for Mary and Jesus, we see a humble man who knew himself. He had fears and confusions, but he chose to keep loving Jesus and Mary because he knew only God could know the full picture of everything and what was best for him. St. Joseph always chose to love rather than to judge and accuse. We should learn from him to treat others and ourselves with tender love and mercy.

Questions for reflection:

- i. How are we being called to reflect the tender love of God in our life?
- ii When we see the weaknesses of others how do we respond? Is this an area for growth for us?
- iii Where in our life are we afraid of letting God work? Why?