



FR. DANIEL'S CORNER

PATRIS CORDE

With a Father's Heart

This entry marks the last part of studying Pope Francis' Apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*, with which he announced the Year of St. Joseph.

6. A Working Father:

At the time of his first social Encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*, Pope Leo XIII highlighted St. Joseph's attitude towards work. Working as a carpenter with St. Joseph served as a tangible witness for Jesus of the dignity and joy of what it means to eat the bread that is the fruit of one's own labor. Work allows a person to use their talents and abilities in the service of others. It can also bring fulfilment in one's life as well as in the life of one's family. In our work, we cooperate with God and become creators of the world around us. The recent time of the pandemic has shown the need to rediscover the value of work, not only the economic value of work, but also the social, cultural, and spiritual value of work. Jesus, working alongside St. Joseph reminds us that God himself, in becoming man, did not disdain work. We should look at this time of crisis as an opportunity to review our priorities and see that each person has work to sustain themselves.

- What does it mean to learn the value, dignity, and joy of eating the bread that is the fruit of one's own labor?
- Why is St. Joseph the patron of workers? What can we learn from him about our own work?
- How do we balance the dignity of work and the importance of loving our family? Do we do both equally or one more than the other?

7. A Father in the Shadows:

Fatherhood is so much more than just bringing a child into the world. It is also about taking responsibility for that child. A father introduces children to the reality of life by helping them decide for themselves and explore new things through freedom. True love is a chaste love which is free from possessiveness. St. Joseph knew that the child Jesus was only entrusted to his care and would one day need to walk on His own. The world needs fathers who are faithful educators, knowing that one day their children will need to practice independence. St. Joseph models a fatherhood that is centered on self-sacrifice and trust. Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality— not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom, and exploring new possibilities.

- How can we accept responsibility for the life of another and be a biological or spiritual parent to them?
- How are we called to live without possessiveness?
- How can we help children walk the path of life independently?

The Conclusion:

The goal of *Patris Corde* is to help us develop a deeper relationship with St. Joseph and thereby a deeper relationship with God. St. Joseph shows us that everyone is called to holiness. He also demonstrates that it is possible to live a life of holiness. St. Joseph exemplifies what it means to have a fatherly heart by knowing God's love and reflecting it to others. As we continue to configure ourselves to Jesus Christ, we go to St. Joseph to teach us how to reveal to others a fatherly heart.

- How can we increase our love of St. Joseph?
- What can we learn from the eloquent silence of St. Joseph?
- Where in our life do we need to ask St. Joseph to intercede for conversion?