

Daily Homily

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

19 March 2020

Happy Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary! Bishop Barron, in his reflection for today, reminded all that Joseph was a man in crisis: a pregnant fiancée, no room at the inn, a tyrant king looking for his son, an unplanned home taken up in Egypt, presenting his son in the temple and having to swallow some hard realities of the child's future, losing Jesus for three days when he was only twelve years old. Crisis after crisis after crisis. How did he respond? Not with "my will be done" or "why is this happening to me?" He did not respond with complaint or self-pity. He did respond with, "thy will be done." His response was trust, faith, prayer and - I love this one - sleep. (God spoke best to him in dreams.)

I'm finding in this time of crisis that many generous avenues are opening especially for spiritual growth and development to keep us anchored in what is really real. Any saint only became a saint in times of crisis and in times of difficulty. Look to Jesus in crisis on the cross. Jesus' ministry really came to fulfillment only when he encapsulated everything he did and said by facing the crisis with selfless, sacrificial love which gave way to Resurrection.

Blessed Pier Giorgio, having lived between two world wars- the devastating effects of one and the increased hostility that led to another- stayed anchored in prayer, reading scripture, helping the helpless.

It's a Catholic response to crisis. It's what we do. And, more importantly, it's who we are. Opportunities for spiritual growth and development are opening up before us. Look for them in the house, in the neighborhood, through the phone, in conversation, in quality time with family, in finding creative ways to be together.

My prayers are with you in these days ahead, come what may. May the Great Husband, Joseph, take all of us under his paternal care. May he, who navigated trustingly through all the craziness that came to his family, help guide us through these days as well. Peace.