

March 19th: Solemnity of Saint Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gospel text (Mt 1:16.18-21.24a): Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ (...). The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

The dignity of the work

EDITORIAL TEAM evangelii.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, feast of St. Joseph, we theologically consider the reality of work. The "Bible" shows how work belongs to man's original condition. When the creator made man to His image and likeness, He invited him to work the earth... And the Son of God Himself, making Himself similar to us in everything, dedicated Himself for many years to manual activities (He was the "Son of the carpenter").

Work is of primary importance for man's fulfillment and the development of society. This is why it is necessary that it "always" be organized and at the service of the common good: man is subject and protagonist of work. At the same time, it is indispensable that man not allow himself to be subjected to work, that he does not idolize it, intending to find in it the ultimate and definitive meaning of life.

—A spirituality must be lived that will help believers to sanctify themselves through their work, imitating Saint Joseph, who every day had to provide for the needs of the Holy Family with his hands.