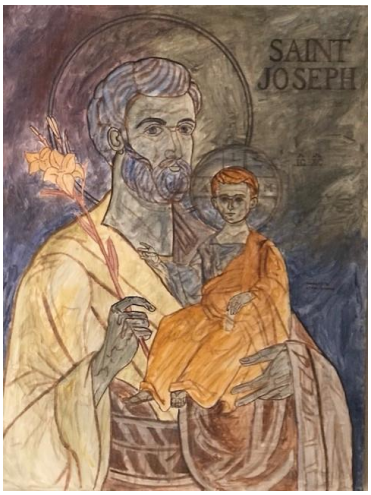

NOVENA
IN HONOUR OF
SAINT JOSEPH
PATRON AND PROTECTOR

For use at St Louis de Montfort Catholic Church

A novena is a special nine day devotional exercise that leads up to feast or event. It spiritually focusses us and gets us ready to celebrate or act in mission.
Please join us in the novena to St Joseph for the feat o Our Patron in this year of St Joseph and also focusses us for the preparations we must make for the 2022 General Chapter of the Josephites

Prayer for the Year of St Joseph *by Pope Francis*

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became a man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself as a Father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

A note on St Joseph, the Josephite Fathers and their Founder.

The Josephite Fathers were founded by Canon Constant Van Crombrugghe in Belgium in 1817 for the education of Youth and support of their families; The Josephites came to California in 1963.

*The Founder took St Joseph as their patron because of the qualities he exhibits in the gospels as a **dikaios**, "one who always chooses to do the right thing" (sometimes translated as an honest man, an upright man, a righteous man). Joseph is a man who, as a good Jew, follows the law but interprets it through the lens of always seeking to do good. (Hence his desire to divorce Mary informally and thereby saving her from the full penalties of the law). Sometimes the law can be harsh. It needs to be interpreted so that justice is tempered with mercy. Josephites are called to be "Instruments of mercy in the hand of God", taking Joseph as their model, protector and Father, always seeking to do the good thing no matter the situation or people involved. Joseph is not just a model for the Josephites but for all Christians.*

FIRST DAY 10 March

1. The Founder's words: *"concerning the glorious offices with which God honored St. Joseph. The rare examples of humility, wisdom, patience, fidelity, obedience and submission that he gave us must inspire us with a high idea of his holiness and a great devotion to him. Honor this saint, especially by the faithful imitation of his excellent virtues, turn to him with confidence in all your needs, and inspire this confidence in others. Saint Theresa assures us that she never asked for anything in his name that she did not obtain".*

2. Gospel words: "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:20- 21).

3. Intercession: May the next General Chapter produce many good fruits for our congregation.

4. Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron and Protector. St. Joseph, you who were the protector of the Incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, we ask you also to be our protector and father. Through your prayers, keep us from all evil. Intercede for us before God so that each day we may receive the confidence and strength to know and love him more and more, so that we may accomplish the task he has given us in this world. We ask this in the presence of your adopted son Jesus who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

5. Three Hail Marys, Our Father, Glory be to the Father...

6. Final Prayer: God our Father, we thank you for giving us St. Joseph as our Patron and Protector. Confident in the power of intercession with which you have endowed him, we dedicate these nine days before his feast day to an insistent prayer, so that the forthcoming General Chapter may produce many good fruits for our congregation that will help it to face the challenges of our world as it is. Accept, God of all goodness, the supplication presented to you in our name by the one who was the foster father of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. He who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

SECOND DAY 11 March

1. The Founder's words: *"Let us intercede with our patron saint in order to obtain light and strength for all the members of the family that boasts of having at its head the one who had the honour of working for the education of the Saviour of the world. I expect all the confreres to redouble their zeal so that St. Joseph will be pleased with them and that they deserve new favours. Above all, ask for an increase in faith, hope and charity".*

2. Gospel words: "When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus." (Mt 1:24-25).

3. Intercession: May the next General Chapter produce many good fruits for our congregation.

4. Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron and Protector. St. Joseph, you who were the protector of the Incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, we ask you also to be our protector and father. Through your prayers, keep us from all evil. Intercede for us before God so that each day we may receive the confidence and strength to know and love him more and more, so that we may accomplish the task he has given us in this world. We ask this in the presence of your adopted son Jesus who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

5. Three Hail Marys, Our Father, Glory be to the Father...

6. Final Prayer: God our Father, we thank you for having given us St. Joseph as our Patron and Protector. Confident in the power of intercession with which you have endowed him, we dedicate these nine days before his feast day to insistent prayer, so that the forthcoming General Chapter may produce for our congregation many good fruits that will help it to face the challenges of our world challenges of our world as it is. Accept, God of all goodness, the supplication presented to you in our name by the one who was the foster father of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. He who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

THIRD DAY 12 March

1. Founder's words: *"We praise and thank the Lord for all the graces he has given to St. Joseph. We venerate with great pleasure this Father Nurse of Jesus, our special Protector and custodian of our family. We will be amazed at the greatness that God has given to St. Joseph and the many graces we have received through his intercession. Let us have good courage and great trust in the help of our powerful Patron. Let us celebrate his feast day with faith and hope for all that is useful to live our sublime vocation. Let us love the one whom Jesus loved and let us follow in the footsteps of the one who educated Jesus who so sincerely sought God in everything".*

2. Gospel words: " After they had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead." (Mt, 2, 13-14).

3**. Intercession**: May the next General Chapter produce many fruits for our congregation.

4. Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron and Protector. St. Joseph, you who were the protector of the Incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, we ask you also to be our protector and father. Through your prayers, keep us from all evil. Intercede for us before God so that each day we may receive the confidence and strength to know and love him more and more, so that we may accomplish the task he has given us in this world. We ask this in the presence of your adopted son Jesus who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

5. Three Hail Marys, Our Father, Glory be to the Father...

6. Final Prayer: God our Father, we thank you for having given us St. Joseph as our Patron and Protector. Confident in the power of intercession with which you have endowed him, we dedicate these nine days before his feast day to insistent prayer, so that the forthcoming General Chapter may produce for our congregation many good fruits that will help it to face the challenges of our world challenges of our world as it is. Accept, God of all goodness, the supplication presented to you in our name by the one who was the foster father of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. He who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

FOURTH DAY 13 March

1. The Founder's words: *"As the feast of our patron saint approaches, I would like to address a few lines directly to you to remind you that we have great reasons to honour St. Joseph and to do what is in our power to attract the eyes of the God of mercy to our religious family. We have so many and such great temporal and spiritual needs; we must try to obtain for our august Patron what we have not been able to obtain for ourselves. Independently of what each one of us must ask for himself in particular, I ask for an increase in faith, hope and charity for all of us. Join me, my dear son; pray and make every effort so that you, your house and your pupils may feel the effects of your courageous deeds and wise steps, especially during the octave of St. Joseph. I give you my paternal blessing with all my heart".*

2. Gospel words: "After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled: 'He will be called a Nazarene.'" (Mt 2:19-23).

3. Intercession: May the next General Chapter produce many fruits for our congregation.

4. Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron and Protector. St. Joseph, you who were the protector of the Incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, we ask you also to be our protector and father. Through your prayers, keep us from all evil. Intercede for us before God so that each day we may receive the confidence and strength to know and love him more and more, so that we may accomplish the task he has given us in this world. We ask this in the presence of your adopted son Jesus who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

5. Three Hail Marys, Our Father, Glory be to the Father...

6. Final Prayer: God our Father, we thank you for having given us St. Joseph as our Patron and Protector. Confident in the power of intercession with which you have endowed him, we dedicate these nine days before his feast day to insistent prayer, so that the forthcoming General Chapter may produce for our congregation many good fruits that will help it to face the challenges of our world challenges of our world as it is. Accept, God of all goodness, the supplication presented to you in our name by the one who was the foster father of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. He who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

FIFTH DAY 14 March

1. Founder's words: *"Saint Joseph is not only our Special Protector but also a great model that we can follow with confidence. Study diligently this beautiful model. Remember his admirable chastity, his gentleness, his humility; with what respect and love he worked for the divine child entrusted to him. The children whom the Lord entrusts to your care are also very precious; they are the price of the blood of the divine Jesus who was born of Mary. And this God the Savior declares that it is to him that you will do what you did to the last of men. Never allow yourself to do anything that is dictated by sorrow or by liveliness. It would be to Jesus Christ that you would say hard things or show a face that is troubled by passion. I beg you, therefore, to ask for humility and gentleness through the intercession of our good and powerful Patron".*

2. Gospel words: "Now at this time Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn". (Lk 2:1-7)

3. Intercession: May the next General Chapter produce many, many fruits for our congregation.

4. Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron and Protector. St. Joseph, you who were the protector of the Incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, we ask you also to be our protector and father. Through your prayers, keep us from all evil. Intercede for us before God so that each day we may receive the confidence and strength to know and love him more and more, so that we may accomplish the task he has given us in this world. We ask this in the presence of your adopted son Jesus who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

5. Three Hail Marys, Our Father, Glory be to the Father...

6. Final Prayer: God our Father, we thank you for having given us St. Joseph as our Patron and Protector. Trusting in the power of intercession with which you have endowed him, we dedicate these nine days before his feast day to insistent prayer, so that the next General Chapter may produce many good fruits for our congregation that will help it to face the challenges of our world challenges of our world as it is. Accept, God of all goodness, the supplication presented to you in our name by the one who was the foster father of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. He who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

SIXTH DAY 15 March

1. Founder's words: *"I hope very much that through the intercession of our good St. Joseph we will obtain many graces this month. This month we must strive to do everything in honor of our Holy Father. Let us not be afraid of work and pain. His holy grace will help us when the will is good. May all religious faithfully fulfil their duties during this month and show St. Joseph signs of love so that they may be helped in their endeavors. Continue with zeal and confidence to honor our august Patron throughout this month. You will certainly derive spiritual and temporal benefits for yourselves and for those whom the good Lord has entrusted to you".*

2. Gospel words: "Every year his parents used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have, you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant." (Lk 2:41-50)

3. Intercession: May the next General Chapter bear much fruit for our congregation.

4. Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron and Protector. St. Joseph, you who were the protector of the Incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, we ask you also to be our protector and father. Through your prayers, keep us from all evil. Intercede for us before God so that each day we may receive the confidence and strength to know and love him more and more, so that we may accomplish the task he has given us in this world. We ask this in the presence of your adopted son Jesus who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

5. Three Hail Marys, Our Father, Glory be to the Father...

6. Final Prayer: God our Father, we thank you for having given us St. Joseph as our Patron and Protector. Trusting in the power of intercession with which you have endowed him, we dedicate these nine days before his feast day to insistent prayer, so that the next General Chapter may produce many good fruits for our congregation that will help it to face the challenges of our world challenges of our world as it is. Accept, O God of all goodness, the supplication presented to you in our name by the one who was the foster father of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. He who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

SEVENTH DAY 16 March

1. Founder's words: *"I never cease to commend to our Saint Patron all those whom God has entrusted to our care. May we see during this month that those of our people who have departed from them return to their duties. This is the heartfelt cry of your devoted father in Jesus Christ. I make it my duty to commend you to the divine Saviour and to your patron saint so that this month you may become a religious according to the heart of God, and that you may become a good instrument of his mercy and faithfully fulfil the views of heaven".*

2. Gospel words: He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen'. And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?' (Lk 4:20-23)

3. Intercession: May the next General Chapter bear much fruit for our congregation.

4. Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron and Protector. St. Joseph, you who were the protector of the Incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, we ask you also to be our protector and father. Through your prayers, keep us from all evil. Intercede for us before God so that each day we may receive the confidence and strength to know and love him more and more, so that we may accomplish the task he has given us in this world. We ask this in the presence of your adopted son Jesus who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

5. Three Hail Marys, Our Father, Glory be to the Father...

6. Final Prayer: God our Father, we thank you for having given us St. Joseph as our Patron and Protector. Trusting in the power of intercession with which you have endowed him, we dedicate these nine days before his feast day to insistent prayer, so that the next General Chapter may produce many good fruits for our congregation that will help it to face the challenges of our world challenges of our world as it is. Accept, God of all goodness, the supplication presented to you in our name by the one who was the foster father of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. He who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

EIGHTH DAY 17 March

1. Founder's words: *“The month of St. Joseph is about to expire. I like to believe that you have received new favors and that you are doing your utmost to keep these marks of God's goodness for you. I like to believe that our patron saint will have been pleased with us during this month and that he will have obtained many graces for us. Let us try to keep these blessings for ourselves and use them according to the merciful views of our God".*

2. Gospel words: " When Jesus had finished these parables he left the district; and, coming to his home town, he taught the people in their synagogue in such a way that they were astonished and said, ‘Where did the man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? This is the carpenter’s son, surely? Is not his mother the woman called Mary, and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Jude? His sisters, too, are they not all here with us? So where did the man get it all?’ And they would not accept him. (Mt 13-53-56)

3. Intercession: May the next General Chapter produce many fruits for our congregation.

4. Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron and Protector. St. Joseph, you who were the protector of the Incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, we ask you also to be our protector and father. Through your prayers, keep us from all evil. Intercede for us before God so that each day we may receive the confidence and strength to know and love him more and more, so that we may accomplish the task he has given us in this world. We ask this in the presence of your adopted son Jesus who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

5. Three Hail Marys, Our Father, Glory be to the Father...

6. Final Prayer: God our Father, we thank you for giving us St. Joseph as our Patron and Protector. Trusting in the power of intercession with which you have endowed him, we dedicate these nine days before his feast day to insistent prayer, so that the next General Chapter may produce many good fruits for our congregation that will help it to face the challenges of our world challenges of our world as it is. Accept, God of all goodness, the supplication presented to you in our name by the one who was the foster father of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. He who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

NINTH DAY 18 MARCH:

Biblical Vigil

Introduction

At first glance, Joseph appears in the New Testament as an episodic, unimportant character: not once does he open his mouth to say what he thinks, to give an opinion or advice. Eternally silent, it is in the third person that his questions and worries are suggested. There is every reason to believe that Scripture wants Joseph's silence to better highlight the people he is called to protect: Mary and Jesus. Yet, despite this silence and the discretion it signifies, Joseph is a great figure in the history of salvation. Spouse of the Virgin Mary and descendant of David, it is he who transmits to the Son of God the messianic title of "Son of David". Moreover, it is Joseph who, in the eyes of the society of his time, is the actual father of Jesus, he who educates him and transmits to him all the cultural and religious heritage proper to every true Jew. The Son of God is thus, socially and sociologically, truly the son of the carpenter of Nazareth. This particular role that Joseph played in the life of Jesus is what justifies the place he occupies in Christian devotion, a devotion that dates back to the early years of Christianity and has continued to develop. Many lives have achieved holiness by taking St. Joseph as a model, inspired by his essential virtues of faith, justice, humility and total surrender to God's will. We belong to a religious family that is placed under the patronage and protection of St. Joseph. It is both a grace and a mission. Our founder never ceased to underline this grace by recalling the role of Saint Joseph in the discovery of his own priestly vocation. Thanks to the assistance of our patron saint, always to be requested, as we have done these last nine days at the scholasticate. But also a mission that is ours, that of living in the image of St. Joseph, with his trusting faith, his humility, the service of the least ones. Mission also to make him known and loved by others. All this cannot be properly accomplished outside of prayer and meditation on Scripture. This is why we will conclude our novena with this short biblical vigil, the texts of which are taken from the Mass on the feast of St Joseph, husband of the Virgin Mary.

1. Hymn

2. First reading: Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.” (2Sm 7, 16)

3. Hymn

4. Gospel: This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord

appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus. (Mt l, 16-24)

5. Silence

6. Spontaneous intentions

7. Our Father

8. Final Prayer: God our Father, we thank you for having given us St. Joseph as our Patron and Protector. Trusting in the power of intercession with which you have endowed him, we dedicate these nine days before his head to insistent prayer, so that the forthcoming General Chapter may produce for our congregation many good fruits that will help it to face the challenges of our world challenges of our world as it is. Accept, God of all goodness, the supplication presented to you in our name by the one who was the foster father of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. He who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Thank you for praying with the Josephites and for their future.
A general Chapter is a crucial moment in the life of the Josephites as when they set their agenda for the next five or so years and vote the team to help realize those plans.

This Novena was:

Compiled by Fr Francois Mbyangandu of the Congo who lives now in tThe Mother House in Belgium where he is the Chaplain of the pilgrimage, shrine chapel of our Lady in Geraardsbergen run by the Jospehites since the mid 19th century.

Translated in English by Br Michael Powell CJ the secretary General who lives in England.

Formatted for use here by Fr Aidan-Peter Rossiter CJ Vicar General here in USA