



Saint Joseph: Patron of the Universal Church

FROM THE ENCYCLICAL *Quamquam Pluries* OF POPE LEO XIII, 1889



“We see faith, the root of all the Christian virtues, lessening in many souls; we see charity growing cold; the young generation daily growing in depravity of morals and views; the Church of Jesus Christ attacked on every side by open force or by craft; a relentless war waged against the Sovereign Pontiff; and the very foundations of religion undermined with a boldness which waxes daily in intensity...

“That God may be more favorable to Our prayers, and that He may come with bounty and promptitude to the aid of His Church, We judge it of deep utility for the Christian people, continually to invoke with great piety and trust, together with the Virgin-Mother of God, her chaste Spouse, the Blessed Joseph... We have seen the devotion to St. Joseph, which in past times the Roman Pontiffs have developed and gradually increased, grow into greater proportions in Our time, particularly after Pius IX., of happy memory, Our predecessor, proclaimed, yielding to the request of a large number of bishops, this holy patriarch the patron of the Catholic Church...

“...Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was. And during the whole course of his life he fulfilled those charges and those duties... It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ.”

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH, PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

To thee, O Blessed Joseph, do we fly in our tribulation, and, having implored the help of thy most holy spouse, we also now confidently implore thy holy patronage. We beseech thee by that charity, which united thee with the Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, and we humbly pray thee by that fatherly love, with which thou didst embrace the Child Jesus, to look kindly upon the inheritance which Jesus Christ purchased by His Blood, and to come to help us in our necessities with thy virtue and powerful aid. Defend, O most watchful Guardian of the Holy Family, the chosen offspring of Jesus Christ.

Ward off from us, O most loving Father, every contagion of error and corruption. Be propitious to us from Heaven, O our most mighty Protector, in our struggle with the power of darkness; and as once thou didst rescue the Child Jesus from the greatest peril of His life, so now defend the Holy Church of God from the snares of her enemies and from all adversity.

Shield too, each one of us with thy constant protection, so that, supported by thy example and powerful aid, we may be able to live a holy life, die a holy death, and attain everlasting beatitude in Heaven. Amen.

LETTER FROM THE VICAR GENERAL



Dear friends of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest,

Ite ad Ioseph! In these difficult times for our world let us go to Joseph with renewed fervor during the month of March, which is dedicated to this holy patron of the Universal

Church. His powerful intercession is especially needed as the conclave of Cardinals gathers in Rome to elect a Successor to the Chair of Peter, which has been recently vacated by our beloved Pope Benedict XVI. Renewing our faith in the divinity of the Church founded by Christ, we have confidence that just as God had given us an extraordinary teacher and spiritual father in Pope Benedict XVI, so also will His Divine Providence grant to His Church another worthy Pontiff with the wisdom and charity needed to guide the Barque of Peter. Let us pray that the next Vicar of Christ may continue the important work for the Liturgy so that, with his apostolic blessing, wisdom, and guidance, these efforts for the restoration of the sacred may draw even more souls to conversion to Christ and to deeper union with Him. In a society which is hostile to the teaching and morals of our Catholic Faith, may God preserve His Shepherd on earth from the attacks of enemy wolves and grant him courage and strength in his Petrine mission to instruct, govern, and sanctify the flock of Christ.

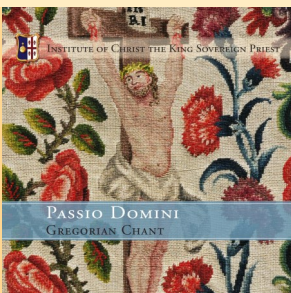
Founded in 1990 as a community entirely at the service of the Church, the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest has never wavered in its fidelity to the See of Peter. At each Holy Mass the Canons of our worldwide Institute offer the liturgical prayers

“Pro Papa” according to the traditional rubrics of the Roman Liturgy, thus inviting the lay faithful to constant prayer for the Holy Father. Our Institute’s International Seminary of St. Philip Neri is located near Rome so that our future priests receive a solid formation in the traditional spirit of *Romanitas*, that is, a profound “feeling with the Church” and an intense perception of the importance of the Primacy of Peter in doctrine, liturgy and Catholic life. This spirit of Roman unity and tradition is then brought by the Canons to the apostolates of the Institute in 11 countries around the world, thus helping the lay faithful to be more closely united to the Vicar of Christ.

In fulfilling this mission entrusted to us by the Church, we need the help of your prayers and of your financial contributions. Without your charity we cannot continue! As we pray together for the new Roman Pontiff who will soon be elected, please support the work of our Institute by a Lenten donation. **Your generosity will greatly assist us in our collaboration with the future Pope for the good of the Church and the salvation of souls.** May God reward you for your sacrifice and for your prayers! Assuring you of a prayerful remembrance each day at the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, I wish you a blessed and spiritually fruitful season of Lent and remain,

Yours very truly, in Christ the King,

Msgr. Michael Schmitz
Vicar General and Provincial Superior



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