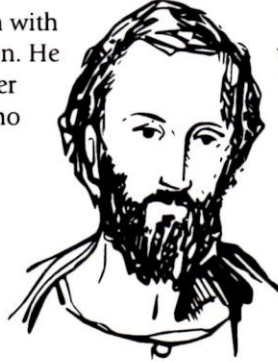


The ultimate earthly father

Scripture doesn't report that St. Joseph was born with special graces, yet he was chosen to raise God's Son. He may not have had the gift of prophecy, yet he never doubted God's word. He was an ordinary man who lived an extraordinary life.

Ever faithful. As a faithful Jew with knowledge of Scripture, Joseph knew that God sometimes sent instructions through angels. That's why he was open to being guided by an angel in a dream. So Joseph's devotion to God's Word helped him follow God's will.



Steady provider. Joseph left everything to flee with his family to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15). He kept them safe until the angel said to move back (Matthew 2:20-23). Joseph's hard work and skill helped provide for his family in a foreign land.

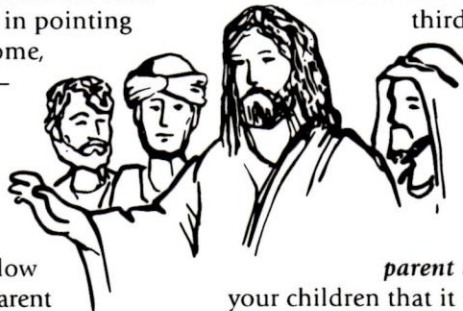
Good man. Scripture said that St. Joseph lived a virtuous life (Matthew 1:19). We also know he was compassionate in his treatment of Mary. Who better to raise the Son of God and care for His Mother than the ultimate earthly father?

Scripture LESSON Luke 9:51-62, What does it take to be a disciple?

In this Gospel reading, the first man enthusiastically offered to follow Jesus but he wasn't prepared for the cost. Jesus was unflinching in pointing out that He has no home, no shelter, no family – none of the things people normally consider important for a happy life.

It may not always be comfortable to follow Jesus. Burying one's parent was considered a binding religious duty among the Jews, so the second man wanted to fulfill that duty before setting out with Jesus. Jesus' answer pointed out the importance of action when He says it is time to move. In

the third story, Jesus points out that looking back while plowing can ruin the row. He wanted the third man to



understand that we need to have a singleness of purpose to be His disciple.

What can a parent do? Remind your children that it isn't always easy to be a follower of Jesus. There are things we have to give up and comforts we may have to sacrifice. But He promises us that the rewards will be unimaginable and worth more than the costs.

Parent TALK

My old discipline tools aren't working so well anymore. My girls aren't bad but when they make bad choices, "go to your room" isn't



enough. So I set up a card table in the family room, invested in a few Catholic reference books, such as

Butler's Lives of the Saints and some drawing and writing materials. When the girls need "redirecting," I now assign short reports, projects, or essays depending upon the misdeed.

When Tessa "forgot" to give me back the change from her lunch money, I assigned a three-paragraph report on St. Nicholas who gave away his money to the poor. When Kara took a test without studying for it, I had her illustrate a comic book about St. Catherine of Alexandria who is said to have converted 50 pagan philosophers using her wisdom and knowledge.

Partnering with saints to raise my children makes more sense than giving time-outs.

Feasts & Celebrations

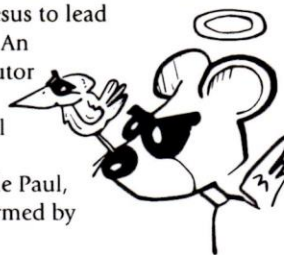
June 5 – The Feast of Pentecost. Today, we celebrate the birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit was given to the Apostles, following the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.

June 8 – St. William of York (1154). St. William was born into a noble English family. Even when political opponents slandered him, St. William was never bitter or resentful. He died less than two months after his consecration, probably poisoned.

June 15 – St. Germain Cousin (1601). Born in France, St. Germain lost her

mother at infancy and was mistreated by her stepmother. She became a shepherdess, known for her simple, yet profound faith. She attended Mass daily, leaving her flock in God's care.

June 29 – Sts. Peter and Paul (1st century). Peter, an ordinary fisherman made extraordinary by God's grace, was chosen by Jesus to lead the Church. An early persecutor of the Church, Saul became the Great Apostle Paul, also transformed by grace.



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