

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH PROTECTOR OF OMIS 19 MARCH

The Universal Church marks 2021 as the Year of St Joseph - a concerted effort to remind the faithful of the source of strength and support made available to us through St Joseph. The OMI's look to St Joseph as the Protector of the OMI Congregation and the Patron of Brothers. As Protector, St Joseph defends members of The De Mazenod Family against temptations, spiritual harm; as Patron, he supports and nourishes the Oblate Brothers in particular. Along with Blessed Mary, St Joseph is known for his unreserved 'yes' to trusting God's will for his life, referred to as a "model of obedience made incarnate". St Eugene with a middle name of Joseph, honours the saint, saying his "soul (is) more excellent than all the celestial intelligences, above which it is indubitably placed in heaven."

Yet, often as Catholics we can commemorate a Saint year after year, with little of the nature of the saint permeating our being. When discovering Mary pregnant, St Joseph may have assumed Mary betrayed him and his love for her - yet he thought only of reducing any suffering for her. With option to act upon his view of the situation, he chose instead to trust and obey God's more challenging and unknown plan. He puts aside ego to remain in the shadow of Blessed Mary. Although in love with Mary, St Joseph chose to honour their vow of virginity.

We can ask for St Joseph's gifts of self-sacrifice, kindness, trust, obedience, humility, determination and courage. We can ask for help in our spiritual struggles, seeking his paternal protection and support. Spend a moment with the below image. What will you ask of St Joseph, on his Feast Day?

I am
astonished at
the great
favours which
God has
bestowed upon
me through St
Joseph...
St Theresa
of Avila



Let us "commend
ourselves, then,
to the protection
of him to whose
custody God
"entrusted his
greatest and
most precious
treasures..."
St John Paul II