

Lenten Reflection

Solemnity of St. Joseph March 20, 2017



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What is our image of St. Joseph?

Is St. Joseph a man of our time, giving us an example for our life today? We hear in the first reading the prophecy given to David: “When your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you.” Joseph follows the prophecy and his faith. He travels to Bethlehem, to David’s house. Can we see him beside and with our Muslim Sisters and Brothers who want to follow their faith?

Joseph, a young man who is in love with Mary, but hears that she is pregnant. What should he do? The Scripture tells us, “he was a just man following the law, but he did not want to shame her.” He was in doubt. The law says: ‘Stoning, Kill her, abortion.’ We can feel his deep distress, his questions, his desperation. How many women and men must make difficult decisions? Joseph is with them.

He is listening to his dreams, to his heart, to an angel, to God’s message. “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid...She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus.” Joseph’s response is action. Now he learns to be a father, he cares for Mary and for his baby boy Jesus. Joseph is with all young families and their new born babies.

His next dream is a command: “Get up! Take Mary and your child Jesus and flee to Egypt.” Joseph gets up the same night to save his wife and his child.

War, missiles and drowning are coming during the night. How many people must flee?

In danger, with hunger, because of inequality and injustice, Joseph and his family are immigrants and refugees. He is on their side.

Joseph, man of faith guide us in our time.

