

Through God's grace there is now not a Christian in the world who has not devotion for St. Joseph ; but among all others they assuredly receive more graces from him who invoke him oftener and with greater confidence. Thus we must not fail to commend ourselves daily and several times a day to St. Joseph who, after the Blessed Virgin, is of all the Saints the most powerful with God. Let us say some particular prayer to him daily and especially celebrate his novena, by multiplying our pious exercises in his honor and by fasting on the vigil of his feast. Let us ask graces of him ; he will obtain them for us provided they be useful to our souls. Above all, I exhort you to ask three special favors of him, namely : pardon of sins, love for Jesus-Christ and a happy death. As to the pardon of sins this is what I say : While Jesus-Christ lived on earth in the house of Joseph, if a sinner had wished to obtain pardon of his sins from the Lord, could he have found a more efficacious means of having his prayer granted than the intercession of St. Joseph ? If therefore we wish to be reconciled with God, let us have recourse to St. Joseph who, now that he is in heaven, is still more beloved by Jesus-Christ than he was on earth. Moreover let us ask St. Joseph for love for Jesus-Christ because I am convinced that the greatest gift that St. Joseph procures for his devout servants, is a tender love for the Verb incarnate ; he enjoys this privilege as a reward for the exceeding affection he had for Jesus in this world. Finally let us ask him for a happy death. It is well known to all that St. Joseph is the patron of happy death because he had the happiness of expiring in the arms of Jesus and Mary ; those who honor him must also hope that he will come, with Jesus and Mary , to assist them in their last moments. Several instances of this favor are known.

Boverius relates that in 1581, brother Alexis of Vigevano, a Capuchin, being at the point of death, begged the religious who surrounded him to light tapers. When they asked him the reason for this, he replied that Jesus and Mary were about to visit him and he had hardly given that answer when he exclaimed : « Here are St. Joseph and the Queen of Heaven ; kneel down my Fathers and receive them. » On saying these words