

we may be, as was the Divine Child, subject to him and Mary in devout obedience, in the following of God's leading as revealed by them.

And this brings us to the closing Mystery of the Rosary's first part—the Finding of Our Lord among the Doctors in the temple. After this brief appearance of the Holy Patriarch, in the sorrow of the loss of Jesus, in the grieving while the weary search went on, and in the burst of joy wherewith they found Him whom their souls loved, we watch the gentle Joseph going down to Nazareth, where the hidden life settles about him in an unbroken calm, from which no sound comes to us, nor is it permitted even to enjoy a passing glimpse of his blessed ways as he rounded out His lowly but sublime career. Mary and her Beloved Son we shall behold amid sorrows and in glory, as we make the round of our Rosary decades, but Joseph we shall see no more.

His work was not for the days of the Passion, nor was it intended that he should mingle in the ministry of Jesus after the public life had begun. His place, in our contemplations, must be near the Infancy, and in the silence and solitude of the "Hidden Life," with that one break in the long stretch of thirty years, (between the Flight and the Marriage of Cana) when the Holy Ghost was pleased to manifest the marvels of wisdom in Jesus growing in grace before men, as he appeared, a boy of twelve, among the doctors.

Pre-eminently the patron of the humble and the lowly, of those whom the world knows not, whose lives are in hidden and laborious ways, St. Joseph stands as the model of the Christian parent, and the protector of little children, for the love of Jesus once a child. His example and patronage hold lessons of life and

power of grace for all who desire his comfort and aid, and who are willing to walk after him. In the joyful mysteries of the Rosary he may be easily studied. Even in that mystery in which he figures not,—the second—he is our guide. He does God's will. Silently he labors and prepares for the maintenance of his holy spouse, and patiently waits her coming in the time appointed by God. To do likewise in our state is to do according to God's highest law.

For the children of Carmel and for the lovers of the Beads this month of St. Joseph should be a time of special meditation, a time of special petition. Gathering in spirit, in the home of the Incarnation, entering with holy confidence into the companionship of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, their devout clients of the Rosary should find in the study of these mysteries, wherein St. Joseph holds so important a place, streams of light, abundance of grace, strength for every need. Having before our eyes the example of the Earthly Trinity we can better understand the splendid design of God. Realizing the magnificence of the Father's love in sending His Divine Son for our salvation, witnessing the unspeakable humility wherewith Our Lord accepts the charge, conscious of the mighty share of the Holy Ghost in this marvellous manifestation of goodness and mercy and power, we can more readily learn the lesson of ardently loving Him who hath so loved us, of humbly following Him who hath annihilated Himself for us, of loyally corresponding with the inspirations of the Divine Spirit, the Sanctifier of our souls.

In this work of grace here and of glory hereafter we can have the powerful co-operation of Mary and Joseph, who will benignly listen to our pleadings, who will enlighten our minds and move our hearts, so that we may gradually and surely come to participate in their love of Jesus Christ. And this is the crown of their desires on earth, while its endurance in heaven will be a portion of their unending triumph.