

Patrons of Parishes

SAINT JOSEPH PATRON OF CANADA



CATHOLIC piety has specially consecrated the month of March to devotion to St Joseph because the anniversary of the death of this great saint falls on the 19th of that month. Pius IX, pleased with the increase of that beautiful devotion in the hearts of the faithful, crowned it by proclaiming the illustrious patriarch as patron, not of any nation in particular, like the other saints, but of the whole Church.

As for us, Canadians, who already have had him as patron for two centuries and a half, as proved by the history of our origin, we should redouble our faith in him and imitate in this the children of a prince who has mounted the royal throne; they are ambitious to show that they are their father's most faithful subjects.

St Theresa, the providential promoter of devotion to St Joseph, asserts that he is powerful enough to assist us in all our necessities, being different from the other saints who have power to aid us, each in one kind of special need. In our turn we will say that, different from the other saints, each of whom is the protector of a class of persons, of a social condition, St Joseph alone is the protector of all ages and conditions of life and consequently that all of the faithful who are mindful of their true interests should have recourse to him in all their necessities with the fullest confidence. St Joseph had the great happiness on earth of being the lawful, adopted and foster father of Jesus. As such he represented the eternal Father whose providence extends to all mankind without exception and more especially to the faithful who are the members of His only Son. It was but right that this glory should continue to be enjoyed by the holy patriarch in heaven and that he should be the protector of all the members of Jesus Christ still in exile on earth. Let us enter into details.