

## Consecration to St Joseph on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear St. Joseph,

On this day, before God and your Immaculate Spouse, Mary, I \_\_\_\_\_ choose you as my spiritual father forever. I formally entrust myself to your fatherly care. I love you, and I trust in your prayers for my life. As your spiritual child, I give you full permission (and in fact, I'm begging you) to please act in my life, especially by...

Praying for me constantly in a special way,

Bringing me even deeper into the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Providing for me and all my loved ones,

Guarding and protecting me from bodily and spiritual evil,

Guiding me to always do God's most perfect will,

Helping me to suffer with love and without complaint,

Giving me purity of body and of soul,

Forming me into a person of peace and joy,

Preparing me for a beautiful and happy death.

From this day forward, St. Joseph, you are my spiritual father, and I am your child. I trust you and love you, and I look forward to meeting you someday in heaven. I ask all of this in Jesus' Name and for the glory of God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Additional prayers and devotions

- Chaplet of St Joseph
- Litany of St Joseph
- Joys and Sorrows of St Joseph
- *Memorare* to St. Joseph
- The cord of St Joseph
- The scapular of St Joseph

**St. Joseph, Pray for us**

## The British Isles Eucharistic Novena to St Joseph, Father of the New Evangelization

Nine days: Sunday, March 11 - Monday, March 19, 2018



National Shrine of St Joseph, St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough

In union with the English National Shrine of St Joseph join with us in this nine-day Novena for our country.

Go to Joseph so as to journey deeper with the Patron Saint of the Universal Church, the Father of the New Evangelization into the Third Millennium.

Let us pray to St Joseph, in union with all the Saints and Martyrs of the British Isles, to help restore England, Mary's Dowry, to the Mother of God so that all her intentions for the British Isles may come to fruition.

Join this nine-day Novena today, and in this time, pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament with St Joseph.

Then each day read and meditate upon words, taken from Popes and Saints, relating to St Joseph. Then is said the Novena Prayer, followed by the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be. That ends the Novena prayers each day.

### Novena Prayer

**Royal St. Joseph, chosen by God the Father to be His Son's earthly Father. Look down upon England, Mary's Dowry. See the House of Nazareth is broken.**

**Do not look upon this poor sinner and turn away, but through your most powerful intercession, take your heavenly tools and rebuild your Spouse's House and give it back to her more resplendent than it was before.**

**Restore to the Mother of God what is rightfully hers, so England may once again be a light to the Nations, where Christ the King reigns over us, and His Mother is seated at His right Hand as Our Immaculate Queen.**

**Glory Be. O Christ the King, reign over us.**

**Glory Be. O Mary Immaculate Queen, intercede for us.**

**Glory Be. O Royal St. Joseph, hear us through our Guardian Angel. Amen.**

This Royal St Joseph Prayer has been initiated by the Marian Franciscans (Gosport)  
with Ecclesial Approval from Bishop Egan, Bishop of Portsmouth.

### Day 1: March 11<sup>th</sup> - St Joseph, Patron Saint of the Universal Church

In the Gospel of Matthew, we hear that "Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary as his wife" (Mt 1:24). These words already point to the mission God entrusts to Joseph: he is to be the *custos*, the Protector. He is the Protector of Mary and Jesus. This protection is then extended to the Church.

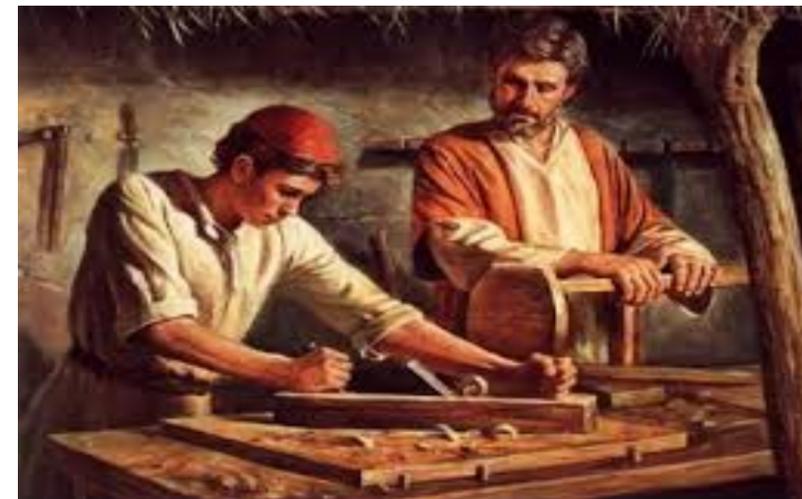
How does Joseph exercise his role as protector? Discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unflinching presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand.

### Feast of St. Joseph - March 19<sup>th</sup> - Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Foster Father of Jesus

Abraham the original patriarch may be called our "father in faith," but Joseph is a father of an entirely higher order. Theology offers us a glimpse into the grandeur of St. Joseph by placing him firmly within the "Order of the Hypostatic Union." Properly speaking, the hypostatic union refers to the unity of the divine and human natures in the Person of Christ. But in God's providential plan for the salvation of the world, two human beings were chosen to belong to this "order": Mary, in her role as the Mother of God, and Joseph, as the husband of Mary and the foster father of Christ. Only one man in the history of the world was chosen by the eternal Father to be his visible Face to the Incarnate Son. Jesus the Son of God called Joseph "Abba" or "father"! Mary herself also referred to Joseph in this way, as she once told the 12-year-old Jesus, "Your father and I have been looking for you."

**Quotation:** When Joseph carried the Child in his arms, acts of loving faith welled up constantly in his heart. It was a worship that pleased our Lord more than that which he receives in heaven... The purer and simpler a soul, the more magnificent its love and adoration. Adore the Word present in the altar, born as a little Child for you; no matter what you do, your adoration will never equal in worth that of St. Joseph. Join with his merits. A soul that loves God offers everything to Him in love and God listens to such a soul. St Peter Julian Eymard

**Prayer Intention:** In union with St Joseph and all the Saints and Martyrs of the British Isles we pray for the Offices of Fatherhood and Husband, entrusting all their aspirations, their hardships and their hopes into his care.



allow them to grow, but be close, close! They need you, your presence, your closeness, your love. Be, for them, like St. Joseph: protectors of their growth in age, wisdom and grace. Guardians of their path, and educators: walk alongside them. And with this closeness, you will be true educators. Pope Francis

It is noteworthy that Sts. Bernadine of Siena, Alphonsus de Liguori and Hannibal di Francia I, as well as Francisco Suarez and Jean Gerson, maintained that St. Joseph was conceived in sin but was sanctified whilst in the womb. Therefore, he lived without any formal sin - Sacred Scripture alludes to this grace in the examples of St. John the Baptist and Jeremiah. In St. Joseph's case this was in order that he could be the Guardian of the Divine Will, and fully participate in his mission as head of the Holy Family, in the shadow of God the Father.

**“St. Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood. It is precisely in this way that, as the Church's Liturgy teaches, he "cooperated in the fullness of time in the great mystery of salvation" and is truly a "minister of salvation." His fatherhood is expressed concretely "in his having made his life a service, a sacrifice to the mystery of the Incarnation and to the redemptive mission connected with it; in having used the legal authority which was his over the Holy Family in order to make a total gift of self, of his life and work; in having turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of self, an oblation of his heart and all his abilities into love placed at the service of the Messiah growing up in his house." St Pope John Paul II**

On the occasion of the centenary of Pope Leo XIII's Encyclical Epistle *Quamquam Pluries* in 1989 St. Pope John Paul II offered his thoughts on St Joseph in the Encyclical *Redemptoris Custos*.

**Quotation:** He was chosen by the eternal Father as the trustworthy guardian and protector of his greatest treasures, namely, his divine Son and Mary, Joseph's wife. He carried out this vocation with complete fidelity until at last God called him, saying: ‘Good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord. St. Bernardine of Siena

**Prayer Intention:** In union with St Joseph and all the Saints and Martyrs of the British Isles we pray for all the faithful in these lands to entrust our vocations to the guardianship of St Joseph as Guardian of the Divine Will in our lives.

“From the time of his betrothal to Mary until the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem, he is there at every moment with loving care. As the spouse of Mary, he is at her side in good times and bad, on the journey to Bethlehem for the census and in the anxious and joyful hours when she gave birth; amid the drama of the flight into Egypt and during the frantic search for their child in the Temple; and later in the day-to-day life of the home of Nazareth, in the workshop where he taught his trade to Jesus”. *Pope Francis*

In 1870 Blessed Pius IX, issued *Quemadmodum Deus*. In this document we see the reality of the Church coming under attack, from all sides and even from within. Pius IX, stricken with grief by the assaults against the Church decided to turn to St. Joseph, not only composing a prayer to him, but going one step further, and proclaiming St. Joseph to be the Patron of the Universal Church. Across the British Isles the Apostle of St Joseph, Cardinal Vaughan, collected thousands of signatures from the faithful to petition for this title of St Joseph.

In 1889, in view of the challenges facing the Church, Pope Leo XIII issued the encyclical *Quamquam Pluries* in which he urged Catholics to pray to Saint Joseph, as the Patron of the Church.

**Quotation:** "Words cannot express the perfection of his adoration. If Saint John leaped in the womb at the approach of Mary, what feelings must have coursed through Joseph during those six months when he had at his side and under his very eyes the hidden God! If the father of Origen used to kiss his child during the night and adore the Holy Spirit living within Him, can we doubt that Joseph must often have adored Jesus hidden in the pure tabernacle of Mary? How fervent that adoration must have been: My Lord and my God, behold your servant! No one can describe the adoration of this noble soul. He saw nothing, yet he believed; his faith had to pierce the virginal veil of Mary. So likewise, with you! Under the veil of the Sacred Species your faith must see our Lord. Ask St. Joseph for his Lively, constant faith." *St. Peter Julian Eymard*

**Prayer Intention:** In union with St Joseph and all the Saints and Martyrs of the British Isles we pray for the Catholic Church and her shepherds in our land at this time. We pray for all the intentions of the Eucharistic Congress being held in Liverpool this year.

**Day 2: March 12<sup>th</sup> - St Joseph, Father of the New Evangelisation and Third Millennium**

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in 2012 announced a year of faith starting on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vatican II. He entrusted to His Patron St Joseph all the Pastors of the Universal Church. On

many occasions, Benedict XVI has invited Catholics to learn from the School of Saint Joseph, to have a “spiritual conversation” with the saint, linked to a complete renewal of faith.

In 1962, Pope John XXIII inserted the name of St. Joseph into the Roman Canon of the Mass, immediately after the mention of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In 2013, Pope Francis had his name added to the three other Eucharistic Prayers.

Pope Francis has said that Catholic shrines are a key place for evangelization. The ancient title of England as Our Lady’s Dowry, with numerous shrines in her honour, is most evoked by the ancient shrine of Walsingham. In the words of Pope Leo XIII: “When England goes back to Walsingham, Our Lady will come back to England” (So affirmed when the Pope signed the rescript for the Restoration of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in 1897).

**Quotation:** "THOUGHT FROM FATHER FABER - St. Joseph worshiped Jesus as no saint before had done. From his deep, calm soul he poured out a very ocean of love - tenderest love, humblest love, love shrinking from being like the Father's love, yet also daring to be like it as Mary's had been like the conjoined loves of Father and of Spirit, as she was Mother, and Spouse conjoined. No angel might love Jesus as Joseph loved Him, as Joseph was bound to love Him. No temporal love but Mary's could be more like an eternal love than the love of Joseph for the Child, because of its likeness to the love of the everlasting Father. Aside from the Blessed Virgin, Saint Joseph was the first and most perfect adorer of Our Lord." **St. Peter Julian Eymard**

**Prayer Intention:** In union with St Joseph and all the Saints and Martyrs of the British Isles we pray for all initiatives leading up to the re-dedication of England as Our Lady’s Dowry on the feast of the Annunciation, 2020.

### Day 3: March 13<sup>th</sup> - St Joseph, Pillar of Families

On the Feast of the Holy Family 2016 Pope Francis declared the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, a minor Basilica. The UK has some of the worst figures in Europe for family breakdown. St Joseph is head of the holy family and patron saint of fathers.

St. Joseph has long been honored as the Patron Saint of the Universal Church. His paternal protection of the Lord Jesus continues even from heaven, as he watches over Christ’s Mystical Body on earth. The foster-father of the Son of God is also a father to us, on account of our being made God’s sons and daughters through baptism. It is fitting to remember St. Joseph at Holy Mass – when the Church, Christ’s Mystical Body, gathers as a spiritual family, in union with the Holy Family of Nazareth.

All of us owe a debt of gratitude to Christ’s earthly foster father, for his patronage of the Universal Church. But there is another aspect of St. Joseph’s "spiritual fatherhood" which deserves to be

It has been said that we live in the “age of terror,” plagued by a gnawing sense of unease that random violence can erupt at any time or place. Certainly, vigilance is warranted, but one wonders if the depth of our angst may be a sign we no longer experience the closeness and loving protection of God our Father. If the devil as a false father has succeeded in separating us from our true Father, we need another father to help repair the damage done, and, in time, a father to restore to us our inheritance as beloved sons and daughters. Perhaps now more than ever we need to turn to St. Joseph, the Terror of Demons, icon of the Father of mercies.

Given the grandeur of his vocation – the protection, sustenance and care of the Blessed Mother and Our Lord Jesus Christ as head of the Holy Family - we can expect that God also endowed him with an equally proportional grace to carry out such a lofty mission in life. Therefore, we can picture him as a sublime icon of manliness, a pillar of strength that would sow terrible fear among the powers of darkness.

In July 2013, with the recently retired Pope Benedict XVI sitting next to him, Pope Francis formally recited prayers consecrating Vatican City to St. Joseph and to St. Michael the Archangel. "In consecrating Vatican City to St. Michael, the Archangel, we ask him to defend us from the evil one and cast him out," the pope said. "We also consecrate Vatican City to St. Joseph, the guardian of Jesus, the guardian of the Holy Family. May his presence make us even stronger and more courageous in giving space to God in our lives to always overcome evil with good”.

**Quotation:** Courageous Joseph, advised by an angel, you confront your fears of the unknown. Your light shines brightly, penetrating the dark corners of your being. Your fears dispersed, you rediscover your true face, and actively participate in the divine project reuniting mother and Child, and the people with their God. Together with Mary and Jesus, you dwell in the love of God. Help us to rediscover the united core of our identities, beyond all internal fears.

Counsel us so we may build a better world to welcome the coming Kingdom. Shed your light on our inner lives that, freed from the grip of our fears, our decisions may be founded in Love. May the face of God shine on us. Oratory of St Joseph, Montreal

**Prayer Intention:** In union with St Joseph and all the Saints and Martyrs of the British Isles we pray for the spiritual battle in these lands with a New Evangelization that will see the conversion of England fully realized in her ancient splendor and title of ‘Our Lady’s Dowry’.

### March 18<sup>th</sup> - St Joseph, Guardian of the Divine Will

St. Joseph’s mission is certainly unique and unrepeatable, as Jesus is unique. However, in protecting Jesus, in teaching him how to grow in age, wisdom and grace, he is a model for every educator, and for every father. ... I ask for you the grace to be every closer to your children,

Pope St. Pius X wrote: "We desire to make known how much we appreciate this most praiseworthy Association and we wish our name to be the first inscribed among the members of the same, exhorting all our dear Brothers in the priesthood not to forget the dying each day in the Divine Sacrifice. We, likewise, exhort all the faithful, and especially Religious, to accustom themselves to raise up special prayers to God and to St. Joseph in favor of the dying"

**Quotation:** We cannot help but marvel at the faith of Saint Joseph. Tormenting doubts harass his soul and he is on the point of leaving Mary. But an angel appears to him and all his doubts and fears vanish. On the angel's word He accepts the mystery of the Incarnation. In the ensuing years his faith was to be frequently put to the test. At Bethlehem he had to content himself with a stable for a home where the Incarnate Word might be born. Soon after, he was forced to flee to save the Infant God, and when later he returned to the tiny village of Nazareth it was to live there unknown and in dire poverty. All these trials only tempered his faith. Although he sees only the Child's wretchedness and poverty, his faith pierces the shroud and uncovers the hidden God within this weak baby frame. Because his faith was so strong, Joseph's mind and heart bowed in perfect adoration. Imitate his faith as you kneel before the humble Christ annihilated in the Eucharist. Pierce the veil which covers this furnace of love and adore the hidden God. At the same time respect the veil of love and make the immolation of your mind and heart your most beautiful homage of faith. **St. Peter Julian Eymard**

**Prayer Intention:** In union with St Joseph and all the Saints and Martyrs of the British Isles we pray that all dying at this moment will receive a special grace of mercy obtained by St Joseph in their last hour for a happy death in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

### March 17<sup>th</sup> - St Joseph, Terror of Demons

To the left of the sun, Saint Joseph appeared holding in his left arm the Child Jesus. Saint Joseph emerged from the bright clouds only to his chest, sufficient to allow him to raise his right hand and make, together with the Child Jesus, the Sign of the Cross three times over the world. As Saint Joseph did this, Our Lady stood in all Her brilliancy to the right of the sun, dressed in the blue and white robes of Our Lady of the Rosary. Meanwhile, Francisco and Jacinta were bathed in the marvelous colors and signs of the sun, and Lucia was privileged to gaze upon Our Lord dressed in red as the Divine Redeemer, blessing the world, as Our Lady had foretold. Like Saint Joseph, He was seen only from His chest up. Beside Him stood Our Lady, dressed now in the purple robes of Our Lady of Sorrows, but without the sword. Finally, the Blessed Virgin appeared again to Lucia in all Her ethereal brightness, clothed in the simple brown robes of Mount Carmel. **The Miracle of the Sun, Fatima. 13<sup>th</sup> October 1917**

explored and appreciated in greater depth: namely, his patronage over what is called the "domestic church."

The "domestic church" refers to the spiritual life of the Christian family – the prayers, traditions, and religious instruction that should be at the center of every Catholic hearth and home. **Pope Francis** says: "Let us acknowledge that he is the greatest father to have walked the earth, and is second among fathers, only to God himself. What makes St Joseph great is his unflinching devotion to Jesus, Mary and God. He provided for his family, he was a teacher to Jesus, he cared for the Virgin Mary, and he lived a prayerful life, devoted to God".

**Quotation:** At Nazareth Joseph's days were filled with work which necessarily took him away at times from his Infant God. During these hours Mary replaced him, but when evening brought him home again, he would pass the entire night in adoration, never tiring, only too happy for the chance to contemplate the hidden riches of Jesus' divinity. For he pierced the rough garments the Child wore, until his faith touched the Sacred Heart. In profound adoration he united himself to the special grace of each one of the events in the life of Jesus. He adored our Lord in His hidden life and in His Passion and Death; he adored in advance the Eucharistic Christ in His tabernacles: there was nothing that our Lord could hide from Saint Joseph. Among the graces, which Jesus gave to His foster-father ~ and He flooded him with the graces attached to every one of His mysteries ~ is that special to an adorer of the Blessed Sacrament. That is the one we must ask of St. Joseph. Have confidence, strong confidence in him. Take him as the patron and the model of your life of adoration. **St Peter Julian Eymard**

**Prayer Intention:** In union with St Joseph and all the Saints and Martyrs of the British Isles we pray for the reparation of family breakdown in the UK, all its consequences for community and nation and all the pastoral initiatives responding to this crisis through their works of mercy. We especially pray for the World Meeting of Families to be held in Dublin in 2018.

### Day 4: March 14<sup>th</sup> - St. Joseph, Renowned offspring of David

And David the king begot Solomon... Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, and of her was born Jesus who is called Christ. - St. Matthew 1:1-16

The Sovereign Lord had deigned to make St. Joseph of Royal blood, placing in him all the honor and glory of the House of David. Through St. Joseph's family line, he remained a noble. He carried this heritage as though it were a secret – a sacred bond between an earthly prince and the Ruler of Heaven and Earth.

In our own lands the great Apostle of St Joseph, third Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Vaughan had a great devotion to St Joseph. He founded St Joseph's Missionary Society. This was just a few years after St Joseph was declared Patron Saint of the Universal Church. By a special indult of Pope Pius IX, Cardinal Manning was permitted to crown a statue of St. Joseph at Mill Hill at the new national shrine dedicated to St Joseph. This Canonical crowning was performed in the presence of the whole hierarchy of England and Wales on 13 April 1874. Today, the National Shrine of St Joseph is housed at St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough.

A canonical coronation (Latin: *coronation, canonica*) is a pious institutional act of the Pope, duly expressed in a Papal Bull in which oftentimes a Papal Legate or Papal Nuncio, or at rare occasions the Pontiff himself designates a crown, tiara, or stellar halo to a Christological, Marian, or Josephian image with a specific devotional title that is prominently venerated in a particular diocese or locality.

**Quotation:** Injustice had expelled his family from the throne to which he had the right. For this he is no less a king, the son of these kings of Judah, the greatest, noblest and richest in the world. Thus, in the census records of Bethlehem, St. Joseph was inscribed and recognized by the Roman governor as the heir of David: therein lies his royal title, which is easily identifiable, and bears the royal signature. Therefore, since Christ was King, of the line of David, He made Saint Joseph to be born of this same royal line. He wanted him to be noble, of earthly nobility. In the veins of St. Joseph, therefore, flows the blood of David and Solomon, and of all the noble kings of Judah. If his dynasty still sat on the throne, St. Joseph would be the heir and would have sat on the throne in his turn. *St. Peter Julian Eymard*

**Prayer intention:** In union with St Joseph and all the Saints and Martyrs of the British Isles we pray for Queen Elizabeth and our country, for Pope Francis and Europe

### March 15<sup>th</sup> · St Joseph, Patron of the unborn child

We learn from the angel of the Lord that Joseph is to be foster father of the child in Mary's womb, a clear message that it is of the essence of marriage for husband and wife to receive, nurture and bring to birth life conceived in the womb.

Joseph accepts the life in the womb by honorably taking Mary as his wife. He journeys with her to Bethlehem to register the child in the lists of humanity. He gives the child a name taken from the Line of David. He defends the child from the cruel attack of Herod.

Joseph was the one chosen for the role of father to the Son of God incarnate in Mary's womb, and he fulfilled this role faithfully. There is no one a better defender of innocent, helpless life in the womb. No one is a better model of fatherhood to parents of unborn children. No one can more

fittingly aid the process of healing and reconciliation for those who grieve and agonize over having committed the sin of abortion. No one is a better image for women who have been hurt by men, men unwilling to accept fatherhood for the child they have engendered.

**Quotation:** "We have close to us as much as Joseph had at Nazareth; we have our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, but our poor eyes fail to see Him. Let us once become interior souls and we shall immediately see. In no better way can we enter the Heart of our Lord than through Saint Joseph. Jesus and Mary are eager to pay the debts, which they owe him for his devoted care of them, and their greatest pleasure is to fulfill his least desire. Let him, then, lead you by hand into the interior sanctuary of Jesus Eucharistic." *St. Peter Julian Eymard*

**Prayer Intention:** In union with St Joseph and all the Saints and Martyrs of the British Isles we pray for all who have committed the sin of abortion. Let us increase our hours of adoration specifically on this 50<sup>th</sup> year of the Anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act. We ask for conversion of heart through the spirit of repentance, atonement and of consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, so that one day this nation will lead the world through example becoming an exemplar of protection for the unborn child.

### March 16<sup>th</sup> · St Joseph, Patron of the sick and dying

"Death and dying have always been a disturbing challenge to human beings. In founding the Pious Union of St. Joseph for the dying, Blessed Louis Guanella has inspired continuous prayers to help all people on the point of crossing the threshold of eternal life" said *Pope John Paul II*, October 30, 2004

St. Joseph was a man of hope. He trusted in God, even in times of uncertainty and suffering. He was consoled by the presence of Jesus, the Son of God and his foster son, and Mary, his wife, and Mother of Our Lord. He shared his life, feelings, his whole being with them; they were the source of his strength, faith and courage. Tradition tells us that Jesus and Mary were with St. Joseph at the hour of his death.

Blessed Louis Guanella (1842 - 1915), was deeply devoted to St. Joseph. This priest expressed an unconditional trust in his intercession. Under the protection of Pope St. Pius X, who sponsored his project, in 1909 Fr. Guanella began to build a church in Rome. It was named in honor of St. Joseph, and dedicated on March 19, 1912. Today it is a Minor Basilica.

Canonically recognized on February 12, 1914, the Pious Union of St. Joseph for the Salvation of the Dying was declared a "Primary Confraternity" by *Pope St. Pius X*.