



*Go pray before the statue of Saint Joseph and tell him: Saint Joseph, if you were in my place, what would you want done for you? Well, do it for me.*

**Saint Brother André**

# SAINT JOSEPH

## *Man of Faith*

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## INTRODUCTION

THE idea of writing a brief work on Saint Joseph came to me after I finished redacting another book: *Frère André, la force tranquille* (Brother André: The Quiet Force).<sup>1</sup> When we conjure up the image of the porter of the Oratory of Mont-Royal, the carpenter of Nazareth is never far behind. Brother André has perhaps goaded me to become better acquainted with his great friend. Thus, I have re-read the passages of the New Testament that make reference to Joseph. This book is the fruit of this meditation which has been frequently transformed into prayer.

Brother André, canonized in Rome on October 17, 2010, overflowed with confidence in the husband of Mary. He would frequently say: “Go to Saint Joseph. Pray to him. He will not let you fall along the way.” He would urge everyone to love Saint Joseph: “Do not be afraid to speak to him familiarly. He likes it, because he

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<sup>1</sup> *Le Livre Ouvert* (The Open Book), 2010, 64 pages.

is very close to us. He is so good, so meek, so fatherly. Let us imitate him in his trust. He received from God all sorts of blessings for having hoped against hope.”

I already assembled 365 utterances of Brother André in the series *Une pensée par jour* (*A Thought for Each Day*).<sup>2</sup> I was surprised to note the great closeness between him and Saint Joseph. When Brother André was complimented for his work, invariably his response was: “How good is God! Behold, how Saint Joseph loves us!” To a clergyman who warned him against pride, Brother André responded by pulling out of his pocket a small statue of Saint Joseph: “There is no danger of that; I have Saint Joseph in my pocket.”

We know little about the great friend of Brother André, the man whom the evangelist Matthew called “a just man” (Mt 1:19). The way of Joseph was the path of silence and of faith. What do we really know about him? The Scriptures record no word uttered by him. Was he not the

<sup>2</sup> Médiaspaul, 2011, 96 pages.



## THE HUMBLE SERVANT OF THE LORD

**J**OSEPH recognized the breath of God at work in the body of his wife. As she, he is the humble servant of the Lord who complies with the Word of God in all things. His fruitfulness comes from the desire to please God in everyday, lowly tasks. To be, rather than to seem; to serve, rather than to be served. His numerous “yeses” join themselves to Mary’s great *fiat*. Her silence marries his silence, faithful as they both are to a mission that transcends them. They are joined in marriage by the fruitful and virginal union of their spirits and hearts. On May 4, 1970, in an address to the Teams of Our Lady, Paul VI declared:

In this great project of renewing all things in Christ, marriage, itself purified and renewed, becomes a new reality, a sacrament of the new covenant. And behold, here at the threshold of the New Testament, as





## THE HIDDEN LIFE

**T**HE life of Joseph, like that of the Holy Family, is initially hidden in God. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lead a simple life in Nazareth, doing with love the small things of everyday life. Perhaps Jesus thinks of His parents as He praises the Father of the little ones to whom the Kingdom is revealed: “Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, I declare your praise. What you have hidden from the learned and the clever, you have revealed to the little ones” (Mt 11:25).

Several of Jesus’ parables were probably inspired by His life in Nazareth. When He speaks of sowing and of harvesting, of good grain and weeds, of the fig tree without figs, of the laborers in the vineyard, and of the Good Samaritan, He could have seen these realities initially in His village.

The hidden life of the Holy Family, which will prepare Jesus for His mission and which enthused Blessed Charles de