

# THE BULLETIN

“So the faith was planted: so it must be restored.”

Eight Pond Place, Oyster Bay, NY 11771

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## Joseph Most Just

Taken from a sermon by The Most Rev. Clarence Kelly  
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“If I were a person writing with authority,” St. Teresa of Avila once wrote, “I would gladly describe, at greater length and in the minutest detail, the favors which [St. Joseph] has granted to me and to others. I only beg, for the love of God, that anyone who does not believe me will put what I say to the test, and he will see by experience what great advantages come from his commending himself to this glorious patriarch and having devotion to him.” (*Autobiography*, pp. 93-94)

In his account of the life of St. Joseph, Fr. Alban Butler says that St. Joseph was the direct descendant of “the greatest kings of the tribe of Juda.” He was the direct descendant of “the most illustrious of the ancient patriarchs.” (Butler's *Lives of the Saints*, vol. 1, p. 379) But the glory of St. Joseph does not consist in his illustrious ancestry. It consists in the fact that from all eternity he was selected by God the Father to be the guardian and protector of God the Son. To this end he was espoused to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He assisted Our Lady in her journey to Bethlehem and in the flight into Egypt. He consoled her. He protected her and the Divine Child. He provided for the Holy Family as long as he lived, as a good father always does. Considering this exalted privilege of St. Joseph, St. Bernard writes, “He was truly the faithful and prudent servant whom our Lord appointed the master of His household, the comfort

and support of His mother, His foster-father, and most faithful cooperator in the execution his deepest counsels on earth.”

Next to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph was the most privileged human being who ever lived. There is nothing that can compare to the privilege bestowed upon Our Lady when she was chosen to be the Mother of God. But next to that privilege stands the privilege of St. Joseph. From all eternity God deigned to find an earthly Mother suitable for His Divine Son, and from all eternity He sought to find a guardian for that Mother and a foster-father for the Incarnate Word of God. He sought a man that He could trust to take His place and to be foster-father to His Incarnate Son. For the Mother of His Son He chose Mary. For the guardian of His Mother and the Protector of the Holy Family, He chose Joseph most just, chaste, prudent, strong, obedient, faithful and patient. He chose the man who would be known for all eternity as the Guardian of Virgins, the Pillar of Families, the Solace of the Wretched, the Terror of Demons and the Protector of Holy Church. Our Lady was actually created to be the Mother of God; St. Joseph was created to be His foster-father.

It is not possible for us in this life to comprehend goodness so great and holiness so profound that the Eternal Father was content to consign to the care of this man His Son made Man