

PART IV

Saint Joseph, Protector, Defender, Foster Father

- Joseph was a man with a seemingly ordinary mission: to be a spouse, father, provider. In what ways is God calling you to carry out His mission through ordinary living?
- Consider how the influence and work of Joseph impacted Jesus and Mary. Do you think it possible that part of Jesus' preaching and mannerisms came from the foster father he loved so dearly? How, then, did this 'ordinary living' impact the man whom Jesus became?
- Does your mission seem ordinary or insignificant? Take a deeper look. If Joseph had such an impact on his little family, who then is God calling you to be? If it were not for Joseph, how then would Mary and Jesus have made their way? Joseph doesn't have an outstanding, dramatic role in Scripture and yet his mission is no less significant. How is God working through your mission now?
- Real love redeems. Joseph's love for God may be so real that it does not appear to be noteworthy. However, how does saying yes over and over again to a path full of challenges demonstrate Joseph's love for the Father? Yes, to marrying a virgin with child and saving Jesus and Mary from certain death. Yes, to journeying hundreds of miles Bethlehem with a very pregnant wife. Yes to an unexpected birth in an unexpected place. Yes, to a midnight flight to a foreign country. Yes, to observing the laws of circumcision and presentation. Yes to an ordinary, daily life of wages and no notoriety. How many yeses to the ordinary can you give to our Lord today?
- Is there a time that you have felt God's redeeming love for you? Has it been ordinary at times? Extraordinary at others? Have you been able to share that love with others? In ordinary or extraordinary ways.
- Sacrificial love, like the love Saint Joseph embodies, is simple in definition but can be difficult in action. What are three steps you can take this year to love more sacrificially, to love in a way that will help you grow closer to Jesus and the ultimate sacrifice He gave?