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JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Through the medium of His sufferings and death upon the cross Our Divine Lord accomplished the end of His mission here on earth—the redemption of mankind. Having come to a realization of the importance of Christ's life and death, we find special reason to honor and invoke two people who helped Our Saviour fulfill the commission given Him by God the Father. They are Mary, His Immaculate Mother, and Saint Joseph, His Foster-Father.

On the day of the Annunciation—prepared by Her Immaculate Conception—Mary answered the call of God with, "Be it done unto me according to Thy word." Mary, the perfect mother, nursed and protected the Divine Child through His infancy, guided and instructed Him through His youth and, though standing in the background, attended Him throughout His public life. From the moment of her Son's birth to the instant when He drew His last breath Mary was the most considerate and the most devoted of mothers; she stood beside His cross on Calvary, just as she had kept watch beside His crib in Bethlehem.

In the person of Joseph we find regal qualities highlighted by the jewels of humility and obedience. Obeying the command of God, he took as his spouse the Virgin Mary, and he provided for her and her Divine Son in a solicitous and loving manner. He it was who faced the manifold dangers and difficulties that beset the Holy Family. Plying his trade, he established a home for Jesus and Mary. It was an unpretentious home, but one whose walls were reinforced by Joseph's love for his charges and by his dedication to the task assigned him.

Jesus ratified the positions of authority that Joseph and Mary held in His life by the docility with which He received their instruction and by the obedience with which He observed their commands. In a very real sense they are our parents; from the cross Christ presented His Mother to all mankind, and Saint Joseph has been presented to us as the Patron of the Universal Church. We are indeed fortunate, as Dominicans, to have Mary Immaculate as Patroness of our country and Saint Joseph as the special Patron of our Province. Through their guidance and admonition we shall endeavor to attain to the perfection of docility and obedience as found in Jesus Christ.