

FATHER MARK SCHULTE HOMILY
Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)
March 21, 2021
“The Go To Man”

We are at the Fifth Sunday of Lent and Holy Week is not far away. In the Gospel, Jesus said:

- “The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified.”
- “Unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies it produces much fruit.” (John 12:20-33).

Jesus was about 33 years old when he uttered those words. He arrived at this important point in his life partially with the help of a very significant and holy man, that man was his foster father, St. Joseph.

On March 19th, the Church celebrated the Solemnity of “Joseph, husband of Mary”, and the entire year of 2021 has been designated as the “Year of St. Joseph”.

Even though relatively little is mentioned about Joseph in the Gospels, he holds a place among the saints second only to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In common parlance, there is a phrase known to many people. If you want something done, you have a: **Go to Man**”. This is the man that you have the highest confidence in when you are in need.

In the Old Testament, Jacob had 12 sons. The youngest son was named Joseph. His brothers called him “the dreamer” (Gn 37:19). Out of jealousy, they sold him into slavery, and Joseph ended up in Egypt. Joseph interpreted the dream of Pharaoh that Egypt would have seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. The Pharaoh (King) put Joseph in charge of his entire kingdom. He told his people to “Go to Joseph” if they needed anything (Gn 41:55). Because of his wisdom and favor with God, Joseph brought Egypt through a very tough time. Thus, Joseph, Jacob’s son, became the “Go to Man” in Egypt. He will prefigure the Joseph, husband of Mary, that God the Father will “Go to” to select a husband for Mary, the Mother of his son, Jesus, the Messiah, the Savior of all mankind.

The strength and resourcefulness of this holy man will be called upon many times by God the Father to protect and provide for Jesus and Mary. Just like the Joseph, son of Jacob in Egypt, the Joseph, husband of Mary, will listen to God’s voice in his dreams and take Mary and Jesus to safety in Egypt.

A scripture passage says, “out of Egypt I will call my Son” (Mt 2:13-15). When it is safe, Joseph will hear the voice of God again and take Mary and Jesus out of Egypt back to Nazareth.

Joseph was with Jesus for nearly thirty years, and all knew Jesus to be the true son of Joseph (Jn 6:42). Therefore, they must have looked alike as father and son. We know that Jesus said to Philip: “When you see me you see the Father” (Jn 14:9). If Jesus is the image of God the Father, and Joseph and Jesus look alike, then Joseph himself must look a lot like God the Father, and when Jesus looked at Joseph, he was seeing the image of his own Father in heaven. What a privilege to look like God the Father!

We know that St. Joseph is the patron saint of all fathers and husbands. And so, when we as fathers are in need of spiritual help, St. Joseph the husband of Mary, is our “Go to Guy”. In fact, Joseph is the “Go to Guy” for anyone who is struggling in any way.

If Jesus is the “New Adam” (1 Cor 15:45), the perfect man, then Joseph, the Father of Jesus, helped make Jesus that man, that “New Adam”. In fact, Joseph could be considered in some fashion a “New Adam” himself who was willing to be the “Go to Guy” and be obedient to God the Father, to protect Mary and form Jesus into the man he was.

In the Gospel, Jesus said that the grain of wheat must die before it can produce fruit. Joseph was that perfect grain of wheat, second only to Jesus and Mary, who died to himself, and was selected by God to care for his son as a father, and be the husband to the perfect woman, Mary.

Every man is called to imitate the holiness of St. Joseph and be that “Go to Man” that others can depend upon in their time of need. Husbands, if someone were to ask your wife if you are a “Go to Man”, how would she respond?

And so, let us give Joseph, husband of Mary, the honor that God the Father has given to this singularly special man, and go to him in our time of need. **“Ad te Joseph”.**

St. Joseph, pray for us.

FROM: Give This Man Place, Hugh F. Blunt, LL.D.

Mayhap ‘tis but a legend
The ancient writers tell,
That in God’s Holy Temple
Your rod began to swell
And burst to lily blossoms,
To prove God’s Wondrous plan
That for the Virgin Mother
He chose you Husbandman.

Or fact or legend be it,
A greater truth was there
Though only Virgin Mary
Beheld the vision fair.
She saw in your soul’s garden
The virgin lilies stand,
And knew God made you worthy
To touch her virgin hand.