



## ***SAINT JOSEPH, PRAY FOR US***

**By Kathleen Tobin**

A few years ago, my brother asked if we would like a sleeping St. Joseph statue that a friend had painted. This unique statue of St. Joseph is the same one that Pope Francis has in his room and places his prayer intentions under it. My husband and I were excited to have one for our home too. Before I was married, I learned the practice of placing praying intentions under a statue of St. Joseph from a book about St. Theresa of Avila who used to entrust her community's needs to St. Joseph in this way. He always provided for them.

More recently, I had heard a story of a religious Sister who had some local men helping them with repair work and had asked if there was anything they could give them as a thank you for their work. They replied (maybe jokingly?) that a case of beer would be great. The Sister Superior put the request under St. Joseph. One day while she was traveling by train, the Sister started talking to a well-dressed business man sitting next to her. Somehow, the subject came up about praying for the beer to give to the volunteer workers and it turned out that the gentleman was the owner of a major beer company. He happily donated the beer to the Sisters for their workers. Pretty amazing, isn't it?!

After we received our beautiful sleeping St. Joseph statue, we have placed many intentions under him and many prayers have already been answered. When Covid hit, we decided to pray the 33 Day Consecration to St. Joseph by Fr. Calloway, MIC, to deepen our knowledge about St. Joseph and increase our devotion to him. Each day reflects on a different invocation of St. Joseph in his litany, such as Patron of the Universal Church, Spouse of the Mother of God, Foster Father of Jesus, Terror of demons, model of workmen, patron of the dying, ...

All that we have learned has been inspirational for my husband, who has found in St. Joseph a model for manhood and, for me, I have found a man who embodies the ideal husband and father. He is loving, protecting, obedient to God, hardworking, and a provider.

He exemplified for Jesus how to love and follow God and how to love his mother. He protected the Holy Family as they traveled to foreign lands and provided for all their needs.

Imagine St. Joseph's humility, purity and awe at being chosen as the Spouse of Mary, the Immaculate Conception, and as father to Jesus, Son of God?! Let us ask him to protect us too, to guide our husbands and sons to be true, God-fearing men, to teach us true humility, purity, obedience to God and to teach us how to love Jesus and Mary with all our hearts. St. Joseph, pray for us.



Kathleen Tobin, residing in Bucks County PA, is a graduate from the University of Scranton with a BS in Physical Therapy, has worked for the Church, both nationally and internationally, and with her husband Shawn has been a Marriage Prep instructor for both Agape Ministries and Ascension Press and founded Catholic Beads & More, which sells handcrafted Rosaries, chaplets and other religious products.

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