

# AN OBEDIENT FATHER

## REFLECTION FOR THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

In the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde (With a Father's Heart)*, Pope Francis identifies the extraordinary attributes of St. Joseph as a "beloved, tender and loving, obedient, accepting, creatively-courageous, working father hidden in the shadows." (cf. No 1-7). The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have prepared a series of guided reflections on each of the seven attributes. You may use these as individuals, families or in groups gathered in person or online.

### PRAY

Dear St. Joseph, by your obedience to the will of the Father, you have shown us how we must respond when called. You taught Jesus to be obedient to the Father which gave him the freedom to sacrifice His life for us.

Guide us in our decision making that we may faithfully respond to the will of God the Father.  
In Jesus' name, we pray!

### WATCH

In this video, The Most Rev. Bryan BAYDA, C.Ss.R., Eparchial Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, reflects on St. Joseph as an obedient father. He considers questions such as:

- How did St. Joseph show his openness to the will of God?
- How is St. Joseph a model of obedience?
- How is St. Joseph, by his fatherhood of Jesus, a minister of salvation?

### REFLECT

Journal or reflect quietly on what you have heard.  
Take some time to consider:

- When we think about St. Joseph's four dreams and how he responded to them, what do we learn about St. Joseph's faith in God and his character?
- Bishop Bayda speaks of stages that we go through to come to obedience to God. What are those stages?
- Do they resonate with your own experience of how you arrive at obedience to God's will?
- How did Jesus learn obedience?

All: If you are reflecting with a group, include a personal reflection time and then open it up to discuss St. Joseph's as a Beloved Father.



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### PRAY

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.'

Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

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