



Share

Father! - to God himself we cannot give a holier name.

~William Wordsworth

One of the beautiful traditions of the Catholic Faith is our ability to ask saints for help in prayer. Not unlike asking a friend, who you know to be particularly prayerful, to remember you. We are able to request, of those already in Heaven, that they approach the Throne of God for us— knowing full well that our intentions will be heard. And what better saint to approach in June, than St. Joseph, the loving, earthly father of Jesus?

One St. Joseph prayer in particular has a line that encapsulates so well the intimate role and love of every father: *“Oh St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.”* (A Novena to St. Joseph.)

How remarkable that even in prayer we acknowledge that bond between father and Son. St. Joseph, holding and loving his little Boy, could not have fully understood God’s will, but he loved Jesus in a way that Our Lord allows only a father to experience.

And we acknowledge that this same bond assures us that St. Joseph can make such a specific request of his Son with confidence that it will be fulfilled.

No better illustration of the strength of a father’s love is there than the image of St. Joseph, a carpenter, quietly and humbly asking The Savior to bestow His love and mercy on a sinner.

We acknowledge St. Joseph and all fathers for their merciful and self-sacrificing love. This Father’s Day, we at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul remember that in creating fathers God gave each of us a reminder of His own great love and constant mercy.

So, thank you all fathers, in whatever manner you may be a father, and for whomever you serve in your fatherly love. And we pray that St. Joseph kisses Jesus’ fine head for each of you.

Your generous contributions help to keep families together and allows children to experience the presence and love of a father. Thank you for your contribution to the Food and Fuel for Life program.

June 2007

The Food & Fuel for Life program is administered by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of St. Louis. All proceeds provide food and energy assistance to families and individuals in need throughout the entire Archdiocese of St. Louis.

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