

Patris Corde Group Study Questions

Introduction

- A. What is the significance of naming this apostolic letter “with a father’s heart”?
- B. What does Joseph’s relationship with Jesus reveal about our relationship with God the Father?
- C. Read the Finding of Jesus in the Temple (LK 2:41-52). How do you think Joseph felt when he realized Jesus was missing? How do you think God feels when we are “found in the temple” after confession?
- D. St. Joseph is called, “patron of the Catholic Church”, “patron of workers”, “guardian of the redeemer”, and “patron of a happy death” among other titles. Which one of these titles strikes you the most and why?
- E. Have you thought of St. Joseph having a prominent role in the history of salvation? Why or why not?

1. A Beloved Father

- A. St. Joseph placed himself at the service of the entire plan of salvation. How are we called to the service of the entire plan of salvation?
- B. How can our human vocation to domestic love be turned into a superhuman oblation of self?
- C. How can we cultivate a devotion to St. Joseph?
- D. What does “go to Joseph” mean in our life?
- E. St. Joseph stood at the crossroads of the Old and New Testaments. How can we be a crossroads of the Old and New Testaments today?

2. A Tender and Loving Father

- A. How are we being called to reflect the tender love of God in our life?
- B. What does, “as a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him” mean to us?
- C. What are the thorns in our own side? How can we understand in our weakness that we are made strong through our cooperation with God’s grace?
- D. When we see the weaknesses of others how do we respond? Is this an area of growth for us?
- E. Where in our life are we afraid of letting God work? Why?

3. An Obedient Father

- A. Are we fully obedient to the Catholic Church’s teachings? If not, what are the areas we need to pray and learn more about?
- B. How does humility help us be more obedient to God?
- C. How does obedience help us surmount the difficulties of our life?
- D. What does it mean for St. Joseph to be Head of the Holy Family?
- E. How are we called to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through our own vocation?

4. An Accepting Father

- A. How can we both learn the law and be dependent on charity?

- B. Where in our life are we called to reconcile with our history and ask for God's healing touch?
- C. Where and how in our life do we need hope and courage to conform ourselves to the Gospel?
- D. How can we accept and welcome others as they are and help bring them closer to Jesus Christ?

5. A Creatively Courageous Father

- A. Where in our life do we need to trust in God's divine providence to turn a problem into a possibility?
- B. Read the healing of a paralytic (LK 5:17-26). How can we have a creative faith and bring those who are sick to Jesus Christ?
- C. How can we support migrants who are forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty?
- D. What does it mean that Jesus and Mary are the most precious treasure of our faith?
- E. How can we show a special love of, a particular concern for, and personally identify with the least of our brothers and sisters?

6. A Working Father

- A. What does it mean to learn the value, dignity and joy of eating bread that is the fruit of one's own labor?
- B. Why is St. Joseph the patron of workers? What can we learn from him about our own work?

- C. How do we balance the dignity of work and the importance of loving our family? Do we do both or one more than the other?
- D. What can we do to view our work as a means of participating in the work of salvation and our own sanctification?
- E. How can we ensure that everyone is able to earn a decent living?

7. A Father in the Shadows

- A. How does the image of a shadow define Joseph? What can we learn from that image?
- B. How can we accept responsibility for the life of another and become a biological or spiritual parent to them?
- C. How are we called to live without possessiveness?
- D. How are we called to give of ourselves to God and others?
- E. How can we help children walk the path of life independently?

Conclusion

- A. What insight do we get from this apostolic letter being promulgated on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception?
- B. How can we increase our love of St. Joseph?
- C. What virtue of St. Joseph do you want to imitate the most? Why?
- D. What can we learn from the eloquent silence of St. Joseph?
- E. Where in our life do we need to ask St. Joseph to intercede for conversion?