

# A Pastor's Perspective

January 31, 2021 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This week we continue to recap the Holy Father's recent teaching on St. Joseph, ***Patris Corde***, that is, ***With a Father's Heart***.

**Teaching – Week II: St. Joseph is an obedient and accepting father.** Pope Francis reminds us that “as he has done with Mary, God revealed his saving plan to Joseph.” Despite these incredible dreams and the direction they provide, Joseph is still a free man. The Lord invites Joseph to cooperate in His plan of salvation, not simply once, but many times.

In each instance, Joseph must make a decision. He still faces unknown difficulties, hardships and obstacles. Yet like Mary, Joseph freely offers his own “fiat” (his “yes”), and he does so with dignity, without hesitation, and in obedience to God.

There can be little doubt that Joseph's prayerful decisions and faithful actions contributed to Jesus' own growth in wisdom, age and grace. Pope Francis notes that Jesus hears about and watches his father's obedience to and acceptance of God's plan for himself and his family (for example, protecting Mary's reputation and person; putting aside his own plans and expectations to embrace the events he would face, without bitterness or regret; and partaking fully and courageously in the mystery we call life). In doing so, Jesus learns that taking up God's work is not about passive resignation but of proactive reconciliation. Choosing God's plan for our personal lives, in a spirit that sacrifices self and serves others, becomes a participation in the work of redemption, which Jesus himself brings to fulfillment through his passion on the cross.

**Lesson – Week II:** All husbands and wives say, “I do” on their wedding day – that is their “yes” to the hopes and dreams they hold for themselves and their children, but it is also a “yes” to God's providential plan for them. God wants husbands and wives to take part in His work of creation (as fathers and mothers to their own or others' children) and His work of redemption (a life of sacrifice and service) that reconciles and readies them for eternal life.

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– *Peace and blessings / Msgr. Andrew*