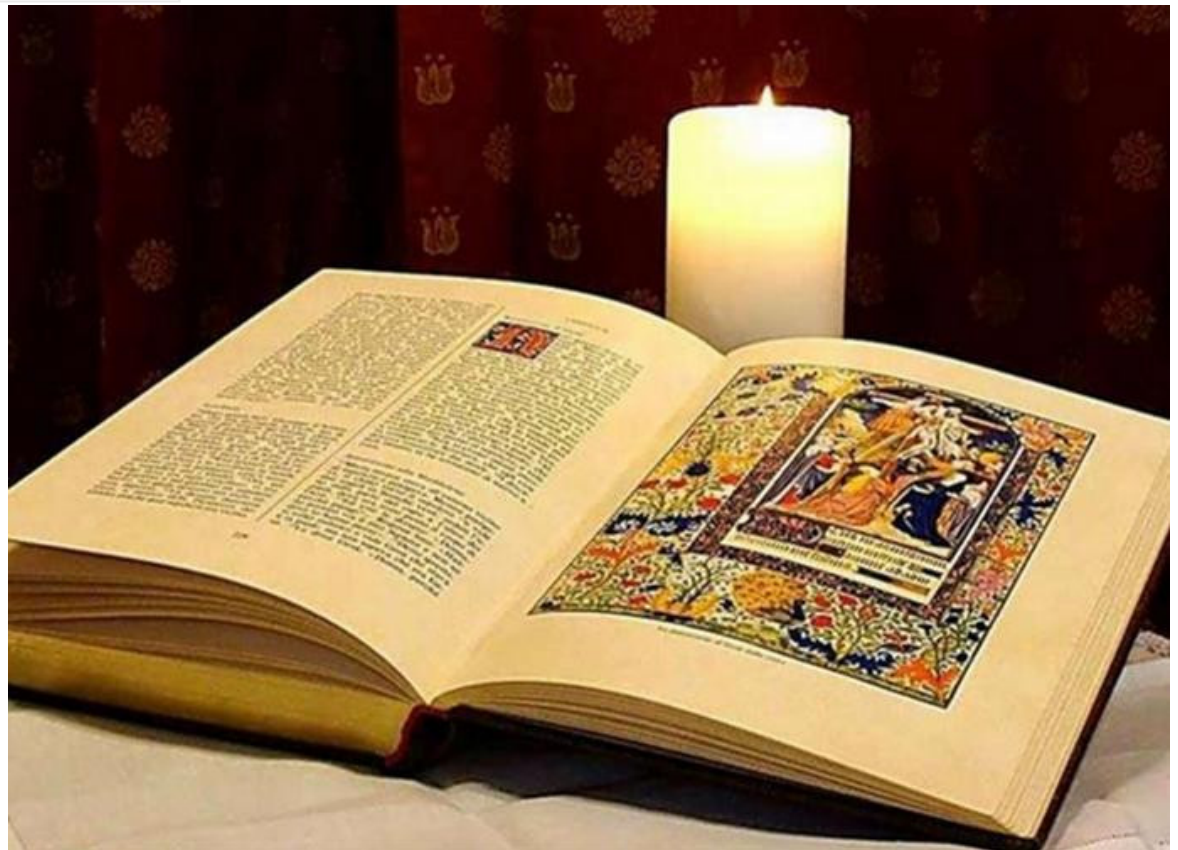


GOSPEL PEARLS

A year dedicated to St. Joseph

GOSPEL PEARLS

18_12_2020



Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to

fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"*

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife. (Matthew 1: 18-24)

St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, is an example of a man poor in spirit, that is, of someone who loves the Lord so much that he follows Him even when, humanly speaking, he is not able to understand where divine providence will lead him. Overcoming this trial, with the help of God's grace and silent humility, St. Joseph therefore made a fundamental contribution to the birth and growth of Jesus. Encouraged by Pope Francis, (who on December 8 proclaimed a year dedicated to St. Joseph) let us remember to pray to St. Joseph, asking him to help us be humble servants of God's will just like he was.