

GOSPEL PEARLS

Overcoming fear with faith

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18_12_2021



This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people

from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home. (Matthew 1, 18-24)

There is no direct affirmation or words that describe St. Joseph, the most chaste spouse of Mary. The putative father of Jesus accepts God's will with faith, despite the sacrifice and the responsibility that this entails. Saint Joseph never lets himself be overwhelmed by fear or anguish, attitudes typical of those who do not trust God. In fact, authentic Faith is opposed to fear. Conversely, if we are afraid, it's because we do not have faith, that is, we do not trust God. By seeking help from the universal Patron of the Church, who can help us by His intercession and by the example of his virility and faith, we are better able to face our daily problems.