

GOSPEL PEARLS

The protector of the Church

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Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ. Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been

conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. (Mt 1,16.18-21.24a)

Despite being one of the most faithful men to God and to His inspirations cited in Scripture, St. Joseph is also the most silent one. In silence, especially interiorly speaking, each one of us can assess what is going on by listening to God's voice speaking within us, so as to then obey His Will. St. Joseph accepted God's plan for him, even when he still couldn't humanly comprehend it. He, therefore, remained faithful to the Lord without giving in to his fears. Let us ask for Joseph's powerful intercession, as protector of the Universal Church, so as not to become distressed by epidemics, war, and terrorism.