



Sons of Saint Joseph™

ST. THERESA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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2 – SOSJ- Masculinity of Christ: the Divine Jesus Saturday, July 13, 2024

MT 1: 18-25

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.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son,^{*} and he named him Jesus.

Questions

1. The words of the angel give St. Joseph a tremendous responsibility to be the guardian of the baby Divine Messiah. How do we safeguard the fact that Jesus alone is the Savior in our own lives each day? If Jesus is God, how does that demand I must change my life before telling others to change theirs!?
2. The fact that Christ is God means He lived masculine virtues perfectly, and thus is the ultimate example of manhood. What are the masculine virtues Christ exemplifies that we find easiest to imitate? What are the virtues we find the most difficult to imitate? Why?
3. Heroism is still a theme in pop culture, but with different meanings today. What are today's false images of manhood and why would they be attractive? Are there true images of manhood today in culture? (hint: saintly men). How do we teach our children to differentiate between real masculine heroism and the false ones?
4. Ironically, by saying yes to being the Mother of God, Mary made life much more difficult for herself. How has saying yes to God made our lives more difficult? What are times when we refused? What are ways to ensure greater acceptance of the challenges to be men of Christ and accept the challenges that go with it?