

who by their blasphemous remarks try to make you shaky in your religious convictions. The world is full of these poisonous vipers and, alas, many a child of the Holy Church, hearing such talk, begins to doubt and finally discards the garment of Christ and falls away from the Church. How edifying is the faith of St. Joseph! The whole world eagerly looked for a Messiah. They expected him to appear in great power and majesty. And lo! The Redeemer is born from an humble Virgin: in a poor lonely stable, wrapped in swaddling clothes, rests He who alone can save all mankind. And St. Joseph, does he share the opinion of the people of his time? No, not in the least. He heard the message of the angel, and though he could not grasp the mystery, he believes the angelic Messenger, and thus is made the protector of the Virgin Mother and the foster-father of Christ. Could God have rewarded him in a better manner for his firm, unshaken faith? Think of the flight to Egypt, the return to Nazareth and all the poverty, misery and want, he had to experience among the strange people of Egypt and still you find him content, happy and resigned to the will of God. His ship of life is safely anchored down in faith in God, whose only begotten Son is entrusted to his care. Should we then waver in our faith, after seeing all this and witnessing the triumphs of faith over all enemies of Christ?

St. Joseph was a plain carpenter, and as such loved his work, for he knew the Divine Will to support the Blessed Virgin and the Holy Child Jesus by the sweat of his brow. Work was no easier to him than it is to us, but what made it pleasant was the thought that he was working for the Son of God, and this was enough to gladden his heart. Whether his work was in Egypt or in Nazareth, whether it was easy or hard, was immaterial to him. How different are we. A great many people look down with contempt upon the plain farmer, because his occupation is so very ordinary. And, still, what would become of the world, if all the farmers should go on the strike? Among these plain, ordinary, un-