

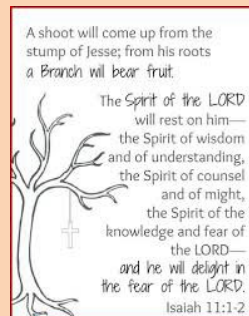
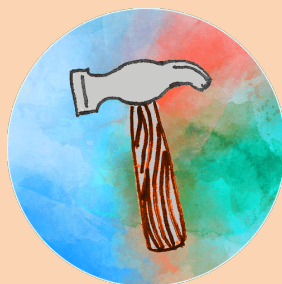
OCTOBER NOVENA/CAMINO Station 7 : St Joseph Statue.

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The Statue of St Joseph is situated at the top of the hill looking down over the valley toward the 'House of Light' and Sr. Bonitas Corner which is fitting at this time as these will be the last two stations of the actual Camino Walk in December. It is a good time now in October to consider the role of St. Joseph in Christ's life.

In November we will be providing Jesse Tree symbols for the children to colour in and paste on the Jesse Trees you see here on the windows today. St Joseph is one of the Jesse Tree symbols and his actual symbol is the hammer.

Matthew 1:19-25 Behold the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Emmanuel for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us".



Shown above is the St. Joseph Jesse Tree Symbol which recognises Joseph as the worker. It is one of 21 recognised Jesse Tree symbols that tell the story from the birth of creation through to the Birth of Christ. In November the children at the 1st Weekend Mass will have the opportunity to colour in six of the symbols and paste them on a branch of one of the Jesse Trees that are on the windows today. The completed trees will be carried down to Sr. Bonitas' corner the last Station of the Novena/Camino on December 4th.

What does Fr. Kentenich have to say about St. Joseph?

The way we worship St. Joseph in Schoenstatt, as referenced by Father Kentenich, is wide-ranging. Our founder presents several characteristics of Mary's husband. St. Joseph is the one who loved the Blessed Mother the most and was her faithful husband; he is also Jesus' father, who protects and educates him; therefore, Joseph is a model as head of the family, a model of a father, husband, companion, with all the virtues needed to be part of the Holy Family.

Father Kentenich also expresses how God acts through "secondary causes". In the history of salvation, Jesus is the main character and Mary is the one who gives her "yes" so that this story becomes a reality. But it's St. Joseph, a "secondary" character in the story, who becomes the head of the family. Even in his smallness, he becomes a key figure in the salvation of humanity.

The more importance we give to spiritual and inner life, as well as the cultivation of virtues and striving for perfection and holiness, the more we ask for St. Joseph's help and the more we are called by his holiness, his virtues, as we learn from his example.

"St. Thomas Aquinas once formulated it very clearly: each saint possesses a certain authority in his task – from each one we can receive a certain grace. However, from St. Joseph we can get everything. [...] The time will come when St. Joseph will occupy a position of much greater strength and glory than he has had until now.... He must be included in the circle of love of our Family."

Let our love for St. Joseph grow. Let us try to renew, deepen and enliven it. Let us not allow St. Joseph to remain in the corner, in the corner of a Shrine or a Home Shrine. Let us give him the place of honor that corresponds to him, above all, a small favorite place, a small preferred niche in our hearts.

In the same way, we trust that he will inspire many solid vocations for the holy Church and for the Schoenstatt Work, that he will take care to preserve in all consecrated persons the joy of their vocation and that he will guarantee in each one the growth in their ideal and sanctity. That is why we want to say with confidence: St. Joseph, pray for us! We want to show St. Joseph our gratitude for all that we receive daily as material and spiritual blessings. How, then, can we repay him? How can we make him rejoice? St. Joseph, what gift do you want to receive in this, your special year? No doubt, St. Joseph's answer will be: "Become the one I love the most! Become a little Mary! Each Schoenstatt child, each one is the greatest gift to me! Every Schoenstatt child, striving to become like Mary.

Walk to the St Joseph Statue and pray :The Litany of Saint Joseph (Latin: Litaniae Sancti Ioseph) is a formal prayer in the Catholic Church dedicated to Saint Joseph, the Prince and Patron of the Universal Church.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us (after each line)

Saint Joseph,
Renowned offspring of David,
Light of Patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,
Foster-father of the Son of God,
Diligent protector of Christ,
Head of the Holy Family,
Joseph most just,
Joseph most chaste,
Joseph most prudent,
Joseph most strong,
Joseph most obedient,
Joseph most faithful,
Mirror of patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of artisans,
Glory of home life,
Guardian of virgins,
Pillar of families,
Solace of the wretched, Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of demons,
Protector of Holy Church,

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

V. He made him the lord of His house:

R. And ruler of all His substance.

Let us pray.

O God, who in your unspeakable providence did vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your own most holy Mother: grant, we beseech Thee, that we may deserve to have him for our intercessor in heaven, whom we reverence as defender on earth: who lives and reigns world without end. Amen.