

**ST. JOSEPH, CUSTODIAN OF THE PIERCED HEARTS**

Sr. Grace Marie Heinrich, SCTJM

A righteous man, a simple heart  
In times foretold, he'd soon take part  
The passing world, a desert blown  
He gave himself to God alone  
In Mary's Heart he found his call  
For she, as well, had given all  
And thus their life betrothed began  
Until the Lord bent down to man

For in her eyes a change he'd seen  
The Spirit's Light, what could it mean?  
The answer kept from her betroth'd  
In My'stery it all was clothed  
She left with haste and late returned  
Her fruitful\*\*\* state, he quickly learned  
How'd this happen? He'd been so sure—  
Betroth'd to her forever pure.

His heart confused, he chose to leave,  
Yet deep within, to faith he cleaved  
And in his gentle love took care  
That Mary's life and Child be spared  
She gazed at him with loving eyes  
That longed to calm his anguished sighs  
And yet her Heart in silence stayed  
And thus the Lord she still obeyed

She let the Lord in time reveal  
His answer to the world's appeal  
Yet Joseph's heart in silence broke  
Until from wondrous dream awoke  
God's Mercy in her Son now seeing  
Remained firm instead of fleeing  
Without a single look behind  
To her as groom himself he'd bind

The Child within her womb thus grew  
'midst purest love that none e'er knew  
Her most chaste spouse beheld in awe  
Her Child within fulfilled the Law  
By day he worked so to provide  
At night kept vigil at her side  
Waiting with anticipation  
For the world's emancipation

The summons came from distant king  
To journey far and fam'ly bring  
With home behind and way unclear  
They travelled on, her time drew near.  
He took her hand, no time to waste  
A room to find, his heart in haste  
Each door he tried was shut with force  
Without regard and no remorse

The people's hearts were cold with sin  
No room to let the Fam'ly in  
A hidden cave at last he found  
He set with care this hallowed ground



He lit the lamps and cleared the way  
The Mother and the Child to lay  
The sun sank low and came the night  
That would receive the Father's Light

His work worn hands reached out to hold  
The Babe of whom the prophets told  
His gentle heart with love embraced  
the Child who showed His Father's face  
Their quiet lives thus opened wide  
So for the world Love to provide  
The love starved crowds came from afar  
Their way revealed by chosen star

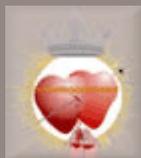
The weight of love he keenly felt  
Two Hearts to guard, while others knelt  
The crowds returned to where they dwell  
And so the News in silence fell  
Yet soon enough the prophet's cry  
Revealed what ahead did lie—  
Two Hearts together pierced for Love  
The Third bent low to Plan above

At twelve years old the Child knew  
His Father's work he must pursue  
So in His Father's House he stayed  
While anxious parents searched and prayed  
They found him still in Temple halls  
He rose to heed their worried calls  
And to prepare dear Joseph's heart  
Reminded him He's set apart

His foster father knew within  
His role would end, his Son's begin  
God's work of love united them  
For from His love their missions stemmed  
And when his role had been fulfilled  
To guard their Hearts—a Home to build\_\_  
He humbly bowed to clear the way  
His Son the debt of sin to pay.

The mission he began on earth  
Protects the Church who's given birth  
The Church, though born from Jesus' side,  
With Mary, is the Heav'nly Bride.  
In Her, Christ's Body is alive  
Her members towards their Union strive.  
Thus Joseph in his prayer sustains  
The Church in which Their Hearts remain.

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