

Feast of St. Joseph

March 19, 2021

Opening Prayer From GNSH Heritage Prayers, 2016

Saint Joseph, you listened to God's call in dream and prayer. You cared for Mary, your spouse, and your holy child as refugees fleeing violence, and as peaceful family in Nazareth. You labored as carpenter and taught Jesus the trade. You understand our life, our fears and our needs. Intercede for us now, we pray. Amen



Canon of Hospitality (Adapted from [Prayer Seeds](#), Joyce Rupp)

We come with profound thanksgiving for the countless times we have been welcomed by the Holy One dwelling in another person. Because of open minds and loving hearts we have been received with warmth and kindness.

R/ May we open ourselves, our hearts, to the needs of others.

We bring our sorrow and ask forgiveness for the times we have ignored, shunned, or deliberately refused to welcome others. We bring our intention to continue our efforts to accept those with whom we have differences.

R/ May we open ourselves, our hearts, to the needs of others.

We welcome those who claim to be our enemies. We welcome those whose beliefs and lifestyles appear contrary to those of our own. We welcome those who live among us whom we would rather not welcome.

R/ May we open ourselves, our hearts, to the needs of others.

We are grateful for biblical and congregational compassionate persons renowned for their all-embracing love and hospitality. Their generous welcome of those most in need of food, clothing, housing and visitation.

R/ May we open ourselves, our hearts, to the needs of others.

We are especially grateful for the example of Sarah and Abraham who received strangers; Elizabeth who greeted Mary of Nazareth with joy; Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany; for Joseph who welcomed Mary and Jesus into his home; to each for their friendship with Jesus.

R/ May we open ourselves, our hearts, to the needs of others.

We pray to grow stronger and live ever more fully the Gospel, committing ourselves, our corporate prophetic voice, and appropriate resources to the flourishing of the Earth and to the unmet needs of persons who are made poor, marginalized, and vulnerable.

R/ May we open ourselves, our hearts, to the needs of others.

Antiphon:

In the hills of Nazareth, you fulfilled your plan for us in silent and hidden ways.

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence comes my help? My help comes from you, O God, who made heaven and earth. You will not let my foot stumble, You, who preserve me, will not sleep. Behold, You who keep Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. You, O God, are our keeper; You are our shade — the sun shall not smite us by day, or the moon by night.

**Glory to You Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.**

In the hills of Nazareth, you fulfilled your plan for us in silent and hidden ways.

Readings:

“All Christians are called to be hospitable, but it is more than serving a meal, or filling a bed, or opening our door—it is to open ourselves, our hearts, to the needs of others. Hospitality is not just shelter, but the quality of welcome behind it.”

Dorothy Day

“Throughout our life-time—we make choices influenced by grace to become one with the Love who has first seized us. We choose to put aside whatever gets in the way of deepening union with God and our neighbors, including our neighbor Earth. We, Sisters and Associates know by heart that the letting-go, the surrendering, the willing choice to yield to something more, is what births new life.”

Dolores Clerico, SSJ

Intercessions:

As we celebrate this feast of St. Joseph,

may we imitate his care and concern for others.

Open our hearts to you, Source of All Souls,

you whose love dwells within and among us.

Open us to believe,

how fully we are welcomed by you each moment of our lives.

Open us to carry our union with you,

to those who are part of our daily encounters.

Open us when we are weary, when we resist,

when we forget those at the door of our hearts, when we doubt, when we are anxious.

Open our hearts to full confidence,

to trust that we have more than enough love to give away.

Closing Prayer: Pope Francis

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you, God entrusted His only Son; In you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became a man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen