

## **FOSJ Chapter Meeting Prayers**

### **Opening Prayer**

O glorious St. Joseph, you were chosen by God the Father to father the Son of God and to be the chaste spouse of Mary, ever Virgin. You were divinely ordained to exercise charitable authority over the household of the Holy Family, that human icon of the Triune God. Most confidently I ask your powerful help in obtaining the restoration and redemption of fatherhood. Shield all fathers with your fatherly protection, that they may be, like you, living icons of God the Father, leaders who transmit God's strength, mercy, benevolence, and love to their wives and children. St. Joseph, please accept this entrustment of myself which I now make to you. I dedicate myself and my fatherhood wholly to you, that you may ever be my father, my patron, and my guide in the way of salvation. Be my shield against the evil one, that I may be a shield to my family. Obtain for me great purity of heart and a fervent devotion to the interior life. Grant that, following your example, I may entrust myself wholly to the Holy Virgin Mother and direct all my actions to the glory of the Father in union with His Son Jesus Christ. St. Joseph may my fatherhood, like yours, be hidden, silent and humble so that it may reveal the greatness of our hidden Father in heaven. Come Holy Spirit. As you directed St. Joseph in all of his ways that he might lead his family, now direct us, that we may follow his holy example and glorify the Almighty Ever living God. Amen.

### **Fathers of St. Joseph Creed**

I, (insert name), believe that God our Father has created and chosen me through His Most Holy and Beloved Son, and has conferred upon me an indispensable mission, that by the working and grace of the Holy Spirit I am to fulfill to the best of my ability; for if I do not, no one else will. Therefore, I commit myself to following the timeless wisdom and ageless example of my mentor, father and guide, St. Joseph, by embodying the four pillars that were foundational to his way of devoutly, heroically, and faithfully fulfilling the holy will of the Almighty Triune God: embrace silence for the purpose of receiving divine counsel and to live in communion with God; to embrace my wife, and to be a sacrificial Christ for her, as St. Joseph was a super-human oblation for the most Blessed Virgin Mary his betrothed; to embrace my child (children) as Christ in the manner that St. Joseph received the Son of God, that my child (children) become like Christ, a holy and pleasing sacrifice unto God; and lastly to assume my charitable authority as bishop and priest of my domestic church, who offers the sacrifice of self for the salvation of the members of my family. With resolute determination, I vow with all strength imparted to me, to be a faithful son of God and Holy Mother Church, a husband in the image of the divine bridegroom Jesus Christ, and to be, like St. Joseph a father on earth like the Father in heaven.

St. Joseph exemplar of all fathers, *Ora Pro Nobis*

## **Closing Prayer**

O St. Joseph predestined and chosen by God from among men, you received the glorious honor of being the chaste, guardian of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. Inflamed with divine love you received her as your beloved wife and through her God bestowed upon you the most privileged distinction of being the virginal father of God the Son.

As a living reflection of the Heavenly Father, you protected the Christ child from Herod, thus becoming the savior of the Savior. You accepted Jesus' humble submission to your fatherly authority and thus became the master of the Master. As a hidden king you conferred upon Jesus the Davidic kingship and thus became the king of the King of Kings. With untiring joy you labored to nurture the human soul and flesh of Jesus giving bread to the Bread of Life.

Most gentle and generous father, look upon this, your indigent child, and see that I too need your care and protection. O chaste heart that burned with love for Jesus and Mary teach me, your humble servant, to be devoted entirely to Mary and to worship the Lord Jesus with my entire being that I too may become a living reflection of God our Father.

O master of the interior life, you faithfully and promptly fulfilled the divine commands. Your humble obedience has elevated the vocation of fatherhood as a certain means to sublime sanctity and eternal glory. Desiring to follow your holy example, I embrace my vocation to be a most chaste husband, a living icon of God the Father, and a just guardian and guide that my family may become like yours, a holy family.

Therefore, most glorious, and humble spiritual father, today before the heavenly host, I surrender myself, my marriage, my fatherhood, my family, my labors, my merits, all that I am and have, unreservedly and totally to you, and consequently to Mary my Queen and most holy Mother, that you may always be my parents in the order of grace and that I may forever be your son. As you and Mary consecrated the Son of God to God the Father, consecrate me also, that I may be set apart for holy service to God most high. I beseech you, as you prepared Christ for His ultimate sacrifice, prepare me also that I may attain the fullness of divine sonship.

Most humble, silent, and hidden father, I surrender all to you that my fatherhood may glorify God the Father of glory in this age and the age to come, forever without end, Amen.