

JOSEPH—A Refugee Father (A Reflection)

“Rise up; take with thee the Child and His Mother and flee to Egypt.”

Matt 2:13

Mary and Joseph needed to leave Bethlehem hurriedly, leaving behind necessary items as they prepared for a long and difficult journey. They left as many refugees



do in our world today—with the threat of death overshadowing them!

Joseph did not angrily turn to God because he needed to flee with Mary and Jesus to a land where he knew no one. He did not question why months earlier it was revealed to him that Jesus was coming to save the world and now he can't even save himself. As a faithful father he does what he needs to do to keep his family safe; making use of every means available to begin again.

Joseph is truly an example of virtue for all of us. He loved his family and wanted to protect them from danger (just like my father loved and protected my six brothers and me). Joseph was a father who acted with fortitude in the midst of a world that seemed chaotic. Joseph was a man of fortitude. Joseph was a man of faith. Joseph was a man of hope. Joseph was a man of love.



Joseph was a refugee father!

A Reflection (Mary Alessio-Advancement Director)