

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



‘Joseph, her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her...”’

Joseph knew the child was not his. While all of Nazareth gossiped about who the father might be, Joseph was heart-broken. Mary had not explained anything to him- the Annunciation, her Fiat, her conception by the Holy Spirit. She left Joseph alone in his suffering. Joseph did not doubt Mary’s integrity, but he did not understand what was going on.

His knee jerk reaction was to play by the rules.

According to Mosaic law, Joseph could have publicly cleared his name, defended his honor, and demanded justice. He was within his rights.

This could have meant exposing Mary to the consequences of being found pregnant out of wedlock. Such women were placed in the doorway of their father’s house and stoned to death by the villagers, for having disgraced the family name. Another option was to quietly break off the betrothal. While this would not expose Mary to punishment and death, it would nevertheless mean that Joseph would bring disgrace upon himself. Breaking of a betrothal was no light matter, it would preclude him from ever finding a wife again. He decided to take the hit. He did not go with his initial knee jerk reaction; he doesn’t shoot from the hip.

Joseph accepted to suffer in silence, alone. He experienced a dark night of the soul, a deep anguish.

Do you have a difficult decision to make? Is there something going on that you just cannot make sense of? Are you between a rock and a hard place? St. Joseph intercedes for us, he teaches us to wait on the Lord, and trust in Him.

Fr. Sean