

own destiny and future in complete autonomy, trusting only in themselves and their own powers. But this can never be the grandeur of the human being, who can find fulfilment only in choosing to enter the truth, to make a home under the shade of Wisdom and dwell there. Only within this horizon of truth will people understand their freedom in its fullness and their call to know and love God as the supreme realization of their true self." (Fides et Ratio, 107) By putting Christ back into the center of everything, Weigle sees Vatican II not as a dead document written in the past but as a living response to a call to holiness which every baptized should seek to concretize. We dare say then, that to study Vatican II is not enough without holiness of life as exemplified by the saints. The lives of saints are living proofs that at the core of Vatican II is man's response to Christ's invitation of total union with Him. Thus, its vital legacy as suggested in the title of the book.

Weigle has done a great service, not just to the church but to all men of goodwill searching for the true meaning of Vatican II. This book is a must to all who desire to be faithful to Christ and to His church.

Jose Adriand Emmanuel L. Layug

Sarkisian, Rick. *Not Your Average Joe: The Real St. Joseph and the Tools for Real Manhood and the World*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2005. pp. 85. ISBN 0-9743962-4-9.

St. Joseph, whose name comes from the Hebrew term "Yahweh increases" or "God makes grow," is one of the most venerated saints in the history of the Catholic Church. A model of fathers, workers, husbands and most importantly a protector of families. A man God trusted to be the father of his only begotten Son to whom he entrusted the role of laying the foundation of Jesus' character and the man that taught him to put God first above all things.

Compared to the Blessed Virgin Mary, his wife, St. Joseph is presented in the bible with mystery. A true servant who in the beginning has been tested by God to take care of the Savior of the world and His mother. He is given a tasked to protect him at all costs, to teach him to be a man of integrity, trustworthy and obedient.

This book enlightens us of the virtues exhibited by a man whom God chose to provide Jesus a home here on earth. The virtues that would enable us to reflect on as we do our specific roles in our daily lives. It provided us with concrete examples on how St. Joseph manifested it in his lifetime.

The First part "The Man," deals with St. Joseph's traits that he evidently expressed as human being. The virtue of patience, humility, simplicity, obedience, prayerfulness, faithfulness, and humor.

Patience is a virtue that requires self-control. St. Joseph in his lifetime was able to demonstrate the world how patient he was during the time that he just accepted that Jesus went to His Father's house in the temple. St. Joseph wants all fathers to grow in the virtue of patience so that they can show Christ-like qualities to their wives and children.

Humility, clearly Joseph manifested this virtue when he humbly submitted to the will of God. He did not question or argue, he just simply said "yes" to it. Sometimes, man is

blinded by pride that we tend to exceed our limitations and humanness. But humility teaches us to return to our core, reminds us that God's grace is overflowing and trusting will give us strength to carry on.

Simplicity, St. Joseph is a model of a very simple life. A carpenter who taught Jesus the art of craftsmanship and living within their means. In their simple home, St. Joseph was able to raise the man who would save the world and instill in him the importance of the Scriptures.

Obedience is the trait that both Mary and Joseph had perfected. This virtue made them both worthy parents of the Son of God. With obedience comes servanthood. Service may be in different forms, but there is no greater peace and fulfillment than service to God. With obedience comes trust, surrender and compliance.

Prayerfulness is among the many traits that St. Joseph has in his lifetime. He was very committed to prayer. He knew how to speak to God and most importantly, how to listen to God. It is through prayer that we get to know more the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Faithfulness. St. Joseph is a man who surrendered himself fully to the will of God. He trusted completely that the Lord will shower them not just with their essential needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. But most of all, that they will be protected at all costs, and they will be provided with work and sustenance.

Humor, the author believes that this is one character that is innate with St. Joseph. God would choose a man who would laugh and provide a joyful childhood to His only Son.

Part Two, "The Call" is all about the vocation/task/role that were entrusted by God the Father to St. Joseph. It comprises strength, fitness, kindness, manhood, fatherhood, purity, and commitment.

Strength is very evident in the person of St. Joseph. He is strong in the face of adversity. He was brave enough to cover for Mary when she was already pregnant with Jesus and tough to accept the mockery of men. Thus, the Church sees him as their protector and the terror of the evil spirits.

Kindness. St. Joseph's unselfish life was characterized by thoughtfulness, understanding and good deeds. A man that is said to be consistently kind, is a man that greatly overcomes self-centeredness.

Manhood. There is no better example of what manhood is apart from Jesus, than his foster father, St. Joseph. On the other hand, fatherhood, is something that is perfected by St. Joseph. A role marked by a reflection of kindness, fairness, and forgiveness, that is learned from the bible as these are also exhibited by God the Father.

Purity. As the beatitudes would relay to us that a man with a pure heart is blessed for, they shall see God. St. Joseph is a clear patron of purity, modesty, and chastity for in his lifetime, he constantly showed these virtues as he maintained his role as a model of Jesus.

Commitment. A trait that fathers must acquire. When one enters a relationship, commitment is something that God expects us to take into heart. St. Joseph committed himself to work, family and most of all, his faith.

Part Three titled “The Mission” speaks of St. Joseph’s completion of his purpose on earth. He was able to perfectly finish his mission to serve both Jesus and Mary in all the remaining days of his life. The chapter highlights on the hope, work, family, Jesus, Mary, and the presence of evil.

Hope. As a just man, St. Joseph had the hope like that of Abraham who received abundant blessings from God. St. Joseph is our model of someone who hopes with God and was able to bear witness the fulfilment of His promises.

Work was St. Joseph’s daily expression of how responsible he is as a father in their simple life in Nazareth. It is a means for each one of us to discover that indeed we are already fulfilling our mission by providing towards our loved ones and ensuring a fruitful life ahead of them.

The Family reflects God’s love for His people and Christ’s love for His Church. St. Joseph was able to build a home for his family. It is a place build with love and centered on their faith in God’s overflowing mercy and love.

Jesus, the son St. Joseph protected at all costs. Mostly, we recognize St. Joseph as “foster father” but “chosen father” is much more accurate. Because like Mary, St. Joseph was also chosen by God to be the model and protector of His only begotten Son.

Mary and Joseph are perfect examples of what it takes to grow in personal holiness and how to strengthen their marriage bond. Both reveal the two greatest vocation stories of all time.

St. Joseph is also known as the “Terror of Demons.” Simply because of the Church recognizing his responsibility in protecting Jesus (the founder of the Church) from forces that would attempt to destroy Him.

The pages of the book will enable the reader to become closer to the saint that is not as popular as the rest but have left a big mark in the history of the Church. St. Joseph’s role may be very simple, but it is important to note that without him, we will not be able to experience the grand plan of salvation of man. He is chosen by God the Father to play a crucial role in the Salvation History. And true enough, he fulfilled the role wholeheartedly, trusting in the entire process and accepting it without questioning. Thus, it is but fitting to remember him and pray for him as a sign of our gratitude and honor. It is also best to pray to him, in decision-making especially if you are given the role of a father, a worker, a son, and most especially if you feel that demons are there hovering to test your faith.

Melanie D. Turingan

Siefert, Josef Maria. *The Splendor of the Good and Intrinsically Evil Acts: The Cornerstone of Karol Wojtyla/Pope John Paul II’s (1920-2020) Ethics and Moral Teachings: A Philosophical Defense*. 2nd ed. Spain: International Academy of Philosophy Press, 2021. pp. 269. ISBN: 979-873-262-0863.

Josef Maria Seifert, the personalist philosopher who is a close collaborator and friend of Karol Wojtyla/John Paul II, dedicated this book to defend the thoughts of Karol Wojtyla/