

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Weekday Mass – Friday, March 19, 2021
Cycle B

Our Gospel text for today's Solemnity of Saint Joseph brings before us the circumstances of the birth of Jesus. At the end of the genealogy of Jesus, Mary and Joseph are named, with Joseph as the husband of Mary, or as some translations put it, Mary betrothed to Joseph. We should understand that the marriage ceremony in the Jewish setting is set in several stages that may span several months. In this case, betrothal is already part of the marriage. The written contract has already been drawn up and the marriage is completed when the man takes his wife into his house – which explains the words of the angel for Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary his wife into his home, and those of the narrator "Joseph did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home".

Joseph is the central figure in the first two chapters of the Gospel of Matthew. He is described as a just or righteous man who was faithful to the Law of Moses. This was what made him want to sever his union with Mary – he did not want to be in a marriage with a woman who has transgressed the law. However, Joseph was not only just, he was merciful. He was unwilling to expose her to shame, for if her guilt was proven, she would be stoned to death. He dealt with all of this with discretion, deciding to end this relationship quietly.

The matter was at this point when Joseph received the message from the angel in a dream, telling him not to be afraid to take Mary into his home as his wife for she has conceived through the Holy Spirit. Joseph had his own plans, but after knowing God's will, he obeyed, acknowledging that God's plan is greater than his own. We read from the prophets: "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts". Yes, God's plan is greater than our own.

Like Joseph we need to put God's will always above our own. In this way we can allow God's plan to be accomplished through our very own lives. -- Amen