**REFLECTION FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH 19/03/2020**

**By Philip Kosloski** [https://aleteia.org/2020/03/13 accessed 16/3/20](https://aleteia.org/2020/03/13%20accessed%2016/3/20)

“Plagues have a long history in Europe, and when Christians were in the midst of such a crisis, they frequently turned to St. Joseph.

The father of a seven year old boy stricken down by the plague in 1538, vowed that he would hear Mass for nine days should his prayer to St Joseph be answered.

The sick youth, being visited by the *plague*surgeons, who gave him up for dead, was taken out of the house, and carried to St. Laurence, the pest-house, for fear of infecting others. Here he found himself perfectly well, nor were any more of his family, nine in number, infected.

This was not an isolated incident, as St. Joseph repeatedly interceded for plague victims and God cured their illnesses.

While proper medical attention should always be sought, as well as following instructions given by government authorities, Christians throughout the centuries **highlight the need for prayer to be included in one’s response to a plague.**

In this respect, St. Joseph has been shown to be a powerful intercessor. Above all, St. Joseph teaches us to trust God in all circumstances and place our lives in his hands.”