



## 2023 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 135

February 23, 2024 - Introduced by Representatives WICHGERS, MYERS, BEHNKE, DONOVAN, GUNDRUM, O'CONNOR, ORTIZ-VELEZ and STUBBS. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** recognizing May 1 of each year as St. Joseph the Worker Day in  
2           Wisconsin and recognizing and appreciating the dignity of all working men and  
3           women in Wisconsin.

4           Whereas, Pope Francis, in his apostolic letter entitled *Patris Corde* (With a  
5     Father's Heart), describes St. Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father,  
6     an obedient father, an accepting father, a father who is creatively courageous, a  
7     working father, and a father in the shadows; and

8           Whereas, in a much more sublime and supernatural way, Joseph found favor  
9     with his heavenly Father and was entrusted with the Father's greatest treasures,  
10    his only begotten son, Jesus Christ, and Mary, the mother of Jesus; and

11          Whereas, the Gospel of St. Matthew attests to the holiness of Joseph when he  
12    is described as "a righteous man" (Matthew 1:19); and

13          Whereas, as head of the family, Joseph's responsibilities would have included  
14    leading the family in common prayers before meals, gathering the family for  
15    synagogue services on the Sabbath, and leading the family on annual pilgrimages

1 to the temple in Jerusalem to celebrate “The Festival of Unleavened Bread,” “The  
2 Festival of Weeks,” and “The Festival of Shelters” (Deuteronomy 16:16) and “The  
3 Passover Festival” (Luke 2:41); and

4 Whereas, three times in scripture, Joseph heard the word of the Lord in a dream  
5 (Matthew 1:20, 2:13, 2:22), and each time, Joseph arose and “did as the angel of the  
6 Lord had commanded him” (Matthew 1:24); and

7 Whereas, Jesus and Mary needed housing, food, and clothing; it was Joseph  
8 who provided for these necessities through his manual labor as a carpenter and who  
9 taught Jesus to work, and Jesus himself was referred to as a carpenter: “Is this not  
10 the carpenter, the son of Mary?” (Mark 6:3); and

11 Whereas, when the angry King Herod ordered the massacre of all male children  
12 two years old and younger, it was to Joseph as protector of the family that the angel  
13 of the Lord was sent; Joseph took heed and fled into Egypt with the child and Mary  
14 and thwarted the attempt on Jesus’s life (Matthew 2:13-15); and

15 Whereas, Christians for hundreds of years have invoked Joseph for his great  
16 chastity in taking Mary into his home and for respecting the fact that she belonged  
17 exclusively to God; and

18 Whereas, during turbulent times in 1870, these truths inspired Pope Pius IX  
19 to once again “Go to Joseph,” and on December 8, 1870, to proclaim Joseph as St.  
20 Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church; and

21 Whereas, in 1909, Pope Pius X approved the Litany of St. Joseph, highlighting  
22 Joseph’s titles, privileges, and heroic virtues as follows: noble offspring of David,  
23 light of patriarchs, the spouse of the Mother of God, chaste guardian of the Virgin  
24 Mary, foster father of the Son of God, zealous defender of Christ, head of the holy  
25 family, Joseph most just, Joseph most chaste, Joseph most prudent, Joseph most

1 courageous, Joseph most obedient, Joseph most faithful, mirror of patience, lover of  
2 poverty, model of workmen, glory of domestic life, guardian of virgins, pillar of  
3 families, comfort of the afflicted, hope of the sick, patron of the dying, terror of  
4 demons, and protector of the Holy Church; and

5 Whereas, Pope Pius XII, in 1955, established the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker  
6 on May 1 of each calendar year; and

7 Whereas, on May 1, 2021, Pope Francis added seven new titles to Joseph in the  
8 Litany of St. Joseph, as follows: *custos redemptoris* (guardian of the redeemer); *serve*  
9 *Christi* (servant of Christ); *minister salutis* (minister of salvation); *fulcimen in*  
10 *difficultatibus* (support in difficulties); *patrone exsulum* (patron of exiles); *patrone*  
11 *afflictorum* (patron of the afflicted); and *patrone pauperum* (patron of the poor); and

12 Whereas, in a time of trial and distress, when all of Egypt and the entire world  
13 became hungry and begged for bread, Pharaoh told the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph;  
14 what he says to you, do” (Genesis 41:55); while Pharaoh was referring to Joseph the  
15 son of Jacob, who was sold into slavery because of the jealousy of his brothers  
16 (Genesis 37:11-28) and who subsequently became a viceroy of Egypt (Genesis  
17 41:41-44), popular trust in St. Joseph is seen in the expression “Go to Joseph”; and

18 Whereas, our situation in the world today is not unlike the situation of God’s  
19 people during the great famine in Egypt; we recognize our need for heavenly power  
20 to safeguard and steer us through the many trials of our day; now, therefore, be it

21 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin  
22 Legislature does hereby recognize May 1 of each year as St. Joseph the Worker Day  
23 in the state of Wisconsin; and, be it further

24 ***Resolved, That*** the Wisconsin Legislature does hereby recognize May 1 of each  
25 year as a day to be observed to honor the working men and women in Wisconsin, who

1 get up every day and work hard to provide for and lift up their families, their  
2 communities, the state of Wisconsin, and the United States of America; and be it  
3 further

4 ***Resolved, That*** the Wisconsin Legislature does hereby urge and request the  
5 executive branch of the State of Wisconsin to cause an appropriate celebration on  
6 May 1 of each year to bring recognition and appreciation to the dignity of all working  
7 men and women in Wisconsin.

8 (END)