



Holy Voices

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Instincts come in various shapes and sizes. They may simply be gut feelings, or dreams that seem to speak more than a nighttime fantasy trip. Sometimes they appear in the form of daydreaming that takes us to another place, or they can be the silent voice of God. Whatever they may be, there are those times when they demand our attention.

In *Saint Joan*, a play by George Bernard Shaw, Joan of Arc has a conversation with Robert about her conviction regarding what God is calling her to do. Joan says to him, "I hear voices. They come from God." Robert disagrees, "They come from your imagination." "Of course," says Joan, "that is how messages of God come to us."

Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary, placed a heavy credence on his dream, believing that the dream to keep pregnant Mary as his wife was the voice of God, and so Joseph does just that. Much later he again listens

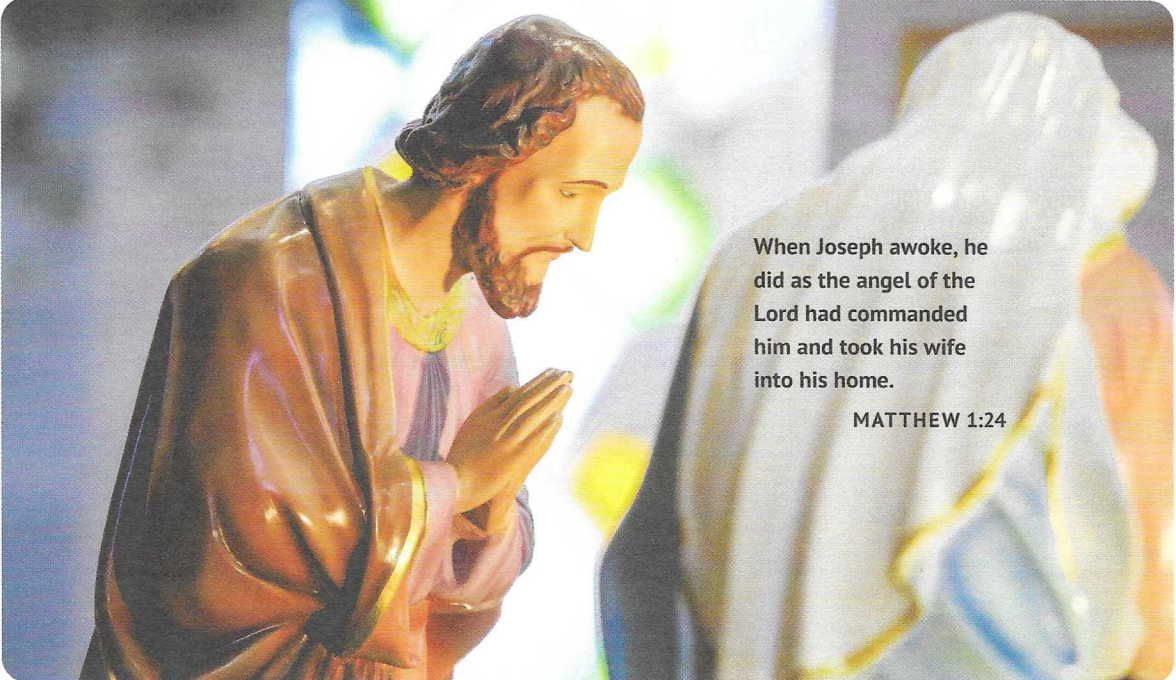
to a dream and takes his young family to the safety of Egypt and then back home to Nazareth. Those nighttime dreams could have easily become daytime nightmares. Yet for Joseph there was something that kept him from simply dismissing them.

Sometimes our inclinations and inner voices may not seem practical, and yet, even as we find ourselves second-guessing them, we think they need to be listened to. When the inclination is one toward goodness, that may very well be the voice of God. ●

Reflect

Have you ever followed an inner voice with which others disagreed? What came of it?

Is there someone you trust to tell you if your instinct about something is good?



When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

MATTHEW 1:24