



**Brothers of  
the Christian  
Schools**



# **TESTIMONIES**

## **SAINT JOSEPH, A REFERENCE MODEL**

### **JOSE RAMÓN BATISTE PEÑARANDA**

#### **Benicarló - Spain**

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me...when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you...when did we see you ill or in prison and visit you? Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me”. Matthew 25: 35-40*

Married and father 2 daughters, grandfather to 2 grandchildren; former student of Colegio La Salle, Associated to the Lasallian Mission through Public Commitment. Volunteer in PROYDE, Caritas and Pastoral Ministry for Prisons.

I consider St. Joseph as an extraordinary and at the same time discreet saint; he is rarely mentioned in the Gospels; yet we can understand the greatness of his faith and the importance of his mission in the History of Salvation. He is seen as a righteous man, as a good father of a family who cared for his spouse and son, pious, observant of the Law, an honest carpenter who lived by his work.

In my family we have always celebrated the feast of St. Joseph, because of tradition in the region and because it is my Patron saint.

In the path of life, God has been giving me “mediators” on my human and spiritual journey, among them some Brothers of the Christian Schools, who have been true witness of Christian life when I was a student, adolescent and as an adult; the fact of being part of a Lasallian Community of Brothers and lay Partners is a growing experience of faith, interiority and spirituality.

I would also like to highlight two important gifts; together with my wife we have been part of the Teams of Our Lady movement for 35 years devoted to marriage spirituality; on the other hand, for about six years now, I have been living intensely the volunteer service of the Diocesan Pastoral Ministry for Prisons, together with another De La Salle Brother, where we visit the prisoners weekly. We try to be mediators of the balm of Jesus and try to show them the merciful love that God offers them; The hardness of the stories and situations, the gratitude of the prisoners for the dedication we offer them and especially for being a fruitful field of evangelisation and conversion, encourages us to continue in this work, possibly questioned by a large part of society.

The figure and model of St. Joseph is one of the themes that we will be presenting in future workshops in the prison.

