

While visions of sugar plums danced in their heads” The Night Before Christmas.

Tis now the week before Christmas and I can't imagine what is going on in your heads.

Well St. Joseph had something on his mind as well. His espoused wife Mary is large with child. He is deciding to divorce her quietly. Imagine the sorrow that possessed him; his heavy heart. But then the angel comes to him in a dream. “Don't be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home... it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. Imagine the joy of Joseph!

Joseph the spouse of Mary had another Joseph as his ancestor. He was one of the sons of Jacob and a dreamer as well.

Have you noticed that Joseph the husband of Mary had what I might call an underneath nature, a hidden nature that surfaced at night but was active underneath the surface during the day as well? It's a good thing Joseph paid attention to the angel. He obeyed and took Mary into his home and so continues our Christmas story.

Now all of us have an underneath nature as well. We are all dreamers and God works on us while we are dreaming. There may be other voices but the voice of God speaks to us as surely as the angel to Joseph. It may be an angel or another voice.

I have never given that much thought to it but God must certainly be speaking to us in our underneath nature. Something like this can happen in our prayer if we are still or as we dream during the night. What should I do about this? Well first of all be quiet and don't force anything. Change will happen within you. God will reach you whether you hear or sense or dream anything.

“Joseph don't be afraid.” Neither do we need to be afraid. Just listen and respond in the ways God shows you.

The Christmas stories can go on and on; on the TV, in the music, all around us but I encourage you to dream your own dreams, pray your own dreams. Listen for the angel, the voice of God

and be sure to  
receive Jesus in Holy Communion.