

January 3rd – Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus

What more can we say about the Holy Name of Jesus. The Lord Jesus promised, “Whatever you ask in my name, I will do” (Jn 14:13).

This is an important truth. It does not mean that if I ask to be the best athlete in the name of Jesus that it will occur. Or if I ask for riches, that I will have them. Or that if I ask for good health that I will be cured and free of all disease... no!

This promise is conditional. I will have it **if** I ask for things that the person of Jesus desires... so if it is a good thing... that is necessary for my salvation... then I will absolutely have it. Everything else I ask for in hope. In a hope that it does come from the will of God and that this thing I ask for is the best gift for my salvation.

By the way, what does the name of Jesus mean? Salvation! Exactly!

This is interesting... the catechism teaches us For “the name ‘Jesus’ contains all His name is the only one that contains the presence it signifies” (CCC 2666). “

So when we invoke the name of Jesus, we actually call down the presence of Jesus into our world. He comes when we call upon him. And so when we say the name of Jesus, we need to do it always with respect... to give his name due reverence... to even bow our heads when we say or hear it even outside of Mass.

For there is no “other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved” (Acts 4:12).

The Holy Name of Jesus is the simplest yet most powerful prayer we could ever make, for that name means Savior. “If you think the name ‘Jesus’ continually, it purges your sin and kindles your heart; it clarifies your soul; it removes anger and does away with slowness. It wounds in love and fulfills charity. It chases the devil away and puts out dread. It opens heaven, and makes you a contemplative. It puts all vices and phantoms out from the lover” (R. Rolle).

I will close with this quotation from St. Bernardino of Siena,

“This Name is a refuge of sinners, that is to say, against the evil of sin—for who is the sinner that does not fear this powerful Name? Who is it...that does not tremble when he hears the Name of the God of vengeance?

Yet, behold how the Name of Jesus is a sweet refuge into which is poured forth the power and the majesty of God, for it is sweet with piety and shows forth the great mercy of God.... Now it has been tempered in the fountain of mercy and piety, that is to say, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, through our most loving Jesus Christ.... Just as the word “filius” [son] can be said to be derived from “philos” —which means brotherly love—so also is the immense love of God made clearly manifest to us in the New Testament. Thus it is that the angel said to Mary in Luke 1: The

Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.”

Let us pray,

O most loving and most gracious Name! O Holy Name! O Pious Name, full of sweetness, so greatly desired by the ancient fathers, so anxiously awaited and with such prolonged weariness, called on with so much yearning and with so many tears of desire! But at last the time of grace has mercifully arrived.

Here you are precious Jesus... here we are Jesus zealous lover of souls! Visit us with your salvation. Make us worthy bearers of your most holy name to all we meet - “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Amen.