

"If God be for us,
Who can be against us?"

(Rom 8:31)

Realities & Actualities
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

"Lord, to whom shall we Go?
You have the words of eternal life.
And we believe and are sure that
You are that Christ, the Son
of the living God"

(John 6:68-69)

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*"A good name is better than a good ointment,
And the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth"* (Ecc1 7:1).

Creams are suggested when shaving, on one hand, to moisturize the skin, and on the other hand, to serve as a tracking in order not to miss a spot. Streets are divided into marked lanes, primarily to point to the number of available lanes, yet they serve to keep drivers from encroaching on each other, and you may label this as rudimentary and elementary.

It is quite obvious that naming and surnaming take roots in our limited ability and fundamental need for guidelines to recognize and address our fellow man.

Naming is that particular distinctiveness of an individual be it in its generic or definite sense and characterization, to recognize and acknowledge, while addressing or pointing to or referring to that individual.

A name may hold the individual's essential self, personality, traits, worth, character, inclinations, reputation, affluence, authority, will, ownership and ethnicity, through meaning and/or numerology.

Names, once invoked, can generate happiness or sadness; can provoke tears or fears; can draw cheers or jeers; can bestow honor or dishonor; can denote fame or shame, while they can cause life or death.

Naming customs vary, some uses the names of the departed, some chooses names of the living, while other naming are chosen by parents, because of their sweet musical sounding (euphony), or because of old flames, or because of a great religious or secular personages, or because of ancestral and lineal or ceremonial traditions.

A name has its socio-political as well as socio-religious implication, weight and impact, it does not only ascertain the identity of the person, but also dictates one's eponym, eumonym and pseudonym together with one's positive or negative credentials, signature, seal and characteristics.

From a theological standpoint, we are commended to pray: 'In the Name of the Father and Jesus', which means by His authority and sovereignty. From a worldly standpoint, when a police officer says: "Stop in the name of the law", all it means he is representing that law, acting in its authority and carrying out its ordinances.

"Everyone who calls on the NAME of the Lord will be saved" (Rom 10:13)...

How important a name is can be found in these two stories:

1) A Story from pagan point of view: Alexander the Great:

"After one of Alexander the Great victories, a soldier was brought into his presence allegedly accused of treason, with recommendation that the captive soldier be court marshaled and put to death. The story states that Alexander the Great, ignored the recommendation of his counselors, and instead, he eyed the shaking and trembling genuflected soldier, heavily chained prostrating before him, the Greatest of the greats, as if to delve into this soldier's inner soul in scrutiny ... after a while, he asked him : "What is your name?" The soldier sotto voce muttered: "Ah...AA... Alexander". After a long pause,

Alexander the Great asked once again with much commanding voice: "What is your name?" The frightened soldier, exceedingly shaking, raised his voice and uttered: "Ah...AA... Alexander" ... Now impatient and dismayed, Alexander the Great yelled: I asked you what is your name? The horrified soldier mumbled: "Ah...Ah... Alexander". Alexander the Great, searing with rage and fury, shouted thunderously: Then be an Alexander or better change your name!"

2) A story from Christian point of view: St. Sanctus of Lyon, France:

"Eusebius, Bishop of Cæsarea Palestina, the famous early church historian, describes a believer named Sanctus from Lyons, France, who was tortured for Jesus. He emptied himself, surrendered to Jesus believing in "*Jesus Christ must increase, and I, Sanctus, must decrease*" (John 3:30). As they tortured him cruelly, they hoped to get him to say something evil or blasphemous. **They asked his name**, and he would only reply, "*I am a Christian.*" "What nation do you belong to?" He would answer, "*I am a Christian.*" "What city do you live in?" "*I am a Christian.*" His questioners began to get angry: "Are you a slave or a free man?" "*I am a Christian*" was the only reply. No matter what they asked about him, he would only answer, "*I am a Christian.*" This made his torturers all the more determined to break him, but they could not; and he was executed and died with the words "*I am a Christian*" on his lips. (Eusebius, *Church History*).

What will your name be? ... So and So or so and so in Christ?

An alexander or Alexander the Great?

Will you honor your name so that posterity
can mirror its attributes and echo its peculiarity?

More importantly:

Based on: "*But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine... This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister"* (Isa 43:1; 1John 3:10),

*"Do not they blaspheme that worthy NAME
by the which you and they are called?"* (Jam 2:7),

Will your NAME

Reflect living and dying Christ-like?

Will your NAME

be written in the Lamb Book of Life?