

**Holy Christmas - Day 10 -  
Feast of The Holy Name of Jesus January 3, 2021 (traditional)**  
(many liturgical calendars will observe today as Epiphany Sunday)

(adapted from my blog, “Strength of Soul”, 2015, WordPress)

Traditionally for centuries on the tenth day of Christmas the Church remembers “The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus”. We are reminded from the Scriptures – “. . .he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.” (Luke 2:21b) and “Joseph. . . named him Jesus.” (Matthew 1:25b)

Today I reflect on some contrasts in uttering the name of Jesus – One day I was enjoying my favorite lunch choice at Sheetz (touch screen sub selections), standing beside a man at the other touch screen. Soon I heard from him – Gx!xx! Dx!xx!, Jx!xx!x, Cx!xx!x, Sx!xx! of a Bx!xx!x. I bravely looked over from my touchscreen and said, “can I be of help”? A glare, more verbage and he walked away. So sorry, so sad; and what must be going on in this man’s life?

I sat eating my sub and reflecting on another time, a contrast (and hopefully not engaging in any self-righteousness) – on call at the hospital in Dallas as the critical care & trauma Chaplain – and every time my pager went off I had the triggered response to pray – Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have Mercy! (the ancient Jesus prayer) Every time I was calmed, strengthened to go to the life and death situation in the hospital. I became centered and focused to carry out ministry.

St. Paul, writing to the Church at Philippi expressed these ancient words of hymn:

“Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God.” (Philippians 2:9-11)

*Dear Jesus, born of Mary, thank you for your salvation. Thank you for your holy presence in our lives. Dear Jesus, watch over us. Have mercy on us, and give us grace and peace. Dear Jesus, Lord and Savior, be with us this day! Dear Jesus, be with any today who are suffering and struggling in their lives and need your holy touch. Grant your mercy and give us strength to reach out in your holy name. Amen.*

William H. Wilson (Bill)+