



## Boston Catholic Journal



NIHIL NISI IESUM

DEDICATED TO MARY MOTHER OF GOD

---

[www.boston-catholic-journal.com](http://www.boston-catholic-journal.com)  
[editor@boston-catholic-journal.com](mailto:editor@boston-catholic-journal.com)

## THE GATE OF GLORY

*May you be Mocked  
Ridiculed, and Vilified  
This Christmas!*

“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is very great in Heaven.” (Saint Matthew 5:11)

**Christ came *down* to earth that we might go *up* to Heaven.**

This, then, is our wish for you this Christmas: that you be rewarded for your life in Christ by joining Mary, all the Angels and Saints, and the Company of Martyrs in Heaven for all eternity!

No less a figure than Saint Peter told us how this is possible: “**If you be reproached for the name of Christ, you shall be blessed: for that which is of the honor, glory, and power of God, and that which is his Spirit, resteth upon you.**” (1 St. Peter 4.14)

*Rejoice!*

What is more, we read in the Acts of the Apostles that “**The apostles left the Sanhedrin, *rejoicing* because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.**” (Acts 5.41)

It was, however, **Our Blessed Lord Himself Who promised it first: “Blessed shall you be when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you and shall reproach you and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man’s sake ... Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is very great in Heaven!”** (Saint Matthew 5:11, Saint Luke 6.22)

We have *reason*, then — and *the means* through which to **rejoice** — in this holy Season of Christmas!

But will we avail ourselves of it? Will we *as Catholics* **open** ourselves to disgrace and mockery, ridicule and reproach, by **doing** what *Christ* would have us **do** — and *suffer* — **for His Name’s sake** ... and account as nothing the mockery and contempt of the world?

**We know what following Christ will entail for us** here on earth — especially in these dark and evil times — sadly, both *in the Church* and *in the world*. We have just been told: we will be hated, ridiculed, disdained, mocked, separated from the society of the “socially correct” — we may lose our friends and, quite possibly, our jobs! Such prospects alone will separate the wheat from the chaff.

## WHAT CAN WE GIVE GOD?

*We can give nothing to God* that He has not given us first — **with one absolutely vital exception**: our *uncompromising* love for Him.

God has endowed us with a free will — and with that will, *which is totally our own*, we — *we can choose* to love and serve God (as the Holy Angels did long before Creation, and so entered into beatitude) — or we can willfully *exempt* Him from our love, *deny* it to Him, *withhold it* from Him — and choose, instead, **ourselves** as the axis of the universe (as the Rebellious Angels did and so were cast into Hell). God gives us that freedom! He respects our will and will not revoke our choices — to love **Him** ... or the **world** — and the two are not simply incompatible, but mutually exclusive. “*Nemo potest duobus dominis servire* — No man can serve two masters.” (Saint Matthew 6.24)

And *we are completely free to choose!*

If we choose Him, it will be a **TOTAL LOVE** — a love *above* everyone and everything else that we love: a love so proximately absolute that we can only attain to it by expressing it in the *total oblation*, the unstinting offering of ourselves to Him in everything we do, everything we say, everything we think, everything we will, everything we desire, everything we are:

### LOVE THAT WILL ACCEPT:

- Ridicule for His Sake (yes, even by ones own family and friends)
- Mockery for His Sake
- Being hated for His Sake
- Being marginalized — especially by other Catholics ... for His Sake
- Being considered spiritually retrograde because of your *total* devotion to Him and your defiance of the world.
- Being deemed “regressive” because your piety and devotions, your prayers and gestures, do not conform to “modernized” and “progressive” practices that fail to reflect a genuine understanding of **Who** God IS, **Where** God is, and **How** He comes to us in the Seven Sacraments — before “piety” and “devotion” became “incorrect” and an embarrassment in today’s “progressive” *Catholic Church of Accompaniment and the God of Surprises*.

## YOU *WILL* PAY TRIBUTE

Do not be deceived or naïve: you *will* pay tribute. **The world will crown us** according to our love: for the *world* a Crown of Laurels ... for *God* a Crown of Thorns.

## CAN YOU GIVE HIM THAT GIFT? EVERY DAY? AND IN ALL COMPANY? IN ALL PLACES?

### It means:

- Praying Grace before every meal — and **making the *Sign of the Cross* in public restaurants** — not the shrinking, “as-fast-and-as-hidden-as-possible” *Sign of the Cross* that declares how ashamed you are of your holy Catholic Faith — after all, people may be astonished, scandalized (and perhaps some even converted ...)
- **Bowing your head at the Sacred Name of Jesus** (Philippians 2.10) — no matter how often it is uttered — and if it is uttered blasphemously, “finishing” the blasphemous utterance with a silent “have mercy on us” and so make a prayer of a sacrilege.
- **Confessing Christ openly when it is least beneficial to you**: *you cannot take refuge in silence* about Him “**Who will deny you before His Angels in Heaven if you deny Him before men.**” (Saint Matthew 10.33)
- **Genuflecting when you pass by Him in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar** — *how dare you* pass Him by without anything less than a bent knee! Do you not know that He is *really* and *truly* present — Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity — in the Tabernacle and that **He** deigns to greet you ... who refuse to so much as **acknowledge Him** ... because you fear being thought “pious” in the eyes of others — as though piety were a sin!
- Believing — **and so acting upon!** — *everything Christ commanded us*: taking the lowest seat, being the last, being despised ... **for His sake**. In other words, all that *deprives* you of honor in this world and *solicits* the obsequious admiration of men.

Probably one out of a thousand — no, *ten thousand* — Catholics have the **FAITH** to do these things — *all* of which are *obligatory* to us! And because they are required of us, we must not dare applaud ourselves when we have done these things — and secretly esteem ourselves holy because we have done them. We have been admonished in no uncertain terms about this self-flattery beforehand: “**When you have done all that you were *commanded*, you should say, ‘We are worthless servants; we’ve only done our duty.’**” (Saint Luke 17.10)

This, then, is *your only possible* gift to *God*: **acknowledging Him openly by loving Him sincerely and obeying Him diligently in all that you do.** This — and only this — *you* can give **Him** Who gave all else to you first.

**Your will is totally free: free** to acknowledge Him and love Him — or to ignore Him and reject Him!

Freedom is meaningless without responsibility and responsibility is meaningless without consequences.

Not idly did God speak:

**Behold I set forth in your sight this day a blessing and a curse: A blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: A curse, if you obey not the commandments of the Lord your God, but revolt from the way which now I shew you, and walk after strange gods which you know not.** (Deuteronomy 11.26-28)

*We wish you a most Blessed Christmas and Christmastide ... and pray that you have the willingness to be mocked and marginalized for His sake ... that you may know immortally the inexpressible joy awaiting those who pass through the crucible of faith to the Collector of Crosses Who knows His own through the Sign by which they are forever sealed — the Sign that brought them cruel contempt from the world — and transfiguration into glory in Heaven.*

**May you be humiliated for His Name’s sake!** For so were His Apostles. (Acts 5.41)

It is the gate of glory and the pledge of things everlasting to come.

Editor  
Boston Catholic Journal  
December 21, 2018



Copyright © 2004 - 2018 Boston Catholic Journal. All rights reserved.