



Boston Catholic Journal



NIHIL NISI IESUM

Dedicated to Mary, Mother of God

Salus Animarum Suprema Lex Esto (Canon Law 175)

The Salvation of Souls is the Supreme Law in the Church

“At the Name of Jesus every knee should bend”



“Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that *at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in Heaven and on earth and under the earth*” (Philippians 2.9-10)

But we no longer so much as bow our *heads* upon hearing *His Name*

... let alone bend our knees we pass before Him in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

There was a time when, in a mix of many people, one could always distinguish the Catholics among them. We see vestiges of this at Mass — and almost exclusively among the elderly. They bow their heads, however slightly, even imperceptibly, upon hearing the name, “Jesus”.

Every time

No matter how often and carelessly the Name is uttered by the priest or deacon — as they would utter any *other* name upon Earth — still the heads bow, reflexively, instinctively, from a life past, an age past, when “the Name” was sacred ... and understood as “the Sacred Name”. It derived not from a generation past, but from centuries past, millennia past, where it was recognized that one could not always *kneel* upon hearing the Sacred Name, but the head ... and the neck ... could always *bow* before it.

The Prologue in Heaven

“They were former days”, you say. Yes ... but from days more ancient still; the days from which the source and substance of our very Faith derives, days where a continuity existed — and still exists — between Heaven above and Earth below;

ancient days in which we hear the words of Saint Paul echoed through the ages:

- *“at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth”* (Philippians 2.9-10)
- *“Dost thou believe in the Son of God? He answered, and said: Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him? And Jesus said to him: Thou hast both seen him; and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said: I believe, Lord. And falling down, he adored him.”* (St. John 9.35-38)
- *“Every creature, which is in Heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them: I heard all saying: To Him that sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, benediction, and honor, and glory, and power, for ever and ever. And the four living creatures said: Amen. And the four and twenty ancients fell down on their faces, and adored Him that lives for ever and ever.”* (Apocalypse 5.13-14)
- *“Peter saw, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying: Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”* (St. Luke 5.8)
- *“Be converted to me, and you shall be saved, all ye ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by myself, the word of justice shall go out of my mouth, and shall not return: For every knee shall be bowed to me.”* (Isaiah 45.22-24)

And for every subsequent generation ... but ours

We are, after all, too wise ... too sophisticated. We are not blind beggars and we are not simple fishermen. We are not children.

Indeed. Each of them entered the Kingdom of Heaven.

So tell me ... since you are neither blind, nor simple fishermen, nor children, how do you propose to enter into the Kingdom of God? ³

They fell to their knees before God, and you ... you will do what? *Is your pride so overweening that you will bring your full height to the face of God?* Will you stride proudly through the Gates of Heaven?

You are a fool!

The arrogant have ever been an affront to God. Mary, the very Mother of God, herself tells us that, “He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble.” ¹

Are you greater than Mary, Mother of God? Greater than Saint Peter? Will you make yourself to be even greater than Christ Himself Who, “*fell upon His face, praying*” ² to His Heavenly Father in the Garden of Gethsemane?

And still, when next you pass Him by – Jesus Christ really and truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar – and every single day thereafter, *you will not so much as acknowledge Him with the bend of your knee ... nor His Sacred Name*

with a nod of your head.

Instead of repenting of this arrogance, and learning from Christ Who tells us that He Himself is humble³ — you celebrate! ... most often yourselves — proclaiming in song, in smug assurance, that you “are God’s people” — “and the light of the world” — even as you fail to recognize Him Who stands before you ... Who on Good Friday we had crucified with our sins.

Why do you find this so difficult?

Because to bend your *knee* you must first bend your *will* ... just as Lucifer, who was the first to refuse!

You keep evil company ...

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¹ Saint Luke, 1.51-52

² Saint Matthew, 26.39

³ Saint Matthew, 11.29

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