

The wisdom of simplicity/ the simplicity of wisdom

Whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus,

in thanksgiving to God the Father through him. (Col 3:17)

It is prudent for us to look into faith history to see how other people dealt with sickness and disease. In 432, the city of Lisbon was struck with a devastating plague...highly contagious, and spreading by anything a victim had worn or touched. Many died throughout Portugal's capital. People collapsed in the streets and many of the dead laid unburied there - among them doctors and priests who strove to help sufferers. Seized with fear, people fled from Lisbon and thus sadly spread the deadly disease throughout the entire country. All of Portugal was at the mercy of this unstoppable plague and the situation appeared truly hopeless. But the Lord inspired one bishop to preach and publicise the use of a powerful but seldom employed prayer - to simply call on the power of the holy name of Jesus. Monsignor Andre Dias was among those bravely aiding the plague victims. He exhorted patients to **call upon the Most Holy Name of Jesus with confidence**, encouraging the devotion even among those who were still healthy and well.

"Write It on cards," he told the people. **"And keep those cards on your persons; place them at night under your pillows; place them on your doors; but above all, constantly invoke with your lips and in your hearts this most powerful Name."**

His zeal brought comfort and courage to despairing victims. Those who followed the bishop's wise advice quickly found a healing peace in their hearts. Monsignor Dias began to make public appeals. He gathered everyone into the church of St. Dominic and begged them to call upon the Sacred Name of Jesus. Then, taking water, he blessed it in the Name of Jesus and distributed it to the people. He told everyone to sprinkle the holy water on themselves and those afflicted with the disease. The Catholics of that terror stricken city quickly followed the bishop's advice and their faith was rewarded. Soon, the power of the name of Jesus Christ was wondrously manifested to all. In a short time the plague-filled city was free of the deadly terror. And the miracles did not end there - throughout all of Portugal, people began to turn humbly and trustfully to Our Lord, calling upon His All-powerful Name - and finding therein... peace, health, and freedom.

During this pandemic of 2020, let us remember the incredible, divine power of the name of Jesus. Sadly, today, His name is often ignored or spoken in vain....wounding Our Lord. We have a great opportunity to proclaim the great dignity and power of the name of Jesus over evils around us. Let us pray daily.....confidently and lovingly invoking His powerful Name in our hour of need.

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth (Phil 2.10)

Isn't it easy enough to write the Holy Name **JESUS** on a card and put it under your pillow, in your pocket, in your home, car etc? Could there be anything more simple? Imagine thousands of children checking that His name was alongside them before they drifted off to sleep. Sometimes it is through the most simple things that God works his wonders. Let's all invoke the power of the Holy Name of Jesus over Covid 19 and anything else that worries or unsettles us.....as we enthrone Him in our homes and pray the name of Jesus over all health care staff, coronavirus patients, and, of course, our families and community.

With you in prayer,

Fr. Simon

*I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth,
for hiding these things from the learned and the clever
and revealing them to little children.*

Yes, Father... for that is what it pleased you to do. (Mt 11:25-26)