

The Name that is Above All Names.

This is one of the Holy Name of Jesus monograms that devout Sieneese put above the gates of their cities, their businesses and homes in response to the preaching of St. Bernadine of Siena. St. Bernadine urged devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus as part of a peace-making response to the many family feuds that plagued the city.



It was St. Bernadine whose devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus led to the addition of Jesus' name to the Ave Maria. As the Catholic Encyclopedia puts it:

Because the manner in which St. Bernardine preached this devotion was new, he was accused by his enemies, and brought before the tribunal of Pope Martin V. But St. John Capistran defended his master so successfully that the pope not only permitted the worship of the Holy Name, but also assisted at a procession in which the holy monogram was carried. The tablet used by St. Bernardine is venerated at Santa Maria in Ara Coeli at Rome.

The Jesuits made this emblem the sign of their Society and added a cross and three nails. It was Pope Sixtus V who granted an indulgence for saying the ejaculation: "Praise be to Jesus Christ!" with the answer: "For evermore" or "Amen"

Which was the way the Pope John Paul II began most of his homilies and speeches.

O Name of Jesus!

A prayer of St. Bernardine of Siena

"Jesus, Name full of glory, grace, love and strength! You are the refuge of those who repent, our banner of warfare in this life, the medicine of souls, the comfort of those who morn, the delight of those who believe, the light of those who preach the true faith, the wages of those who toil, the healing of the sick. To You our devotion aspires; by You our prayers are received; we delight in contemplating You. O Name of Jesus, You are the glory of all the saints for eternity. Amen."