

**The Name “Christian”
(7th Sunday of Easter, Year A)**

1 Peter 4:13-16—Suffering as a Christian

1. Joy: Rejoice insofar as you “share in (*koinōneite*) Christ’s sufferings” (4:13)
2. Christ: the “sufferings” belong to “Christ” (4:13)

Participation in Suffering → Participation in Glory

3. Blessing: reproached for “the name of Christ” (4:14; cf. Matt 5:11-12)
4. Christian: “as a Christian (*Christianos*)” (1 Pet 4:16; possessive, not diminutive)
 - a. Christians: “one who belongs to Christ,” a “Christ-partisan” (Acts 11:26)
 - b. Herodians: “those who belong to Herod” (Gk *Herōdianoī*)
 - c. Caesarians: “those who belong to Caesar” (Gk *Kaisarianoi*)
5. Suffering: suffering “as a Christian” (1 Pet 4:16)

The Living Tradition

Catechism: Very early, the better to signify the gift of the Holy Spirit, an anointing with perfumed oil (*chrism*) was added to the laying on of hands. This anointing highlights the name “Christian,” which means “anointed” and derives from that of Christ himself whom God “anointed with the Holy Spirit.” This rite of anointing has continued ever since, in both East and West. (CCC 1289)

Hilary of Arles: If you suffer as a Christian, you have nothing to be ashamed of. Think of James the son of Zebedee or Stephen. *However awful the trials you suffer may be, learn to glory in them, not to be upset by them.* Christ’s glory is revealed in the church when it suffers. (Hilary of Arles, *Introductory Commentary on 1 Peter*, trans. Gerald Bray [5th century])

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (7th Sunday of Easter, Year A)

1. What does it mean to be a “Christian”? How should Christians react when they suffer or face trials? How do you react when suffering comes your way?

For Further Reading

1. Keating, Daniel. *First and Second Peter, Jude*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
2. Bede the Venerable. *Commentary on the Seven Catholic Epistles*. Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1985.
3. Bray, Gerald. *James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. New Testament XI. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2000.