

The Faith and Mission of Peter, the Apostle

Cathedral of Saint Matthew – Houston, Texas

Remembering the Gospel of last Sunday, the XXI Sunday in ordinary time, we are going to reflect on the Faith of Peter, the Apostle.

Jesus asked, “What do people say about me?” They answered, “Some say that you are John the Baptist or Elijah or a prophet from long ago who has come back to life.” Jesus then asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah from God!” (Luke 9:18)

Peter’s answer was one full of faith, faith that he had not alone achieved, but rather by the revelation of the Father. It is a Gift of God, our Father.

But let us further reflect on Peter’s faith. Was it always like this? The Gospels show us a doubtful Peter, when faced with enraged waters of the Sea of Galilee and Jesus, who complains to Peter about his little faith. And when before entering into the Passion of Christ in the orchard of the olive trees, Peter falls asleep next to John and James and Jesus asked them to pray so that they do not fall into temptation. And even worse, in the midst of the Passion, Peter denies Jesus three times and Jesus looks at him and Peter cries, bitterly.

But this is our Apostle Peter, a determined disciple of Jesus, from the time when he was called; he dropped his nets and went with him.

The Mission of Peter in the Church

There is no doubt that Jesus differentiates Peter for a leadership role. Jesus changes his name ever since he calls him, the name that means stone, foundation of the Church, on which the church would be built on, the Church of Jesus!

But the other Apostles are also called the foundation of the Church, and to all of them, He gives them the power to do and undo, before ascending to Heaven.

However, traditionally it is Peter who He gives the leadership to, the keys to the Kingdom of God. It is Peter, the first among Equals, the head of the Church, of the community of the faithful. And in this same manner, the church as regarded the successors of Peter, the Bishop of Rome, the Pope, even to our times.

And even when Jesus tells Peter, before his ascendance to Heaven: “Peter, you love me more than the others,” He was referring to the other apostles. And Peter answers him, “Yes, Lord, You know everything; You know that I love you.” Jesus tells him three times, “Feed my flock, feed my ewes, feed my lambs, this is to say, Feed My Church!”

And to this matter we must remember what Saint Paul tells us in his letter to the Ephesians which we read in our second reading: “You are the house, whose base or foundation are the Apostles and whose CORNERSTONE is JESUS CHRIST!

Let us remember all the Apostles, Peter and Paul, Mathew, our patron saint, Bartholomew, whose feast was remembered yesterday, James and John, Andrew, brother of Peter, Judas Thaddaeus, Philip, Thomas, James, son of Alphaeus, Simon the Eager One, and Matthias, who was picked later by the Apostles to replace Judas Iscariot.

The Apostles and their successors, the Bishops of the world, are the pillars of the Church, one holy, catholic and APOSTOLIC church!

Thank you, Father, because you have wanted to reveal these things to small and simple people!
Amen. ALELUYA!!! Come Lord Jesus Christ!!