



Daily Reflections

August 27, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 16: 13-20

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples,

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter said in reply,

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said to him in reply,

"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah.

For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.

And so I say to you, you are Peter,

and upon this rock I will build my church,

and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven;

and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Then he strictly ordered his disciples

to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Our Scripture Reflection

Because of Peter's astute response to Jesus' question, he is entrusted with the "keys" to the Kingdom of Heaven. What an awesome responsibility the Lord placed on Peter's shoulders. And even though the "Rock" that Jesus had chosen would crumble a bit under the pressure of His passion, he would prove in time to be a strong and courageous witness to Him. Sacred tradition tells us that Peter died on a cross for Jesus in Rome because of his love for and witness to The Lord.

Food for your Journey

Famed radio and television newscaster Edward R. Murrow was rarely at a loss for words. After visiting a liberated German concentration camp in the aftermath of World War II, however, he could only say this to his listeners: "I pray you believe what I have said about [this camp]. I have reported what I saw and heard, but only part of it. For most of it I have no words"

In bringing testimony about the horrors of the camps to Americans who could scarcely believe such things were possible, Murrow could only appeal to his towering journalistic reputation. "Trust me," he was saying, "when I tell you how bad it is."

When Jesus asks his disciples, on the other hand, to share good news — as they declare what they really believe about him — they are equally at a loss for words. Finally, Peter blurts out his famous confession.

There are no words that can convince others of this good news. Only testimony, by which Peter says something like, "Trust me, when I tell you how good a Savior we have."

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, You are my Lord and Savior! Help me to be a faithful and courageous witness to Your Presence in my life. Keep me strong, Lord. Amen.