



Daily Reflections

August 9, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 16: 13-23

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.
From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.

Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him,
"God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you."
He turned and said to Peter,
"Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me.
You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Our Scripture Reflection

Little did Peter realize at the time what being the "Rock" would require of him. I am sure he felt honored to be named the leader of the Apostles. In time, the Rock would crumble due to the scandal of the passion and cross. However, after the Resurrection and after receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, he would become a Rock-solid leader of the universal Church, ultimately laying down his life for her Lord and Savior.

Food for your Journey

And I want to say something to the schoolchildren of America who were watching the live coverage of the shuttle's takeoff. I know it is hard to understand, but sometimes painful things like this happen. It's all part of the process of exploration and discovery. It's all part of taking a chance and expanding man's horizons. The future doesn't belong to the fainthearted; it belongs to the brave. The Challenger crew was pulling us into the future, and we'll continue to follow them.

--President Ronald Reagan, in a televised speech to the nation on January 28, 1986, the day the crew of the space shuttle Challenger were lost in a launch accident.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Watch over and protect Your holy Church founded on the Rock-solid foundation of Peter and the Apostles. May Your Church always be faithful to the mission to which you entrusted her and give witness to Your Sacred Presence in our world. Amen