



# Daily Reflections

**February 22, 2019**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 16: 13-19**

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi 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.”

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## Our Scripture Reflection

Peter never saw it coming. Seemingly out of the blue Jesus calls Peter to be the rock solid foundation of the His Church. Was he the best person for the job? If you base your answer only on what we find in Matthew’s Gospel, then

the answer would be no. He did, after all, misunderstand Jesus, he doubted Jesus at times, he denied Jesus and was nowhere to be found while the Lord hung on the cross. However, Jesus could see what no man could see and what He saw in Peter was good. Christian tradition tells us that Peter would go on to Rome where he established the universal Church. There, on a hill he would lay down his life for the Lord. What a turn around story. What great news for us all!

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## **Food for your Journey**

In late December 2004, a catastrophic earthquake and tsunami struck the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Indian Ocean. The islands are part of India.

Many of those who survived lost their homes and all their possessions: the tsunami scoured the low-lying smaller islands of the chain, sweeping literally everything out to sea.

In the days and weeks following the disaster, the survivors were clustered in refugee camps operated by international relief organizations. They were well-supplied with the basic essentials for living, but most of them had lost one thing that's vital for meeting the demands of modern society: identification papers.

Op-ed contributor Amitav Ghosh visited one of the camps and wrote in *The New York Times* about how these people, who hailed from all over India, were coping with their unexpected loss of identity. A key figure was Father Johnson, a young Roman Catholic priest who ran this particular camp:

"In the absence of any other figure of authority they had laid siege to Father Johnson: when would they be allowed to move on? Where would they be going? And, most important, how could they rebuild their lives?"

"Their anxieties were founded not just in their experience of the tsunami but also in their separation from their safety net of identity and support. ... Not only did it destroy the survivors' homes and families; it also robbed them of all the evidentiary traces of their place in the world. ..."

"Realizing eventually that Father Johnson knew no more than they did, the refugees reduced their demands to a single, modest query: could they have some paper and a few pens? No sooner had this request been met than

another uproar broke out: those who'd been given pens and paper now became the center of the siege. People began to push and jostle, clamoring to have their names written down. It seemed to occur to them simultaneously that identity was now no more than a matter of assertion, and nothing seemed to matter more than to create a trail of paper. Somehow they had come to believe that on this, the random scribbling of a name on a sheet of paper in a refugee camp, depended the eventual reclamation of a life."

--Amitav Ghosh, "Identities lost at sea," The New York Times, January 4, 2005. [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com). Retrieved February 8, 2017.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, With You all things are truly possible. Never let disappointments, setbacks and failures prevent me from doing the work You have assigned to me. Keep me faithful and true. May I know that You are always with me to see me through the most difficult of situations and times. Amen