

Gospel Reflection

Today's solemnity might have been "Saints Simon and Saul" if it hadn't been for some renaming. There are numerous examples from the Bible of people being given new names to indicate their new status in God's plan of salvation. We see the fruit of this practice in today's renaming of Simon as Peter when he makes his great profession of faith in Jesus as Messiah (Christ) and Son of God. Saul, though Acts recounts a significant conversion experience for him, is renamed rather silently by the New Testament. His new name – most likely intended by the New Testament to differentiate his Christian mission from his life as a Jew – occurs most frequently in Acts, and exclusively in his own letters, as "Paul." The naming of Peter is reminiscent of our own naming at baptism. Even though most of us never go through a changing of our proper name later in life (though this was characteristic of religious profession for many years), a bit of reflection will help us to discern the ways in which God has called us anew or named us again for our own role in proclaiming the Good News.

It's not surprising that, as we read through the New Testament, Peter tended to be a stronger advocate of adhering to the ways of religious praxis inherited from the Jewish tradition. Paul, meanwhile, led the church to a life of more freedom within religious law, focused more on faith and the Spirit. Wisely, the celebrations of these two saints, bedrock of the earthly church, are combined, for the Church has always lived and witnessed best when we have respected and honored our heritage, customs, and traditions of faith, yet remained open to change and ongoing revelation from on high. The Body of Christ, in this way, is the same as any other body: it remains the same body in many ways, but also must seek ongoing nourishment and inevitably be altered through growth. The Holy Spirit has provided admirable examples for us in the persons of Peter and Paul. As they sought to spread the gospel in every place at every hour, let us likewise joyfully join that same mission.

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KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

John 21:15-19

S D B S N P R S S L A R Q
 T I A Q O E E U B M O Y V
 F Q M E S E V E O M O R T
 E K W O L H E Z V U A E D
 E W B X N S A V N D N L W
 D E A T H P L G O D J I X
 R C Y S R B E G J S U M P
 H S W H A R D T S I W L Y
 Y F I R O L G E E P C U Y
 E V O L Q H R T S R Q T D
 I O S D V D T J C V R C L
 K I F C M I U W C V M I F
 G F R S J M E K W J O R Z

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

DEATH	DRESS	FEED
GLORIFY	GOD	LAMBS
LEAD	LORD	LOVE
REVEALED	SHEEP	SIMON-PETER
SON	TEND	YOUNGER

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul
6/29/2008*

*John 21:15-19
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.

Claremont, CA

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Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *John 21:15-19*

The Gospel according to John

Jesus revealed himself to his disciples and, when they had finished breakfast, said to Simon-Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me **more than these?**" He answered him "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "**Feed my lambs.**"

He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep."

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you

grow old, you will **stretch out your hands**, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he said this, he said to him, "Follow me."

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Glossary

"more than these": Jesus seems to be asking if Peter's love for Him surpasses that of the other apostles. This interpretation would certainly be in keeping with the special role Christ gives to Peter in the rest of the passage.

"Feed my lambs": This passage is traditionally taken to reinforce Peter's position as head of the Church.

"stretch out your hands": a foreshadowing of Peter's eventual crucifixion.



***Saints Peter and Paul with their respective
symbols: the Keys and the Book and Sword***

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- What do I admire most about Saint Paul and Saint Peter?
- How do I answer Jesus' question "Do you love me?" How is that answer shown forth in my life?
- How is Christ building up his church through me?

Closing Prayer

Praise to you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! You, in your great mercy, have given us new birth and hope through the power of Christ's resurrection. Through the prayers of the apostles Peter and Paul, may we who receive this faith through their preaching share their joy in following the Lord to the unfading inheritance reserved for us in heaven. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul