

Sometimes we can get frustrated with the human element of the Church. As Rome was burning St. Augustine said: Live for Jesus Christ each day (daily), and then shall we be ready. Like St. Peter: Let's say: I am all in!

21 Sunday Readings:

-Isaiah: "I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open."

-We know from history: King Solomon and his successors had 12 ministers who helped the king govern (1 Kings 4:1f). The (master of the palace) had a unique position over the 12, as described in today's reading from the prophet Isaiah. This "Prime Minister" was entrusted by the king to wield the king's authority.

-Sounds like Matthew Gospel today / Peter is given the Keys to govern the Church: (To Bind and Loose / To Open)."

-In Romans: We can come to know God through the Holy Spirit.

-"From Him, Through Him, and For Him are all things" (we read of Jesus Christ).

-Jesus unlocks for us the mystery of God (Church / Catechism / Creed / Dogma).

-When we come to know the Catholic Catechism (Dogma, Teaching), we will come to know more about God, and how to live more abundantly.

The Church, through St. Peter declared an early "Dogma" / Jesus is Lord, The Anointed Son of God through the Holy Spirit / In declaring this through the Holy Spirit / Peter is given Authority and the gift to teach without error concerning "Faith and Morals."

Also there is a "Primacy of Peter" found in Sacred Scripture / Peter is always listed first and he speaks first for the 12 Apostles).

God says to St. Peter, and the 12 (His Church): "I will be with you always / To the end of time." (St. Ambrose: "Where Peter is, there you will find the Church").

When I'm having a bad day: St. Peter is my great hope.

-Perhaps Peter was chosen to see the Transfiguration of Jesus in His Glory because Peter was always in! / (In John's Gospel Jesus tells Peter He must wash his feet. Peter says: "no Lord." Jesus says: "this is required for the Kingdom." Peter then says: "then wash my hands, head, feet. Lol. Lord, wash all of me, not just my feet") / PETER IS ALL IN.

-But he is human and makes mistakes (Was not present at the cross).

-He declares Jesus as Messiah, then turns around and denies Jesus His cross.

-He denies Jesus 3 times yet turns around and is crucified upside down for Him.

Peter is real and shows us we don't have to be perfect / Just be all in / Give Jesus daily our hearts (He is so all in: "wash all of me Lord").

Father Burke Masters who was tracking to play Major League Baseball, but received the "Call to Priesthood" / Was a perfectionist because he didn't think God approved of him as he was / He didn't like that he wasn't perfect / He sinned / He made mistakes / he felt like a mess inside.

But at Seminary and a Retreat he saw the Mercy of God / He realized he was a child of God / and at his Baptism: Jesus said to him then, and now each day: "This is my beloved Son; in whom I am well pleased."

Remember: Jesus isn't waiting for us to become perfect before approaching Him. He is simply waiting for us to turn to Him, Repent of our sins, ask for help, and trust in Him.

Our Lord isn't looking for people who are perfect / He is looking for people who are faithful.

Only then can mighty healing take place.

**Vivat Jesus,
Fr. Vic Gournas**