



29 June 2025

Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul

Year A, B, C

POPE'S DAY

Challenged to Witness

We celebrate today the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul. We rejoice and praise God for the light and strength that they received so that they were able to announce the Good News and become witnesses of Christ by shedding their blood. Peter was crucified, while Paul was beheaded. They had their differences, but both had a deep love for Christ.

As members of the Church, we, too, are challenged to live and witness to the faith and attend to such task perseveringly and with fidelity. In this Eucharistic celebration, let us pray for this grace as we thank the Lord for the inspiring and courageous examples of Sts. Peter and Paul.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God.

Greeting

P – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

All–Amen!

P – Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

All– And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P – Brethren, let us acknowledge our sins and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred

mysteries *(Pause)*

P – Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father. Lord, have mercy!

All– Lord, have mercy!

P – Lord Jesus, you have entrusted your Church to the leadership of Peter. Christ, have mercy!

All– Christ, have mercy!

P – Lord Jesus, you called Paul to preach to the Gentiles. Lord, have mercy!

All– Lord, have mercy!

P – May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All–Amen!

Gloria

All – Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God,

heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect *(Opening Prayer)*

P – O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul give us the noble and holy joy of this day, grant, we pray, that your Church may in all things follow the teaching of those through whom she received the beginnings of right religion.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of

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the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading *Acts 12:1-11*
Peter was led to prison, but God's help has rescued him and brought him to his missionary task with joy and zeal.

R —A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days, King Herod laid hands upon some members of the Church to harm them. He had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he saw that this was pleasing to the Jews he proceeded to arrest Peter also.

It was the feast of Unleavened Bread. Herod had Peter taken into custody and put in prison under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. He intended to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter thus was being kept in prison, but prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God on his behalf.

On the very night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter, secured by double chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while outside the door guards kept watch on the prison. Suddenly the angel of the Lord stood by him and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and awakened him, saying, "Get up quickly." The chains fell from his wrists. The angel said to him, "Put on your belt and your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Put on your cloak and follow me." So he followed him out, not realizing that what was happening through the angel was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first guard, then the second, and came to the iron gate leading out to the city, which opened for them by itself. They emerged and made their way down an alley, and suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter recovered his

senses and said: "Now I know for certain that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people had been expecting."

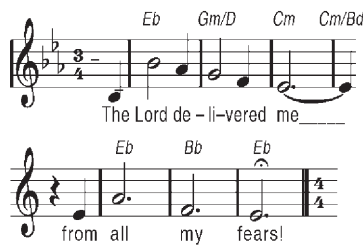
The Word of the Lord!

All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 34*

R —*The Lord delivered me from all my fears!*

R. M. Velez



* I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear me and be glad. **R.**

* Glorify the Lord with me, let us together extol his name. I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. **R.**

* Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame. When the afflicted man called out, the Lord heard, and from all his distress he saved him. **R.**

* The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. Taste and see how good the Lord is; blessed the man who takes refuge in him. **R.**

2nd Reading

2 Tim 4:6-8.17-18

Having reached the end of his life, Paul finds consolation and strength in Christ, who will grant him the well-deserved reward.

R —A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

I, Paul, am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.

From now on the crown of

righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord!

All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 16:13-19

In response to Simon's profession of faith in Jesus' messiahship and divine sonship, Jesus changed his name to Peter-Rock to signify his role in the Church.

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All—Glory to you, O Lord!

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."

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *(bow)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.** For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P —With praise and gratitude to the Lord for choosing Peter and Paul for the enormous task of

leading and guiding the Church, let us address Him saying:

All—Lord, make us your witnesses!

C —For the Church: That in the face of many challenges and problems, it may continue to trust that it is Christ who steers and shepherds it with the help of the Apostles, let us pray! **R.**

C —For the Holy Father, the bishops, priests, religious, and lay leaders: That in their work of evangelization, they may be guided, like the apostles Peter and Paul, by Christ's love at all times, let us pray! **R.**

C —For our leaders in the national and local offices: That in the apostles Peter and Paul, they may realize that authentic leadership is found in humble service, solid trust in the Lord, and a readiness to undergo trials and sufferings, let us pray! **R.**

C —For all Christians experiencing difficulties in the faith: That they may find in the examples of Peter and Paul strength and encouragement, let us pray! **R.**

C —For those working in difficult mission apostolates: That the courage and faith of Sts. Peter and Paul may inspire them, let us pray! **R.**

C — That each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world, let us pray! **R.**

P —Father, we thank You for giving Your Church such leaders as Peter and Paul. Aware of our difficulties and weaknesses, may their prayers guide us to fidelity and love of Your Church, through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Preparation of the Gifts

P —Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P —May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord, accompany the sacrificial gift that we present to your name for consecration, and may their intercession make us devoted to you in celebration of the sacrifice.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface of Sts. Peter & Paul

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P —Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—It is right and just!

P —It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For by your providence the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul bring us joy: Peter, foremost in confessing the faith, Paul, its outstanding preacher, Peter, who established the early Church from the remnant of Israel, Paul, master and teacher of the Gentiles that you call.

And so, each in a different way gathered together the one family of Christ; and revered together throughout the world, they share one Martyr's crown.

And therefore, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P —The mystery of faith!

All—Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION RITE



All—Our Father . . .

P —Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

P —Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.

(Cf. Mt 16:16.18)

Prayer after Communion

P —Grant us, O Lord, who have been renewed by this Sacrament, so to live in the Church, that, persevering in the breaking of the Bread and in the teaching of the Apostles, we may be one heart and one soul, made steadfast in your love.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P —The Lord be with you!
All—And with your spirit!

P —Bow down for the blessing.
(Pause)
—The Lord has set you from

within his Church, which he built upon the rock of Peter's faith. May he bless you with a faith that never falters.

All—Amen!

P —The Lord has given you knowledge of the faith through the labors and preaching of St. Paul. May his example inspire you to lead others to Christ by the way you live.

All—Amen!

P —May the keys of Peter and the words of Paul, their

undying witness and their prayers, lead you to the joy of that eternal home which Peter gained by his cross and Paul by the sword.

All—Amen!

P —May the blessing of almighty God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, descend upon you and remain with you for ever.

All—Amen!

P —Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

All—Thanks be to God!

A STORY OF GUTS AND GLORY!

Kalakbay at Katoto

Two great saints, pastors and leaders stand out today: Peter and Paul. Both were chiefs. Both were servants of the gospel. Both were followers of the Lord. And both suffered immensely for “the one in whom they believed.” Paul was beaten, stoned, suffered shipwrecks three times. In his many journeys, he had been robbed, shouted at by his own people, and by his own admission, knew what it meant to be hungry, thirsty, cold and naked. The worst was the fact that he died a ghastly death – by decapitation.

Peter was not to be outdone in his great love for the Lord. He was tortured and later crucified upside down. Both leaders truly followed in the footsteps of their Master – literally and figuratively. Both died gory deaths. And both attained glory, like their Master and Lord, by traversing the path of pain, suffering, death and glorification.

Recounting this story objectively and more than two thousand years after, it all sounds so easy for us all. It all seems like the two had no choice, and that they were

destined to follow their Master in their own version of Calvary. Time and distance make it sound so easy, like reading a novel and getting at the most simply edified by a story of greatness and heroism.

But let us go back a bit to see what these two great men were like earlier in time. Peter was an enthusiastic follower. He was the first to proclaim Jesus as God and truly loved the Lord. But after the arrest of the Lord and while he suffered and sweated blood in Gethsemane, and later taken hold of by the authorities, Peter did what you and I are all too capable of doing. He denied the Lord. Three times. Whilst Peter did not issue a false narrative or the equivalent of a fake press release, he nevertheless quite simply and smoothly declared three times that he never knew the man.

But then came the moment of utter and deep remorse, smitten as he was – and pierced by the realization of what he had done. He wept bitterly. He regretted what he did and was filled with deep and sincere repentance.



**WORD AND LIFE
PUBLICATIONS**

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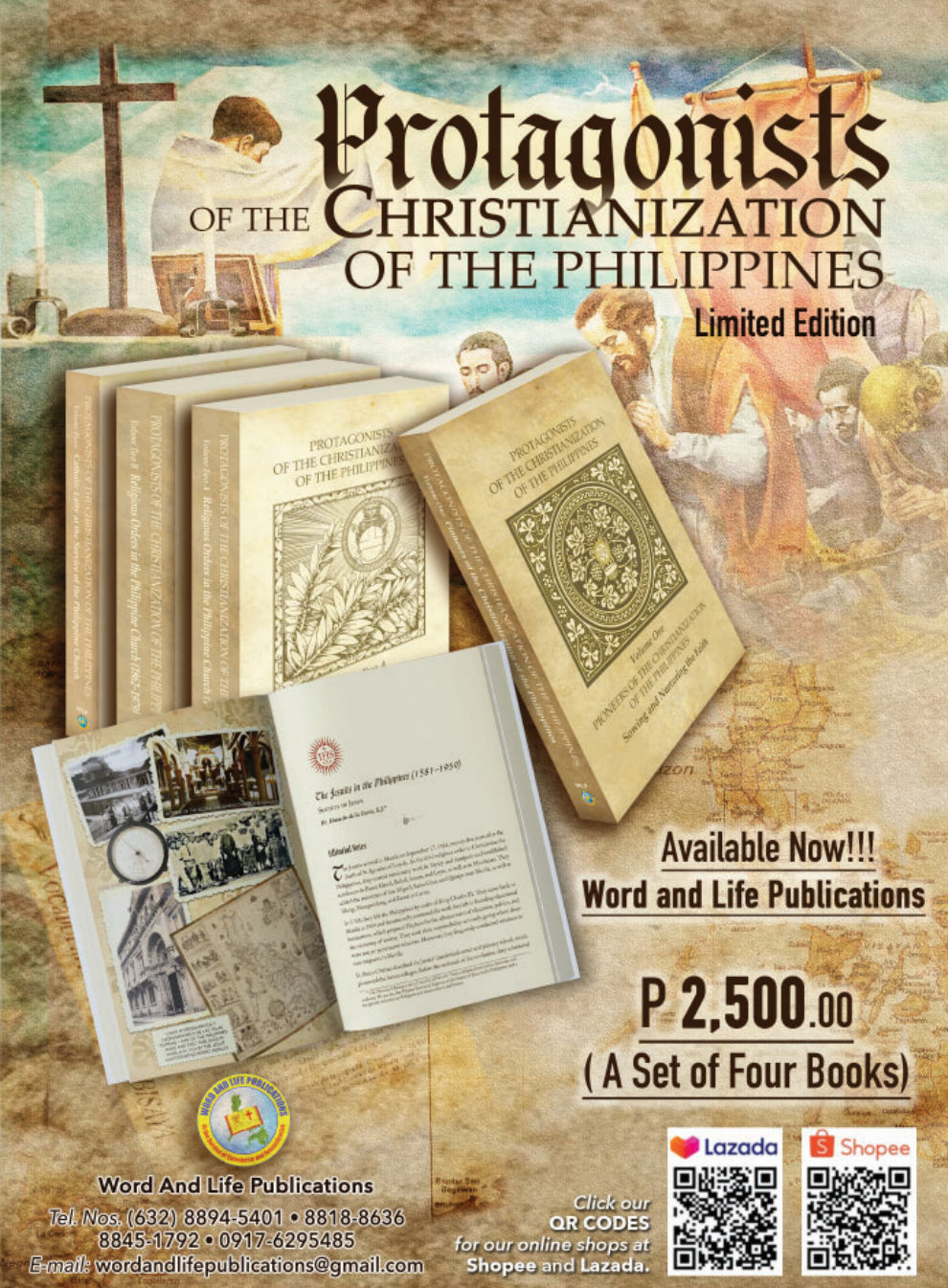
• Illustrations: A. Sarmiento, B. Cleofe • Circulation: R. Saldua

And not a day passed without him crying bitter tears of remorse. It was a case of daily repentance all through his life.

Paul, for his part, was a zealous Jew and a committed citizen of the Roman Empire. He did his part well. He was good at ferreting out potential trouble-makers and rebels. He found joy at seeing Stephen being tortured. He took his job seriously and meant business, that is, until he met Christ and got to know saving truth.

And after his conversion, we all know what he did ... a whole lot of things for Christ and His incipient

Church. He started many small churches and communities of believers. All this, he did while proclaiming himself to be the worst sinner of them all! Peter and Paul deserve all the honor and glory then now have. But we deserve to be reminded that what Peter and Paul were back in time, we all are at this present moment. We are half-hearted believers and wishy-washy disciples. We know what and whom we believe, more or less. But we sin and are are unfaithful in just as many ways, if not worse ways. We beg the intercession of both great saints. They are pastors, not just leaders. And they shepherded us by example, no less. Blessed be God, in His angels and in His saints!



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