

Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle – Friday, February 22.



This Feast celebrates the primacy over the Apostles and the Church given by Jesus to Saint Peter. The Popes, successors of Peter, down through the centuries hold the same primacy over the bishops and the faithful of the Church.

“One of the two who had followed him (Jesus) after hearing John (the Baptist) was Simon Peter’s brother’ Andrew. The first thing he did was seek out his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah!’ (This term means the Anointed). He brought him to Jesus, who looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon, son of John; your

name shall be Cephas (which is rendered Peter)” (*Jn 1:40-42*)

“When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples this question: ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptizer, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ “And you,’ he said to them, ‘who do you say that I am?’ ‘You are the Messiah,’ Simon Peter answered, ‘the Son of the loving God!’ Jesus replied, ‘Blest are you, Simon son of Jonah! No mere man has revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. I for my part declare to you, you are Rock, and on this rock I will build my church, and the jaws of death shall not prevail against it. I will entrust to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you declare bound on earth shall be bound in heaven; whatever you declare loosed on earth shall be loosed in heaven.’” (*Mt. 16:13-19*)

“Simon, Simon! Remember that Satan has asked for you (plural), to sift you all like wheat. But I have prayed for you (singular) that your faith may never fail. You in turn must strengthen your brothers.”