

## REFLECTION FOR FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> WEEK OF EASTER

**Acts 25:13-21 John 21:15-19**

This is a post-Resurrection apparition scene. After miraculously providing breakfast for his apostles who had been fishing all night, Jesus conferred on Peter the Primacy in the Church, which he had promised as a reward for Peter's profession of Faith (Mt 16:16-19).

The triple question: As if to give him a triple chance to atone for his triple denial, Jesus asks Peter, three times, *"Simon, son of John, do you love me (**agápe love**) more than these?"* Jesus asks Peter if he loves Jesus more than he loves his boat and fishing equipment, occupation, family, and friends. Jesus is also asking whether Peter loves him more than the other Apostles do. Instead of boasting of his own fidelity, strength, and greater love, as he had done before his triple denial of the Master, Peter humbly puts everything in Christ's hands. *"Lord, You know well that I love (**philia love**=love of a friend) You."*

The dual reward: Primacy of jurisdiction over the Church was formally defined by the First Vatican Council (Vatican I) in the First Dogmatic Constitution On the Church of Christ, (*Pastor Aeternus, Chapter 1*) declaring, "We therefore teach and declare that, according to the testimony of the Gospel, the primacy of jurisdiction over the universal Church of God was immediately and directly promised and given to Blessed Peter the Apostle by Christ our Lord. [...] And it was upon Simon Peter alone, that Jesus, after his Resurrection, bestowed the jurisdiction of chief pastor and ruler over all his fold in the words: '*Feed My lambs; feed My sheep (Jn 21:15-17).*'"

Peter was also given the promise of a martyr's death because real love involves responsibility as well as sacrifice. According to Tradition, St. Peter followed his Master to the point of dying by crucifixion — head downwards, because he felt unworthy to die as Jesus had done. This happened during Nero's persecution of the Christians, which took place between the years 64 and 68 in Rome.

We need to pray for the Pope, the successor of Peter, and for the bishops, the successors of the Apostles, and to support them in their ministry.

Jesus is a God of second chances Who gives chance after chance to sinners to return to his love, as is made clear by Jesus' conferring primacy in his Church on Peter.

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