



Bringing Home the Word

Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

June 29, 2025

Our Story

Mary Katherine Deeley

What was it like in those years after the crucifixion? What was it like to talk about an experience and a relationship unlike anything ever encountered? What was it like to go to jail for preaching what you described as good news even though it seemed foolish to many of those who were listening? Saint Paul saw it in terms of a race whose finish line was heaven and for which he was willing to spend his last ounce of energy. Saint Peter saw that once he acknowledged who Jesus was, he had no choice but to proclaim the truth of his heart. He knew Jesus was the Messiah because he saw it in

the look of those who were healed, fed, and restored at Christ's hand. He experienced it in the love Christ gave him, even after he denied Jesus at his trial. He saw it in the faces of those whom he healed in Christ's name and who eagerly came to baptism and the outpouring of the Spirit.

What is it like now? How do we know that Jesus is the Messiah in our hearts? And how has that made a difference in our lives? Is this relationship so unlike any other that we are willing to be poured out, to spend our energy, to proclaim the Good News even though it may seem foolish? It's an uncomfortable question for many Catholics today. For many of us, religion and faith are private matters, and sometimes that helps us avoid arguments or endless debate. But the compelling story of our redemption begs to be told, if not in words, then in lives transformed. This is our story and our race to be run full out to the very last. †



***The compelling story
of our redemption
begs to be told.***

A Word from Pope Francis (1936–2025)

Jesus says to Simon, whom he named Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 16:19)... The mission that Jesus entrusts to Peter is not to bar the doors to the house, permitting entry only to a few select guests, but rather to help everyone find the way to enter, in faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus. Everyone, everyone, everyone can enter.

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 29, 2024



Sunday Readings

Acts 12:1–11

[Peter said,] "Now I know for certain that [the] Lord sent his angel and rescued me."

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18

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.

Matthew 16:13–19

[Jesus said,] "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I attempt to understand the different opinions of others?
- Do I let disagreements get personal?



Saint Paul: Servant of Jesus Christ

Fr. William J. Parker, CSsR

Saint Paul referred to himself as “the servant of Jesus Christ.” His life and teachings reveal his passion to spread the faith across the globe. In Paul’s letters, we find the personal cost of his love for

Jesus and the vibrant energy with which he engaged men and women as coworkers in this missionary endeavor.

may have brought the letter to the community on behalf of Paul. (See Romans 16:1–2.) Paul referred to her as “minister” (*diakonoï*) which is the same word he used for himself to mean “one who provides relief to others.” (See 1 Corinthians 3:5; 2 Corinthians 3:1–11.)

The Book of the Acts of the Apostles ends with Paul under house arrest in Rome. While imprisoned, Paul wrote one of his most joyous letters to the Philippians: “I want you to know, brothers, that my situation has turned out rather to advance the gospel, so that my imprisonment has become well known in Christ throughout the whole praetorium and to all the rest,

***Saint Paul’s life
and teachings
reveal his passion
to spread the faith.***

and so that the majority of the brothers, having taken encouragement in the Lord from my imprisonment, dare more than ever to proclaim the word fearlessly” (Philippians 1:12–14). Only an extraordinary love and a sense of being loved can yield such joy! †

From *Saint Paul: His Life and Teachings* by Fr. William J. Parker, CSsR, Liguori Publications (817762). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

It may come as a surprise to some that many of his closest coworkers were women. Priscilla (also referred to as Prisca) and her husband, Aquila, shared a special relationship with St. Paul. (See 1 Corinthians 16:19; Romans 16:3.) He acknowledged the depth of his gratitude to them: “Greet Prisca and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life” (Romans 16:3–4). The term describing them as fellow workers is the same he used to describe Timothy and Titus, who coauthored several of Paul’s letters. In another case, Paul commended Phoebe to the Church in Rome; she

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Acts of the Apostles” by Ronald D. Witherup, SS

The [Book of] the Acts of the Apostles reveals a Church that is a multicultural, universal community. A great hallmark of the Catholic Church has always been its openness to this diversity. Catholic (from the Greek *katholikos*) means “universal.” In St. Peter’s speech at the conversion of Cornelius and his household, who were Gentiles from Caesarea, he begins: “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation, whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him (Acts 10:34–35). Languages and accents may differ, customs and styles of dress may vary, but the call of Jesus Christ is universal.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521



Gracious God, give me the desire to understand those with whom I disagree and the humility to admit that my certainty may be misguided. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 30—July 5

Monday, Weekday:

Gn 18:16–33 / Mt 8:18–22

Tuesday, Weekday:

Gn 19:15–29 / Mt 8:23–27

Wednesday, Weekday:

Gn 21:5, 8–20a / Mt 8:28–34

Thursday, St. Thomas:

Eph 2:19–22 / Jn 20:24–29

Friday, Weekday:

Gn 23:1–4, 19; 24:1–8, 62–67 / Mt 9:9–13

Saturday, Weekday:

Gn 27:1–5, 15–29 / Mt 9:14–17

Bringing Home
the Word 

June 29, 2025

© 2025 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. Scripture quotations in this publication are from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition*, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2025 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.