

# SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017

(LEC. 121)

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1. ISAIAH 22:19-23
2. ROMANS 11:33-36
3. MATTHEW 16:13-20

GOSPEL RELATED: CCC 153, 424,  
440, 442, 552, 553, 586, 881,  
869, 1444, 1969

**FOCUS: PETER, THE ROCK, IS A  
MODEL FOR US IN OUR EFFORTS  
TO EVANGELIZE THE PEOPLE OF  
THE WORLD.**

Jesus asked his disciples who the people thought he was, and their replies were interesting. But it was Peter who stated it correctly – he inherently knew that Jesus was the Christ.

Peter's statement of faith became the foundation of the Church, and nothing would prevail against it. However, Peter would soon weaken in his faith. This would happen after Jesus was arrested and subsequently crucified. But after the Resurrection, Peter and the other disciples would be stronger than ever.

God knew these things would happen. From our second reading this day, we see that the ways of God are unsearchable. No one has known the mind of God. No one will ever know the mind of the Lord God. But what we do know is this: the Lord's love is eternal. His love is manifested in sending his son Jesus to us. It is a love that's inestimable. God sent Jesus to us so that we could have the reward of everlasting life.

Peter exhibited courage after the Lord Jesus had risen from the dead. He had attempted to bring the love of the Lord to all. He had become a fisher of men. Yet, our job of evangelization still continues today. We must be as strong and fervent as Peter was. The same Holy Spirit that came to the disciples many years ago comes to us. We need only trust in the Lord and be open to his gift of the Holy Spirit. The rock of Christ is with us today. We can really be on fire for our God and be solid rocks of the Lord even in our day.

How can we bring the message of the Lord to all whom we meet? By reading the sacred Scriptures, and by becoming involved in our parishes. By our faith, we know that Jesus is the Christ. With our faith, we know that we walk with Jesus always. From our faith, the love of our God shines forth and helps us to live our lives according to the way that God wants. Jesus is exalted and it is he who shows us how to be a very important part of his life.

It is the Lord who is all-powerful. But God wants us to be powerful as well. The Lord God wants us to be faithful witnesses here on this earth. With Peter as an example, we can bring Christ's message of hope to those who need it most. Our psalm response today tells us that the Lord's kindness endures forever. May God's enduring love inspire us to evangelize at all times.



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