

In today's Gospel, Matthew 16:13-19, Jesus Christ asked His disciples who they thought He was. Saint Peter responded to Him, that He was the Christ, the Son of God. In response, Jesus Christ told Peter that He would give him the "keys of the kingdom of heaven."

Dearest ones, who do we say Christ Jesus is? This is a simple question, maybe even boorish to ask. But after two millennia the world has changed drastically. How do we proclaim Him and live His word in our life? Our answer also reveals who we are and where we are in our journey of salvation. Are we onlookers? Are we Pharisees? Are we Sadducees? Are we Disciples?

Saint Peter recognized that Christ Jesus was the Son of God; however, having trials grew in his understanding by God's grace. Let us remember that Saint Peter was rebuked by Christ when he opposed to Him being served up as a sacrifice for our salvation. He also denied Christ three times after His arrest. Yet, after these moments—after repentance, his faith was a rock.

Saint Paul too declared this faith in his life, throughout his missions to all the faithful he shepherded that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God. In the end through all his trials and tribulations, he declared that he fought the good fight, completed the race, and kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7).

Today as we celebrate Saints Peter and Paul, proclaimers of the faith, let us reflect on their ministries in Christ Jesus. In answering the question, who is Jesus Christ, we must also answer who are we? These two questions are intertwined in how we live our lives. Through the intercessions of Saints Peter and Paul, may we find our answers by God's grace, amen.