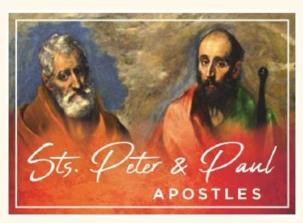


From the Desk of Father Peter

We Have Been Called and Sent Like Saints Peter and Paul

The Greek word for "church" is ekklesia, which has roots that mean "those who have been called." We, the Church, have been summoned to Christ, called to this place, invited into this special relationship with Saints Peter and Paul, whose



solemnity we celebrate this weekend. We remember their courageous response to Christ's call and the mighty ways God worked in and through these Apostles. This Feast Day marks the martyrdom of the two apostles in Rome.

These two Apostles, Peter, the rock, as leader of the apostles, and Paul the great missionary, were sent to evangelize the Gentiles. They both had a mission from Jesus to proclaim the Good News to the end of the world. He gave Peter (and his successors) the key to the kingdom – a sign of authority (papacy) to interpret and spread the Gospel and welcome people into the Christian family of faith we call Church; from the Apostles, to the bishops, to us. We are all called by virtue of our baptism and confirmation to become witnesses to the Church. In our baptism, through Jesus' prayer for us, we are consecrated in the truth and as God the Father sends Jesus, so Jesus sends us – to reveal to the world the love of God.

Paul had a revelation of truth through his encounter with Jesus, which in turn compelled him to testify to what had been revealed. He did so, traveling, teaching, preaching and establishing Churches throughout Asia Minor and Europe.

This weekend, the Church asks for your donation to Peter's Pence. Your offer will be a tangible support as the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, the first American Pope, takes steps in his Petrine ministry. Let us help him proclaim the Gospel to the world and extend a hand to our brothers and sisters in need. "Imitating God means entering into communion with others and building bridges of communion between different people. As difficult as it may be, we still need to build bridges." We as Americans need to do all that we can to support the first American Pope in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This weekend many priests and deacons take on their new assignments in parishes entrusted to them by the Bishop, Most Reverend Salvatore Matano, and we wish our retired priests Godspeed. To you, my beloved parishioners, as my pastorate continues, I am very grateful to you all, especially for the wonderful response to our Increased Giving Campaign to sustain our parish so that we can grow and march together into the future.

Finally, it shall be recalled that on June 25, 2024, as I marked the first day of my five year pastorate extension by Bishop Matano, I requested through prayer and grace that all of us become actively involved in doing something to uplift our parish in the proclamation of the Good News and the everyday celebration of the Eucharist. I will like to see more people involved in singing, as Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Ushers, or any other area you might be called. In all senses, I need you to be involved in something. Please let me know if you can, we would love to have you share in our ministry here.

