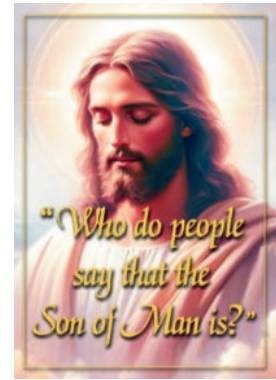


SOLEMN FEAST OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

6/29/2025

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

Between the two of them, Peter and Paul, we know more about the “acts” of Paul compared to Peter’s. About both of them we know that they were each challenged by Jesus to take a leadership role in the project of forming the Church, the assembly of all who believe in Jesus.



Peter was a fisherman, a commercial fisherman. He pretty well knew the lake that was his fish-garden. More than once Jesus gave him advice that led to whopping catches of fish. The first of these events overwhelmed Peter with a sense that he was out of place even just being with Jesus.

But the encouraging grace of Jesus’ call carried Peter beyond his knee-jerk response to Jesus’ holiness (“Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.”—Luke 5:8) to where Peter could, without hesitation, make his well-known profession of faith (“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”—Matthew 16:16) Brash, unfiltered, Peter said things he would come to regret (“Woman, I do not know him.”—Luke 22:57). And he was not out of Jesus’ reconciling reach.

Paul, who never met Jesus during his mortal life, was a deep believer in the Law of Moses, the necessity of following it strictly. And he viewed those who were equally sure of their faith in Jesus as a danger to the prevailing faith of the Jewish people. And so he went to extremes in persecuting men and women, believers in the Way of Je- sus.

The wonderful/dreadful event of Paul’s encounter with the risen Lord as Paul was on his way to round up some of these heretics is recounted three times in the Acts of the Apostles (chapters 9, 22 and 26). And the many letters of Paul to churches he founded or hoped to visit give us a gold mine of the earliest, the ground-breaking reflection on the life and teaching of Jesus for which Paul is well

-known.

We celebrate these two GIANTS of apostleship annually on June 29. When 6/29 falls on Sunday, we all get to celebrate together the grace of God at work in two very different men for the good of the Church and the promotion of the reign of God.

Saints Peter and Paul, pray for us.

God bless our Parish, and God bless you.

Msgr. Mike and Fr. Albert