

GOSPEL PEARLS

The one Church of Christ

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Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the

kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16: 13-19)

Peter is the example of the man who lets himself be inspired by God, that is, when he accepts to be guided by his faith in Him. After Pentecost, Peter’s trust in Jesus will allow him to be faithful to his Master until his own death on the cross. The promise that the gates of hell would not prevail against the Church goes beyond the person of St. Peter, through his successors (the popes) until the end of the world. May we remain faithful to the one Church of Christ and under the leadership of her legitimate pastors. Whether it pleases us or not, there is no other Church.