

Looking up to the Cross

The SAVIOUR let me know: „Those people who know the Cross do by no means look up to Me on the Cross enough in their difficulties. I was victorious on the Cross. The Evil One cannot touch the Cross. Teach people to look up to Me much more often in their sorrows and distress. There I have redeemed them from their sins. From there I give them strength to bear their suffering.“

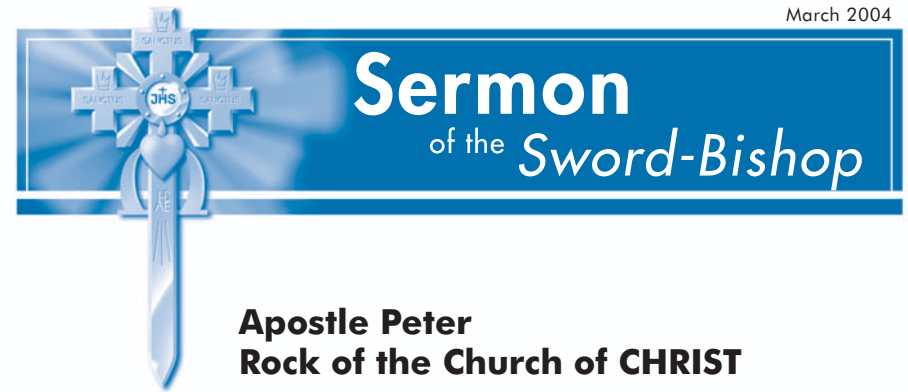
Feast of the holy Apostle Peter, 13 January 2002



Schwert-Bischof
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**Be blessed by GOD TRINITY,
the + FATHER and the + SON
and the + HOLY GHOST. Amen!**

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Sermon

of the *Sword-Bishop*

Apostle Peter Rock of the Church of CHRIST

We can hardly express how important the feast of the Apostle Peter is to us. It is often presumed that the Pope as successor in the ministry of Peter also at the same time embodies the rock of Peter. This is not the case. Peter is and remains the rock! That is what the SAVIOUR says: „You are Simon, the son of John; you will be called Cephas, which is interpreted: Peter (rock).“ John 1,42 In another passage He says: „And I say to you: That you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church. And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.“ Matt.16,18 Out of the pierced Heart of JESUS on the Cross issued forth the Church of CHRIST and was founded on Peter the rock. Each Pope must stand on this rock. That is to say: he must stand on the teaching of Peter, otherwise he is without papal authority.

As the Vatican at that time did not listen to the mission we received from GOD despite several written pleas we travelled to the grave of the holy Apostle Peter every year to ask for the blessing directly from the “rock”. Until the SAVIOUR said: „Nikolaus, take My Church with you“, as can be read in our writings. Maybe you can understand from that how important the feast of the holy Apostle Peter is to us.

The foundation of the rock – that is Love

Today’s Gospel, however, reveals to us more still. In the heart of anyone who wants to be Pope should also be burning this very

love of CHRIST as was burning in Peter's heart. That, too, is part of "Standing on Peter's rock". „Jesus said to Simon Peter: ‚Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?‘ He said to him: ‚Yes Lord, you know that I love you.‘ He said to him: ‚Feed my lambs!‘ He said to him again: ‚Simon, son of John, do you love me?‘ He said to him: ‚Yes Lord, you know that I love you.‘ He said to him: ‚Feed my sheep!‘ He said to him the third time: ‚Simon, son of John, do you love me?‘ Peter was grieved, because he had said to him the third time: ‚Do you love me?‘ And he said to him: ‚Lord, you know all things: you know that I love you.‘ He said to him: ‚Feed my sheep!‘” John 21,15ff

On this love which Peter professed in public the SAVIOUR founded the pastoral office of the one who was to be the first among equals. What kind of a father would a father be if he had not love? The SAVIOUR does not ask Peter what kind of certificates he has. He does not order him: „First of all you must obtain this or that degree of a doctor or professor before I can elect you Bishop”. No, He does not ask for knowledge, rather: „Do you love Me? – More than these?” Herein lies the suitability. Such love, however, can only come from GOD and must be acquired by striving for virtue. It can only be obtained step by step. Always to the extent of being willing to let your own self die in order to make room for this love.

This love that wants to love GOD above all will be the pillar of every priest. „Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” Matt. 10,37 Peter perfectly lived up to this, too. He was married, had a fishery with a ferry service, a company with several employees so to speak. For the sake of his vocation he was immediately prepared to give up everything although he loved his wife and fishery very much.

Why, then, did the SAVIOUR not call the Apostle John to be the first if He attached such great importance to love since John was known as the disciple of love? Well, John had a virginal, mystical love. Peter had a firm, strong manly love that was necessary to navigate the ship

of the Church. We know Peter how at first he would often put his foot in it in his ardent zeal for the SAVIOUR and how he was given many a telling-off. But he was always at once willing to accept the rebuke from his beloved Master and to start anew with a contrite heart. This was a heroic purification for him which made him a saint. After the Ascension of JESUS Peter was a completely different person. His zeal, his way of expressing himself had been purified. A fine person of strong character, with a deeply glowing love.

The cross of Peter

As Peter wanted to leave Rome during the bloody persecution of the Christians, not in order to flee cowardly but in order to save himself for the Christian flock, the SAVIOUR met him on the way before Rome. Then Peter asked Him in his glowing love: „LORD, where are You going?” „To Rome, to have Myself crucified once again!” JESUS replied. Peter understood, turned straight away and went back to Rome. Consequently he was captured there soon after and sentenced to death after eight months of imprisonment; he was scourged according to Roman custom and led to crucifixion on the Vatican hills on the very spot where today st Peter's Cathedral is. Because Peter saw himself utterly unworthy of meeting the same death as his beloved Master, he asked to be crucified with his head downward. That is the way Peter died according to tradition in the year 67 at the ripe old age of 99 as a martyr on a cross turned upside down.

Do not upset st Peter on his present feast – therefore, join truly with your hearts in the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Certainly, Peter is no longer the impulsive man he once used to be but the look in his eyes can still be very flashing.

We will go to the altar now in order to offer the Holy Sacrifice to GOD. May He help us with His grace that it may please Him and redound to His greater glory. Amen!
