

An Opportunity for Forgiveness & Love

Have you ever noticed how many times Simon Peter fails? Today's gospel passage from Saint Luke is just one example. Simon Peter and his fellow fishermen were washing their nets, having caught nothing all night. Jesus gets into Simon Peter's boat and tells him, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Reluctantly, Simon Peter follows the Lord's command and has the most incredible catch of his life. Peter falls to his knees and says, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." It's true - Peter is a sinful man.

Do you remember the scene where Jesus first predicts his own passion to Peter, informing him that he must suffer greatly, be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and rise after three days? Peter's response to Jesus was to rebuke him. But it was Jesus who rebuked Peter by saying, "Get behind me Satan!" Peter is a sinful man.

Or how about the time when Jesus walked on water and called Peter out to join him? Peter started to walk on the water, but then was distracted by the wind and began to sink. Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him and said, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" Peter is a sinful man.

And what about Peter's act of cowardice, fear and denial during Jesus' Passion? When Jesus needed Peter most, Peter denied that he even knew him. Peter is a sinful man.

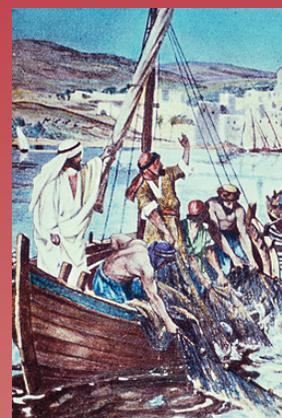
The beauty of Christianity is that we know what Jesus can do with sinful people who want to change - he turns sinners into saints. And in Peter's case, Jesus forgives him and makes him the first pope of the Church. That's right, the same sinful man who didn't trust Jesus, who tried to rebuke Jesus, who took his eyes off Jesus, and who denied even knowing Jesus is that same man whose bones are literally the foundation of the most recognizable basilica in the world.

Here's the truth: we are all Peter. We're all broken. We've all failed. Every one of us has sinned. But Peter's witness shows us that Jesus can turn terrible sinners into great saints. Why not follow Peter's example and experience the Lord's forgiveness and absolution in the diocesan wide celebration of the Sacrament of Penance on *February 20, 2013 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.*? The light will be on for you.



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

LIVING
OUR
Relationship
WITH
JESUS CHRIST



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