

## Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

Today is June 29 – Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul

Memorials – Feasts - Solemnities

On Sunday a Solemnity trumps the normal SUN (13<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time)

We have the Great Denier in Peter and the Great Persecutor in Paul

Both brought to their knees by Jesus

Faith brought them up from their knees and got them walking with Jesus

In the 1<sup>st</sup> reading ACTS we hear about Peter – Angel freeing him from prison.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading TIM Paul summarizes his faith-life & how Lord stood by him despite trials.

In the Gospel we go back to Peter – Peter professes his faith that Jesus is Son of God.

Peter was called from his fishing boat

Paul was called from his ivory tower of power persecuting Christians

Their personal encounters with Jesus changed their lives – forming them into new men

If WE respond to God's call – We too can become a new creation

These two were saved FROM themselves – to BE for others

**NB** To be saved FROM, is to be saved FOR

Peter and Paul, you and I, are called FROM ourselves – so we can be FOR Christ.

I am 'Paul/Church' when I encourage, instruct, reconcile, bless, correct, serve others.

I am 'Peter/Church' when I confront, challenge, form community, and lead others.

Paul and Peter did these things –

They were not just 'Church-going' but 'Church-going-out' persons.

Like Peter and Paul, we are who we say we are BY OUR DOING – by living our faith

The angel freed Peter then left him alone in a dark alley – but Peter knew what to do.

Paul was blinded – but when he regained his sight he knew what to do.

As men and women of faith God calls US – how do we respond?

Jesus asked his disciples directly, **But who do YOU say that I am?**

As we reflect on Peter and Paul, the question for us is:

How will we answer that question?