**I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 22 (Mt 16, 13-19)**

Today the Church celebrates the Chair of Peter the Apostle. The Supreme Pontiff is the Pastor of the whole Church and enjoys a very particular charism which is also of the Ecumenical Council, but always united *cum Petro* and *sub Petro (with Peter and under him):* it is the charism of infallibility. Here is how the Dogmatic Constitution "*Pastor Aeternus*" (July 18, 1870) speaks of this very particular charisma: *"For the Holy Spirit was not promised to the successors of Peter that by His revelation they might make known new doctrine, but that by His assistance they might inviolably keep and faithfully expound the Revelation, the Deposit of Faith, delivered through the Apostles. And indeed, all the venerable Fathers have embraced, and the holy orthodox Doctors have venerated and followed, their Apostolic doctrine; knowing most fully that this See of holy Peter remains ever free from all blemish of error, according to the Divine promise that the Lord our Savior made to the Prince of His disciples: "But I have prayed for you, so that your faith may not fail, and so that you, once converted, may confirm your brothers." This gift, then, of truth and never-failing faith was conferred by heaven upon Peter and his successors in this Chair, that they might perform their high office for the salvation of all; that the whole flock of Christ, kept away from the poisonous food of error by them, might be nourished with the pasture of heavenly doctrine; that the occasion of schism being removed, the whole Church might be kept one, and, resting on its foundation, might stand firm against the gates of Hell.*

*But since, in this very age in which the salutary efficacy of the Apostolic office is most of all required, not a few are found who take away from its authority, We judge it altogether necessary to assert solemnly the prerogative which the only-begotten Son of God found worthy to join with the supreme pastoral office. Therefore, faithfully adhering to the tradition received from the beginning of the Christian faith, for the glory of God Our Savior, the exaltation of the Catholic Religion, and the salvation of Christian people, the Sacred Council approving, We teach and define that it is a divinely-revealed dogma: that the Roman Pontiff, when he speaks ex Cathedra, that is, when in discharge of the office of Pastor and Teacher of all Christians, by virtue of his supreme Apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine regarding faith or morals to be held by the Universal Church, by the divine assistance promised to him in blessed Peter, is possessed of that infallibility with which the divine Redeemer willed that His Church should be endowed for defining doctrine regarding faith or morals: and that therefore such definitions of the Roman Pontiff are irreformable of themselves, and not from the consent of the Church. But if anyone -- God forbid -- should presume to contradict this Our definition; let him be anathema.”.*Here are the limits of his infallibility: a doctrine about faith and morals that binds the whole Church. However, it is a question of definition and not just a word. It is the supreme act of his power.

*When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

Who is Peter? He is the one who will always tell the Lord’s flock who their true Christ is, and what their true Word is, as well as what is their true interpretation in the Holy Spirit. Obedience to the defined, dogmatic faith obliges every faithful in Christ Jesus. Whoever shuns this faith should know that he does not confess the true Christ or obey the true Gospel of salvation. He pursues his thoughts and walks his ways.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us believe in every definite truth.