

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



Matthew 16:13–20

‘You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.’

At that time: 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.’ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Reflection

Peter doesn’t get everything right, but Jesus still trusts him with something important. He gives Peter the ‘keys’ — a sign of responsibility, leadership and trust. Peter is not chosen because he is perfect, but because he is willing to follow Jesus.

As young Vincentians, we are trusted with our own ‘keys’. We have the ability to open doors for other people: by including someone who feels left out, noticing someone who is struggling, or standing up when something isn’t right. We might not always feel ready or confident, but we don’t have to be perfect to make a difference. Like Peter, we are called to use what we have been given to help build a community where everyone belongs.

Materials needed

- Team Building games– click [here](#).

Activity

Spend some time playing team-building games (linked above, or find your own) and, afterwards, take a few minutes to reflect on what happened. Who took responsibility? Who helped the group when things went wrong? Did anyone surprise you with what they were capable of? Peter wasn’t perfect, but Jesus trusted him with an important responsibility. Think about the ways we can also be trusted to contribute, lead and support others — even when we don’t feel like we’re the most confident or capable person in the room.

Call to Action

This week, step up and take responsibility for something that needs doing, rather than waiting for someone else to do it.

