

## Reflection Tuesday Week 7 Chair of St Peter 2022

**St Peter's Chair** has been celebrated in Rome since at least the fourth century. It signifies the unity of the Church founded upon the Apostles.

In saying to Peter *'I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'* It would appear that Jesus is given Peter carte blanche to do whatever he wants. Fortunately, Peter did not see it that way. Eventually, but only after very many years, the Church gave us a better understanding of the power of the Pope. He can only speak infallibly on faith or morals when speaking in the name of the whole Church - not in his own right. This means calling a Council of the whole Church before making an infallible statement and only with the consent of the Church.

The following quote from Pope Francis reflects the importance of the synodal conversations.

*"Thinking with the church is my way of being a part of this people. And all the faithful, considered as a whole, are infallible in matters of belief, and the people display this **infallibilitas in credendo**, this infallibility in believing, through a supernatural sense of the faith of all the people walking together. This is what I understand today as the 'thinking with the church' of which St. Ignatius speaks. When the dialogue among the people, the bishops and the pope goes down this road and is genuine, then it is assisted by the Holy Spirit. So, this thinking with the Church does not concern theologians only..."*

*"However, we must be very careful not to think that this **infallibilitas** of all the faithful, in the light of Vatican II, is a form of populism. No; it is the experience of 'holy mother the hierarchical Church,' as St. Ignatius called it, the Church as the people of God, pastors and people together. The Church is the totality of God's people."*

- A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her young charges. After explaining the commandment to *"Honour your father and your mother,"* she asked, *"Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"* Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, *"Thou shall not kill!"*