



Immaculate Conception
Church

Homily for the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

Year A 2014

In a Peanuts' cartoon Lucy demanded that Linus change TV channels, threatening him with her fist if he didn't. "What makes you think you can walk right in here and take over?" asks Linus "These five fingers," says Lucy. "Individually they're nothing but when I curl them together like this into a single unit, they form a weapon that is terrible to behold." "Which channel do you want?" asks Linus. Turning away, he looks at his fingers and says, "Why can't you guys get organized like that?"

Getting organized and acting together is a fairly good way of looking at this Feast of Saints Peter & Paul. For today we focus on two individuals who were, in some ways, quite opposite of each other. Peter was a champion of those who were Jewish. In Peter's eyes you were Jewish first and then you became a Christian. Paul felt that Peter was making God to be a bit stingy. Paul saw God as calling him to bring the Gospel not to Jews who would become Christian, but to Gentles whom God loved as much as He loved anyone else.

The level of disagreement between them became so heated that it could only be solved by calling together all the leaders of the Church in order to determine who was correct...Peter or Paul. And it is here at this great meeting that the genius of faith lifted both men from being opposing forces to being allies of the first order. For in this great meeting God revealed to Peter and to Paul the profound truth that God knows no favorites and that God's love was not limited to either those who were Jewish or those who were Gentle.

God's love is for everyone, in every place and in every situation. It was in preaching this Gospel of universal love, that Peter and Paul gave their lives, struggled with persecution and imprisonment, strived to run the race and eventually face their martyrdom as individuals who preach the mercy and love of Jesus Christ.

The faith of Peter and Paul is the faith of our Church. The faith of Peter and Paul is the faith for which they gave their lives and for which we celebrate today. The faith of Peter and Paul is the faith that we are called to live. The faith of Peter and Paul gives us the courage to proclaim to the world that "Jesus is the Christ... the Son of the living God."