

Reflection for the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter

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The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter dates back to the early chair, which used to venerate an actual chair from which St. Peter celebrated Mass in the city of Rome. The Chair of St. Peter, however, has always had a symbolic meaning as well, referring to the authority of the Bishop of Rome over the universal Church. We use the opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of the papacy. For many Christians the Pope is a sign of division, as they refuse to assent to his authority, but for us Catholics, the Pope is a sign and protector of our unity.

Every Pope is controversial in some ways, as some agree with their use of the Chair of St. Peter and others disagree with it; however, as Catholics we always have a deep love for our Holy Father. He is human, and so we pray for him, recognizing the terrible burden and responsibility upon his shoulders of the souls of everyone in the world. We also believe that his selection and actions are guided by the Holy Spirit for some purpose in the world. Remember that we place our truth first in God. We trust the Pope because he was given to us by God, in the words of Christ, “And I say to thee, 'That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose upon earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven'” (Mt 16:18-19).