

Fifth decade: Institution of the Holy Eucharist

(From Pope Francis' "Urbi et Orbi" speech, March 13, 2013)

And now, we take up this journey: Bishop and People. This journey of the Church of Rome which presides in charity over all the Churches. A journey of fraternity, of love, of trust among us. Let us always pray for one another. Let us pray for the whole world, that there may be a great spirit of fraternity. It is my hope for you that this journey of the Church, which we start today... will be fruitful for the evangelization of this most beautiful city.

And now I would like to give the blessing, but first — first I ask a favor of you: before the Bishop blesses his people, I ask you to pray to the Lord that he will bless me: the prayer of the people asking the blessing for their Bishop. Let us make, in silence, this prayer: your prayer over me.



HABEMUS PAPAM

HOLY HOUR FOR POPE FRANCIS



O God, who in your providential design willed that your Church be built upon blessed Peter, whom you set over the other Apostles, look with favor, we pray, on Francis, our Pope and grant that he, whom you have made Peter's successor, may be for your people a visible source and foundation of unity in faith and of communion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary...

First Decade: Baptism of Our Lord

(Meditation based on Matthew 16:13-20)

About 2,000 years ago, as Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples an important question; a question that would forever change human history: “*Who do you say that I am?*” The significance of the question surfaces from the fact that from the response given, God would raise up the one leader of His Church. It was at that moment that Simon Peter, a simple fisherman, a common, ordinary man, was moved by God to proclaim: “*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God*” (Matt. 16:16). Ironically, as only God could orchestrate, it was at that moment when Simon Peter boldly stepped out on a limb and answered Jesus’ question, “*Who do you say that I am,*” when suddenly, Jesus turned to him

and told Simon Peter who **he, himself** was to become: “*You are Peter and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.*” In that great moment of sheer grace when the Father revealed to Peter the very identity of His Son, a Divine authority was bestowed upon one man as he heard Christ say: “*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.*”

Let us pray for our new Holy Father, Pope Francis, the 266th Successor of St. Peter, who, in one continuous line of history and Apostolic Succession, has been looked upon by Christ, and himself heard Jesus’ words: “*You are Peter and upon this rock I will build My Church.*”

(Aspiration between decades: sing “Oremus Pro Pontifice”)

Second Decade: Manifestation at the Wedding Feast of Cana

(From Journal of a Soul, the diary of Pope John XXIII)

Since the Lord chose me, unworthy as I am, for this great service, I feel I have no longer any special ties in this life, no family, no earthly country or nation, nor any particular preferences with regard to studies or projects, even good ones. Now, more than ever, I see myself only as the humble and unworthy ‘*servant of God and servant of the servants of God.*’ The whole world is my family. This sense of belonging to everyone must give character and vigor to my mind, my heart and my actions. This vision, this feeling of belonging to the whole world, will give a new impulse to my constant and continual daily prayer: the Breviary, Holy Mass, the whole rosary and my faithful visits to Jesus in the tabernacle, all varied and ritual forms of close and trustful union with Jesus... Everyone calls me ‘*Holy Father,*’ and holy I must and will be.”

Third Decade: The Proclamation of the Kingdom

(From Pope John Paul II’s “Urbi et Orbi” speech, October 16, 1978)

Dear Brothers and Sisters... The eminent cardinals have called a new bishop of Rome. They have called him from a far country: far, but always near through the communion of faith and in the Christian tradition... I was afraid to receive this

nomination, but I did it in the spirit of obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ and in total confidence in his Mother, the most holy Madonna. So I present myself to you all, to confess our common faith, our hope, our trust in the Mother of Christ and of the Church, with the help of God and with the help of men.

Fourth Decade: The Transfiguration

(From Pope Benedict XVI’s Final Papal Audience on February 27, 2013)

When, almost eight years ago, on April 19th, [2005], I agreed to take on the Petrine ministry, I held steadfast in this certainty, which has always accompanied me. In that moment, as I have already stated several times, the words that resounded in my heart were: “Lord, what do you ask of me? It a great weight that You place on my shoulders, but, if You ask me, at your word I will throw out the nets, sure that you will guide me” – and the Lord really has guided me. He has been close to me: daily could I feel His presence. [These years] have been a stretch of the Church’s pilgrim way, which has seen moments joy and light, but also difficult moments. I have felt like St. Peter with the Apostles in the boat on the Sea of Galilee: the Lord has given us many days of sunshine and gentle breeze, days in which the catch has been abundant; [then] there have been times when the seas were rough and the wind against us, as in the whole history of the Church it has ever been - and the Lord seemed to sleep. Nevertheless, I always knew that the Lord is in the barque, that the barque of the Church is not mine, not ours, but His - and He shall not let her sink. It is He, who steers her: to be sure, he does so also through men of His choosing, for He desired that it be so. This was and is a certainty that nothing can tarnish. It is for this reason, that today my heart is filled with gratitude to God, for never did He leave me or the Church without His consolation, His light, His love.