

Bulletin # 102656

**Our Lady of Fatima
2010 12th Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601**

814-942-0371

Attn: Carol Smith

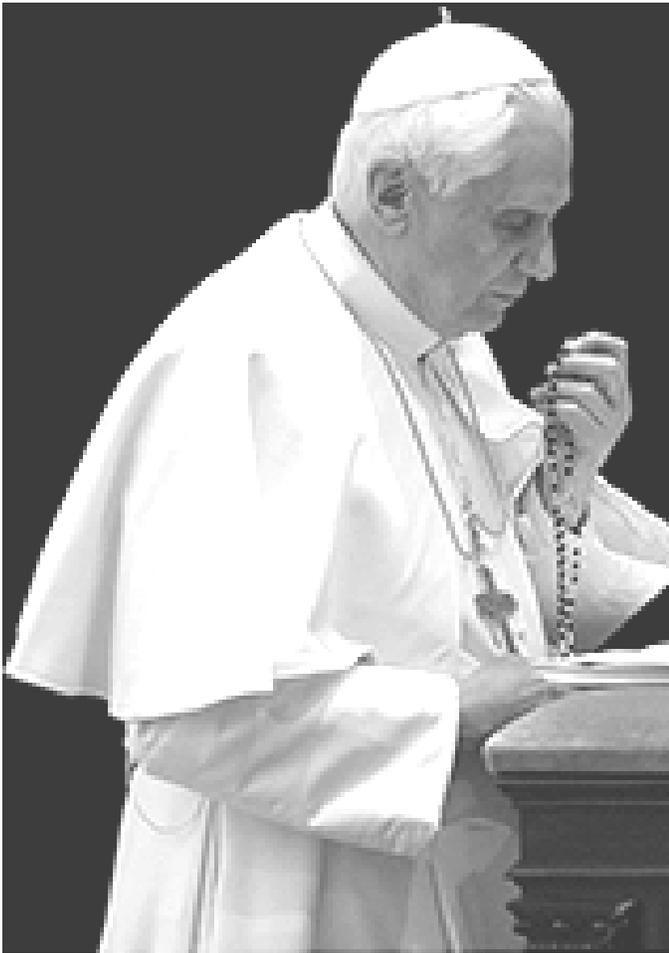
MESSAGES:

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 12-13, 2008

Fatima Mirror

A weekly publication for the education and edification of parishioners and friends of Our Lady of Fatima Parish of the Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Most Reverend Joseph V. Adamec, D.D. is the diocesan bishop. Father J.D. Zatalava, M.Div. is the pastor. Parishioners worship in the church building named after Saint Leo the Great, 2000 12th Ave. 16601. 814-942-0371.



Five Non-negotiable Catholic Issues

1. ABORTION
2. EUTHANASIA
3. EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH
4. HUMAN CLONING
5. HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE



Peter the Rock

—Karl Keating

For a layman, I suppose I was reasonably well informed about my faith—at least I never doubted it or ceased to practice it—but my own reading had not equipped me for verbal duels.

When I answered the door, the lone missionary introduced himself as a Seventh-Day Adventist. He asked if he could "share" with me some insights from the Bible. I told him to go ahead.

He flipped from one page to another, quoting this verse and that, trying to demonstrate the errors of the Church of Rome and the manifest truth of his own denomination's position.

Some of the verses I had encountered before. I wasn't entirely illiterate with respect to the Bible, but many verses were new to me. Whether familiar or not, the verses elicited no response from me, because I didn't know enough about the Bible to respond effectively.

Finally the missionary got to Matthew 16:18: "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church."

"Hold it right there!" I said. "I know that verse. That's where Jesus appointed Simon the earthly head of the Church. That's where he appointed him the first pope." I paused and smiled broadly, knowing what the missionary would say in response.

"I understand your thinking," he said, "but you Catholics misunderstand this verse because you don't know any Greek. That's the trouble with your Church and with your scholars. You people don't know the language in which the New Testament was written. To understand Matthew 16:18, we have to get behind the English to the Greek."

"Is that so?" I said, leading him on. I pretended to be ignorant of the trap being laid for me.

"Yes," he said. "In Greek, the word for rock is *petra*, which means a large, massive stone. The word used for Simon's new name is different; it's *Petros*, which means a little stone, a pebble."

In reality, what the missionary was telling me at this point was false. As Greek scholars—even non-Catholic ones—admit, the words *petros* and *petra* were synonyms in first century Greek. They meant "small stone" and "large rock" in some ancient Greek poetry, centuries before the time of Christ, but that distinction had disappeared from the language by the time Matthew's Gospel was rendered in Greek.

"You Catholics," the missionary continued, "because you don't know Greek, imagine that Jesus was equating Simon and the rock. Actually, of course, it was just the opposite. He was contrasting them. On the one side, the rock on which the Church would be built, Jesus himself; on the other, this mere pebble. Jesus was really saying that he himself would be the foundation, and he was emphasizing that Simon wasn't remotely qualified to be it."

"But I'm sure you'll agree with me that we must get behind the Greek to the Aramaic."

"The what?" he asked.

"The Aramaic," I said. "As you know, Aramaic was the language Jesus and the apostles and all the Jews in Palestine spoke. It was the common language of the place."

"We know that Jesus spoke Aramaic because some of his words are preserved for us in the Gospels. Look at Matthew 27:46, where he says from the cross, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' That isn't Greek; it's Aramaic, and it means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'"

"What's more," I said, "in Paul's epistles—four times in Galatians and four times in 1 Corinthians—we have the Aramaic form of Simon's new name preserved for us. In our English Bibles it comes out as Cephias. That isn't Greek. That's a transliteration of the Aramaic word *Kepha* (rendered as *Kephas* in its Hellenistic form). "And what does *Kepha* mean? It means a rock, the same as *petra*. (It doesn't mean a little stone or a pebble. What Jesus said to Simon in Matthew 16:18 was this: 'You are *Kepha*, and on this *kepha* I will build my Church.'

(Continued on inside back page)

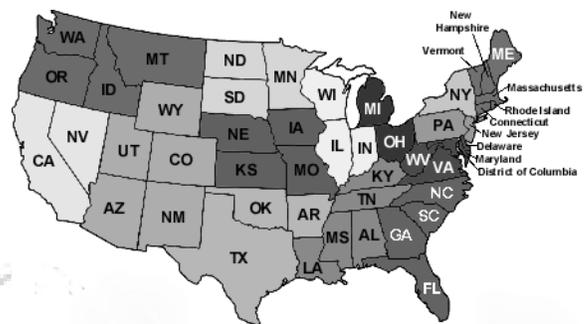
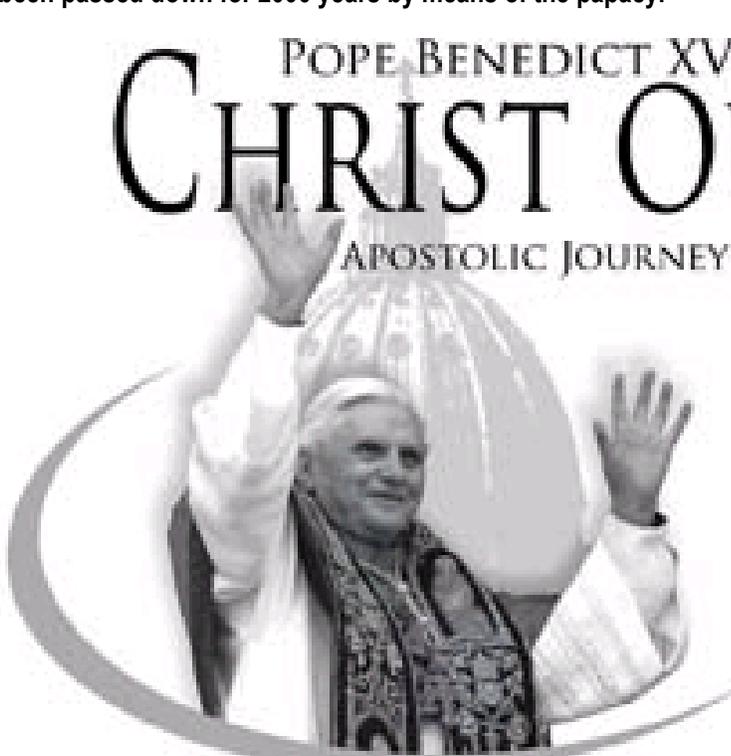
MONEY MATTERS Third Sunday of Easter (April 6)

280 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. Contributing \$3,019.12 of which \$233.12 accounted for "loose" cash.

Envelopes In Circulation 233 # Used 124 # Unused 109

(cont. from page 2) Beyond the grammatical evidence, the structure of the narrative does not allow for a down-playing of Peter's role in the Church. After Peter gives a confession about the identity of Jesus, the Lord does the same in return for Peter. Jesus does not say, " and I tell you, you are an insignificant pebble and on this rock I will build my Church. . . . I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." Jesus is giving Peter a three-fold blessing, including the gift of the keys to the kingdom, not undermining his authority. To say that Jesus is down-playing Peter flies in the face of the context. Jesus is installing Peter as a form of chief steward or prime minister under the King of Kings by giving him the keys to the kingdom. Kings in the Old Testament appointed a chief steward to serve under them in a position of great authority to rule over the inhabitants of the kingdom. Jesus quotes almost verbatim from this passage in Isaiah, and so it is clear what he has in mind. He is raising Peter up as a father figure to the household of faith (Is. 22:21), to lead them and guide the flock (John 21:15-17). This authority of the prime minister under the king was passed on from one man to another down through the ages by the giving of the keys, which were worn on the shoulder as a sign of authority. Likewise, the authority of Peter has been passed down for 2000 years by means of the papacy.

POPE BENEDICT XVI
CHRIST OUR HOPE
 APOSTOLIC JOURNEY TO THE UNITED STATES 2008



MASS INTENTIONS FOR April 14 - 20, 2008

Monday	04/14	08:00 AM	Debra Shuma, John & Frances Kasun	<i>Easter Weekday</i>
Tuesday	04/15	08:00 AM	Walter Bieniek, M/M Stanley Krish & Family	<i>Easter Weekday</i>
Wednesday	04/16	08:00 AM	Frank Filipiak, Donna & Ricke Kelly	<i>Easter Weekday</i>
Thursday	04/17	08:00 AM	Elton (Al) Albright, Donna & Kirk Kling	<i>Easter Weekday</i>
Friday	04/18	08:00 AM	Vocation to the Priesthood, Colleen Sheehan	<i>Easter Weekday</i>
Saturday	04/19	04:30 PM	Sally Colledge-1st Anv. of death, Husband Pete	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>
Sunday	04/20	09:00 AM	Liv/Dec Members of Our Lady of Fatima Parish	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>
Sunday	04/20	11:00 AM	John Bacza, John & Rosemarie Kodziel	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>