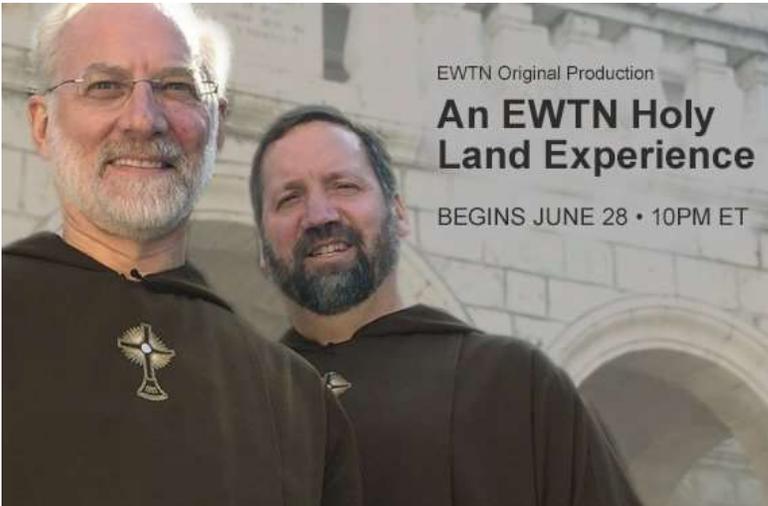


Commemorate St. Peter, the Rock of the Church, with the Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word!



By Debbie Cowden

"I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." – St. Matthew 16:18

Though we live in a time where evil sometimes seems to be prevailing, the Church still stands.

Scripture tells of how Jesus called Peter, a simple fisherman, to be the head of His Church. Fr. Joseph Mary and Fr. Mark Mary of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word reflect on the life of the Rock of the Church in **"An EWTN Holy Land Experience: Peter, Parts 1 and 2,"** airing back-to-back at **10 p.m. ET Sunday, June 28, the eve of the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul. Encores air back-to-back at 5 a.m. ET Thursday, July 2** (www.ewtn.com/tv/channel-finder).

Filmed on-location in the Holy Land, Fr. Joseph and Fr. Mark lead a virtual pilgrimage to sites in Jerusalem, Capernaum, Jaffa, the ruins of Caesarea Philippi, and more. They cast nets – literally – into the Sea of Galilee, discover a boat built around the time of Christ, and visit the Church of Gallicantu, where Peter denied Jesus three times.

These are the places we hear about so often in Scripture, and Fr. Joseph and Fr. Mark remind us that not only did our Savior walk the earth, but those holy places and relics are still here today for us to appreciate and venerate. These pilgrimage sites show us that the Church is alive and has been for the past 2,000 years.

Today, Jesus' authority still is entrusted to the Pope, the successor of Peter. Jesus said, "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." (Matthew 16:19) That infallibility, originally granted to Peter, has extended to all 265 of Peter's successors. Though Peter and all subsequent popes were (like all of us) sinful by nature, the Holy Spirit has guided them to never teach error in matters of faith and morals when speaking ex cathedra (from the Chair of Peter).

As we approach the feast day of SS. Peter and Paul on June 29, let us remember that God used imperfect people to lead His Church and to propagate the faith. These saints, like Peter, overcame their sinfulness, embraced suffering, and answered the call to holiness that all of us are called to answer. Fr. Joseph and Fr. Mark explain how this played out in Peter's life and how it applies to all Christians during **"An EWTN Holy Land Experience: Peter, Parts 1 and 2."**