

# Message From The Pastor

**February 22, 2021**

## The Chair of St. Peter

Each February 22<sup>nd</sup>, our Church celebrates the liturgical feast of “The Chair of Saint Peter.” It marks the authority and responsibility held by the pope in his pastoral care of our Church.

For your edification, the following are some interesting facts about the papacy.

- The word pope means 'father.'
- The pope is known as the 'Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth.' The word 'vicar' comes from the Latin term “vicarious” meaning 'substitute.'
- The pope does not eat in public.
- Pope Paul VI was the first pope to travel by plane.
- The pope does not have to be a Cardinal. He doesn't even have to be a priest. Any baptized male can be elected pope, but the last time the cardinals chose a 'non-cardinal' was 1378, when they elected Urban VI.
- Pope (Emeritus) Benedict XVI has a license to fly a helicopter, but not to drive a car.
- There have been over 260 popes since St. Peter. Out of that number, 205 have been Italian, 19 have been French, 14 Greeks, 8 Syrians, 6 Germans, 3 Africans, 2 Spaniards, 1 Austrian, 1 Palestinian, 1 Englishman, 1 Dutchman, and 1 Pole (that was John Paul II)..
- The oldest pope(s) ever elected were Celestine III and Celestine V (both 85 years old).
- The youngest pope elected was believed to be Benedict IX (1032 AD), who many historians believe was 'elected' at 12 and assumed the papacy at about 20 years. Some say Pope John XII (at 18 years old) was the youngest.
- The pope's car is called the 'Pope Mobile.' There are at least 20 Pope Mobiles scattered around the world. The Vatican garage houses six of the four-ton vehicles.

Peace

Fr. Marc