

Daily Homily
First Week in Lent, Monday
The Chair of St. Peter
Feast
[22 February 2021](#)

So, yes, this feast today is about a piece of furniture – a chair.

But, of course, when it comes to our Catholic faith it is about so much more.

Growing up, my family moved several times, at least five times. In each home there was a certain chair or a certain spot that both mom and dad always sat in when it came to our living room furniture. If we happened to be in that spot when they wanted to sit, they would either tell us to move – which we did – or we just moved automatically. It was the same at that kitchen table. Both mom and dad had their place, their chair at the kitchen table. Dad was the one who was home first in the evening, he was the one who would have dinner on the table when mom arrived home. So his place was close to the kitchen, so that he could get up and get whatever was needed for the dinner – or we were told to do it, and we did.

I can't imagine that my family is all that unusual. This must be the case in your homes or even in your childhood homes with your parents. Every parent had a certain chair. A chair is a symbol of relationship, a symbol of leadership, a symbol of boundaries, a symbol of unity, a symbol of authority. There could be a homily on each of those.

However, the Chair of St. Peter... Peter has a certain place among the Apostles. He has a certain relationship with his teacher and Lord. He is given a certain responsibility and a certain load to carry. He is given a certain voice to speak and to bring about a certain clarity when things are out of focus or off center. When Peter was martyred then the next pope came into place and was called to sit in that chair and was given the same task... and then the next pope, and the next pope, all the way to our 266th pope, Pope Francis.

And it comes down to Peter's profession of faith that he makes in the Gospel ... Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." That is the foundation for everything. Jesus is the Son of God in the flesh. Everything from our Catholic faith ... every aspect from her doctrinal teachings, exhortations, and spiritual writings, all of it springs up and comes alive through Peter's testimony of who Jesus is – God's Son in the flesh.

To honor this feast today, we come to encounter this Messiah, this Son of the Living God in the Eucharist. May our lives and our faith be firmly grounded on this foundation, because from this everything we are as Catholics comes alive.