May 29th: Memorial of Saint Paul VI, Pope

Gospel text (*Mt* 16:13-19): Jesus replied, «It is well for you, Simon Barjona, for it is not flesh or blood that has revealed this to you but my Father in Heaven. And now I say to you: You are Peter (or Rock) and on this rock I will build my Church; and never will the powers of death overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven, and what you unbind on earth shall be unbound in Heaven».

St. Paul VI, pope (1897-1978)

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(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, the words with which Paul VI instituted the Synod of Bishops come to our mind: «The Apostolic concern leading Us to carefully survey the signs of the times and to make every effort to adapt the means and methods of the holy apostolate to the changing circumstances and need of our day». Contemplating this great pope, this committed Christian, this tireless apostle, today before God we can only say one word as simple as it is sincere and important: Thank you! Thank you for your humble and prophetic testimony of love for Christ and his Church.

Pope Montini was the great helmsman of the Second Vatican Council. In his humility shines the greatness of Blessed Paul VI who, at the time when a hostile and secularized society was emerging, knew how to lead with wisdom and vision for the future - and perhaps alone - the helm of Peter's boat without ever losing joy and faith in the Lord.

- «Oh God, source of life, that in your servant, Blessed Paul VI, Pope you have revealed the mystery of peace and happiness, make us, enlightened by his example, recognize in your Son Jesus Christ the only Redeemer of man ».