

SAMPLE MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENT

Name of Candidate

Title of Option Chosen

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Date Absent → 9 January 2020

The Indispensable Men: Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure

When looking at the roles that many men and women played in the Early Church: Matthew, Philip, James, John, Mary Magdalene. There are no two names that catches more attention of Church theologians than Peter and Paul. Although they were indeed archetype disciples of Jesus Christ in the Early Church; their tireless work, inspired writings, and holy witness as martyrs exemplify that their legacy does not only live on as mere historical figures but saints whose realities affected the life of the Church up to the present day. While each were given specific talents, Peter holding the ecclesial office of Pope of Rome and Paul as the gifted theological writer; many Christians can easily see their similarities in their strong, stubborn personalities combined with charisma and leadership qualities.

We first turn to a poor fisherman from a small town nestled along the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee, Capharnaum. He was likely uneducated and not very sophisticated with some abilities in the Hebrew and Greek languages. This man was Shimeon bar Johannon in the Aramaic language that he mostly spoke, that is Simon son of John. He was a married man, since we know that Jesus healed his mother-in-law in Matthew 8:14 and Mark 1:30. Despite his tempestuous and strong-willed personality, he was deeply loyal to the one whom he saw as his Master, Jesus himself. In time, upon his profession of Jesus' divinity, he was appointed as the chief shepherd and was given a new name, Peter. Peter coming from the Greek, *Petros*, the Rock on which Jesus would build His Church. Peter was appointed by Jesus to a new office taking its roots from the ancient office of the Seat of Moses on which teachings were bound and loosened. Hence, we see this office still in succession today, the See of Peter or the Pope of Rome as it is popularly known as. Effectively, we see that Jesus does not choose the perfect but rather chooses the willing. The ones who love Him sincerely and tries to follow his will.

Following the resurrection of Jesus, another significant figure arises to the scene. A Jewish scholar of the Law, Saul of Tarsus. Saul was born around the year 10 A.D. in the town of Tarsus in the present-day southeastern Turkey – and therefore, a Roman citizen. Saul was well-educated in classical Greek philosophy, literature, and rhetoric. And above all, he was a fanatic student of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament. The early Christian movement angered Saul deeply, for he could not fathom that a crucified carpenter from Nazareth would be God – let alone the Messiah of Israel. Not soon after, Saul set out for the city of Damascus, to carry on the work of persecuting Christians; a story well recorded in the book of Acts. On the road to Damascus, a light from heaven flashed about him, he fell to the ground and heard a voice “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me... I am Jesus whom you are persecuting” (Acts 9:3-6). He was immediately baptized and began to preach Jesus as the Son of God in Damascus taking upon a new name Paul the Apostle, and traveling to the ends of the Roman Empire until his arrest and beheading.

In many ways, we see that Jesus was fully alive in each of these men's lives. Jesus takes the energy and passion of each of these individuals and directs it to proclaim the Good News that God became a man for the salvation of all souls. The Good News, the Gospel was not only a message of the rich or the wealthy such as the other state religions at the time; this was the main reason that the Christ was to be born in a poor manger so that He may be accessible to entire human family.

One page of approximately four well-developed paragraphs