



## *On This Rock*

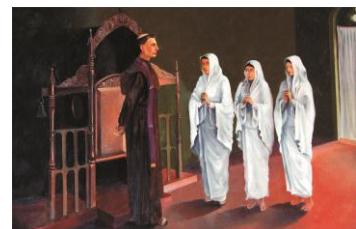
In his general audience on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025, His holiness Pope Leo admonished everyone saying, "Strive for holiness". "Holiness is the most attractive face of Christ". Saint Thomas Aquinas assures us that holiness 'is nothing else but a resolution made, the heroic act of a soul that surrenders to God'. Why do we speak of Holiness? Yes it is the very essence of our call because Jesus called his disciples "to be with Him". Holiness of the Church is lived and preserved by every Woman religious as a congregation and as an individual in the sincere living of their calling in the form of Charism – "to be with Him".

***"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church..."***

In the Bible, rocks symbolize strength, stability, and refuge, both literally and metaphorically. They represent God's unwavering nature, His role as a protector, and the solid foundation of faith. Rocks are also associated with Christ, who is referred to as the "Rock" in the New Testament, signifying His role as the foundation of the Church.

The Bible frequently depicts **God as a rock**, highlighting His reliability and ability to provide shelter and protection. **Christ is that rock** where Israel finds safety in times of distress. The **Rock is the truth** that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. On the faith of Peter the Church is founded. **Peter himself is the rock** means he is the first stone of the whole Church.

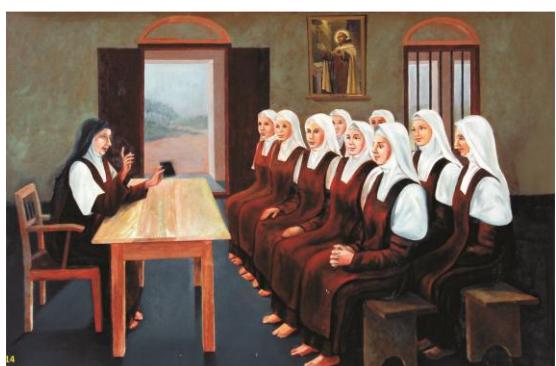
Every Christian through the Sacrament of baptism shares in the faith of Peter and becomes a rock foundation for the Church. Mother Eliswa was that rock on which the faith of countless women is fortified. A rock foundation represents true understanding and right action - true conviction and commitment manifested in righteousness. Only in obedience and dedication to a personal relationship with Christ the Rock can we find emotional and spiritual stability - without which even our most dedicated purposes rest on shifting sand.



While explaining the purpose of the establishment of the first Convent and the way of Life, Fr. Leopold OCD said to our Foundress Mother Eliswa and the Co-Foundress Mother Anna and Mother Thresia, "Understand that obedience and fidelity to your constitutions are the means to love God and serve Him". All through their life they gave due importance to these two virtues as it helped them to grow in Holiness and fulfillment of the Charism of the Congregation. The source of obedience as we know lies

in the theological virtue of faith.

Mother Eliswa confirms to her Spiritual Father's exhortation and instructs each of us today in these words, "If you want to be as holy as the bride of Christ, you must keep away from all occasions of sins. It is not necessary to be curious about the things that endanger this angelic virtue".



As the Master comes home today from the wedding feast may we be found **clothed in holiness** waiting with the **lamp of our faith lit** and the **door of our hearts wide open** to receive him. Amen!

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