AUGUST 1, ST. PETER IN CHAINS

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The chains with which St. Peter the Apostle was fettered from time to time have always been the object of veneration among the faithful. They are preserved in a basilica in Rome, which is called Saint Peter ad Vincula (in chains). The anniversary of the dedication of this church falls on August 1st. The chains of the Apostle Paul are preserved in the Basilica of St. Paul.

The reverence shown to the chains of the two apostles must have been very widely spread in olden times from the moment when Justinian I asked the Pope for "a portion of the chains of the holy apostles, if it were possible" and St. Gregory the Great relates that in his day the faithful were eagerly desirous of the favor of possessing at least a small quantity of the filings of St. Paul's chains.

The chains of St. Peter are in two portions, one having eleven links, shaped so as to hold the hands, and the other twenty-three links, at the end of which are two half circles to hold the neck. Only four links are preserved of the chains which bound St. Paul.

INTROIT Acts 12: 11

Nunc scio vere, quia misit Dóminus Angelum suum, et erípuit me de manu Heródis, et de omni exspectatióne plebis Judæórum. (Ps. 138: 1-2) Domine, probásti me et cognovísti me: tu cognovísti sessiónem meam et resurrectiónem meam. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Nunc scio vere, quia misit Dóminus Angelum suum, et erípuit me de manu Heródis, et de omni exspectatióne plebis Judæórum.

Now I know in very deed, that the Lord hath sent His angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. (Ps. 138: 1-2) Lord, Thou hast proved me, and known me: Thou hast known my sitting down, and my rising up. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Now I know in very deed, that the Lord hath sent His angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

COLLECT

Deus, qui beátum Petrum Apóstolum, a vínculis absolútum, illæsum abíre fecísti: nostrórum, quǽsumus, absólve víncula peccatórum; et ómnia mala a nobis propitiátus exclúde.

O God, Who didst cause blessed Peter, the apostle, to depart, loosed from his chains and unhurt, loose, we beseech Thee, the chains of our sins, and graciously keep all evils far from us.

Commemoration of St. Paul

Deus, qui multitúdinem géntium beáti Pauli Apóstoli prædicatióne docuísti: da nobis, quǽsumus; ut, cujus commemoratiónem cólimus, eius apud te patrocínia sentiámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.

O God, Who by the preaching of the blessed Apostle Paul didst teach the multitude of the Gentiles, grant us, we pray Thee, that, honoring his commemoration, we may experience the benefit of his patronal influence with Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Commemoration of the Machabees

Fratérna nos, Dómine, Mártyrum tuórum coróna lætíficet: quæ et fídei nostræ præbeat increménta virtútum; et multíplici nos suffrágio consolétur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.

May the fruits of the fraternal crown of Thy Martyrs, O Lord, make us joyful, both to afford our faith increase of virtues and to console us with their manifold prayers. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

LESSON Acts 12: 1-11

In diébus illis: Misit Heródes rex manus, ut afflígeret quosdam de ecclésia. Occídit autem Jacóbum fratrem Joánnis gládio. Videns autem quia placéret Judæis, appósuit ut apprehén-deret et Petrum erant autem dies Azymórum. Quem cum apprehendísset, misit in cárcerem, tradens quátuor quaterniónibus mílitum custodiéndum, volens post Pascha prodúcere eum pópulo. Et Petrus quidem servabátur in cárcere. Orátio autem fiébat sine intermissióne ab Ecclésia ad Deum pro eo. Cum autem productúrus eum esset Heródes, in ipsa nocte erat Petrus dórmiens inter duos mílites, vinctus caténis duábus: et custódes ante óstium custodiébant cárcerem. Et ecce Angelus Dómini ástitit: et lumen refúlsit in habitáculo: percussóque látere Petri, excitávit eum, dicens: Surge velóciter. Et cecidérunt caténæ de. mánibus ejus. Dixit autem Angelus ad eum: Præcíngere, et cálcea te cáligas tuas. Et fecit sic. Et dixit illi: Circúmda tibi vestiméntum tuum, et séquere me. Et éxiens sequebátur eum, et nesciébat quia verum est, quod fiébat per Angelum: existimábat autem se visum vidére. Transeúntes autem primam et secúndam custódiam, venérunt ad portam férream, quæ ducit ad civitátem: quæ ultro apérta est eis. Et exeúntes processérunt vicum unum: et contínuo discéssit Angelus ab eo. Et Petrus ad se revérsus, dixit: Nunc scio vere, quia misit Dóminus Angelum suum, et erípuit me de manu Heródis, et de omni exspectatióne plebis Judæórum

In those days, Herod the king stretched forth his hands to afflict some of the Church: and he killed James, the brother of John, with the sword; and seeing that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to take up Peter also. Now it was in the days of the Azymes: and when he had apprehended him, he cast him into prison, delivering him to four files of soldiers to be kept, intending after the pasch to bring him forth to the people. Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing by the Church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains; and the keepers before the door kept the prison: and behold an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shined in the room and he striking Peter on the side, raised him up, saying, Arise quickly; and the chains fell off from his hands: and the angel said to him, Gird, thyself and put on thy sandals; and he did so: and he said to him, Cast thy garment about thee and follow me: and going out he followed him: and he knew not that it was true which was done by the angel; but he thought he saw a vision. And passing through the first and the second ward, they came to the iron gate that leadeth to the city, which of itself opened to them; and going out, they passed on through one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. And Peter coming to himself, said, Now I know in very deed that the Lord hath sent His angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

GRADUAL Psalms 44: 17, 18

Constítues eos príncipes super omnem terram: mémores erunt nóminis tui, Dómine. Pro pátribus tuis nati sunt tibi fílii: proptérea pópuli confitebúntur tibi.

Thou shalt make them princes over all the earth: they shall remember Thy name, O Lord. Instead of Thy fathers, sons are born to Thee; therefore shall people praise Thee.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Solve, jubénte Deo, terrárum, Petre, caténas: qui facis, ut páteant coeléstia regna beátis. Allelúja.

Alleluia, alleluia. Loose, O Peter, the chains of the world at the bidding of God, thou that dost cause the heavenly realms to open to the blessed. Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew16: 13-19

In illo témpore: Venit Jesus in partes Cæsaréæ Philippi, et interrogábat discípulos suos, dicens: Quem dicunt hómines esse Fílium hóminis? At illi dixérunt: Alii Joánnem Baptístam, alii autem Elíam, álii vero Jeremíam aut unum ex Prophétis. Dicit illis Jesus: Vos autem quem me esse dícitis? Respóndens Simon Petrus, dixit: Tu es Christus, Fílius Dei vivi. Respóndens autem Jesus, dixit ei: Beátus es, Simon Bar Jona: quia caro et sanguis non revelávit tibi, sed Pater meus, qui in cælis est. Et ego dico tibi, quia tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificábo Ecclésiam meam, et portæ ínferi non prævalébunt regni cælórum. Et quodcúmque ligáveris super terram, erit ligátum et in cælis: et quodcúmque sólveris super terram, erit solútum et in cælis.

At that time, Jesus came into the quarters of Cesarea Philippi: and he asked his disciples, saying: Whom do men say that the Son of man is? But they said: Some John the Baptist, and other some Elias, and others Jeremias, or one of the prophets. Jesus saith to them:But whom do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered and said: Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answering said to him: Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona: because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my Father who is in heaven. And I say to thee: That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven.

OFFERTORY Psalms 44: 17-18

Constítues eos príncipes super omnem terram: mémores erunt nóminis tui, Dómine, in omni progénie et generatióne.

Thou shalt make them princes over all the earth: they shall remember Thy name, O Lord, throughout all generations.

SECRET

Oblátum tibi, Dómine, sacrifícium, intercedénte beáto Petro Apóstolo tuo, vivíficet nos simper et múniat.

May the sacrifice offered to Thee, O Lord, by the intercession of blessed Peter ever vivify and strengthen us.

Commemoration of St. Paul

Apóstoli tui Pauli précibus, Dómine, plebis tuæ dona sanctífica: ut, quæ tibi tuo grata sunt institúto, gratióra fiant patrocínio supplicántis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.

Sanctify the gifts of Thy people, O Lord, through the prayers of Paul, Thine apostle, that what is pleasing to Thee by Thine own ordinance may become the more pleasing by the patronal influence of his supplication. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Commemoration of the Machabees

Mystéria tua, Dómine, pro sancto- rum Mártyrum tuórum honóre, devóta mente tractémus: quibus et præsídium nobis crescat, et gáudium. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.

May we devoutly deal with Thy mysteries, O Lord, for the honor of Thy holy Martyrs, and by them may both protection and joy be increased unto us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

PREFACE OF THE APOSTLES

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, Te, Dómine, supplíciter exoráre, ut gregem tuum Pastor ætérne, non déseras: sed per beátos Apóstolos tuos contínua protectióne custódias. Ut iísdem rectóribus gubernétur, quos óperis tui vicários eídem contulísti præésse pastóres. Et ídeo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominatiónibus, cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus, sine fine dicéntes:

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, to entreat Thee humbly, O Lord, that Thou wouldst not desert Thy flock, O everlasting Shepherd, but through Thy blessed Apostles wouldst keep it under Thy constant protection; that it may be governed by those same rulers, whom as vicars of Thy work, Thou didst set over it to be its pastors. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, saying without end:

COMMUNION Matthew 16:18

Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificábo Ecclésiam meam.

Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church.

POSTCOMMUNION

Córporis sacrí et pretiósi Sánguinis repléti libámine, quǽsumus, Dómine Deus noster: ut, quod pia devotióne gérimus, certa redemptióne capiámus.

Filled with the sacrificial food of Thy sacred body and precious blood, we beseech Thee, O Lord, our God, that what we perform in pious devotion we may effectually obtain in assured redemption.

Commemoration of St. Paul

Percéptis, Dómine, sacraméntis, beáto Paulo Apóstolo tuo interveniénte, deprecámur: ut, quæ pro illíus celebráta sunt glória, nobis profícient ad medélam. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.

Having received Thy sacraments, O Lord, we beseech Thee, by the intercession of blessed Paul, Thine apostle, that what has been celebrated for his glory may profit unto our healing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Commemoration of the Machabees

Præsta, quǽsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut quorum memóriam sacramenti participatióne recólimus, fidem quoque proficiéndo sectémur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O almighty God, that we may more and more closely follow the faith of Thy saints whose memory we venerate in partaking of Thy sacrament. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.