

Inside the Vatican

The Papacy: Is the Pope King?



Misconceptions

- 1. The Pope cannot sin
- 2. Everything the Pope says is infallible
- 3. Catholics worship the Pope
- 4. Pope is a dictator



Definition of Infallibility

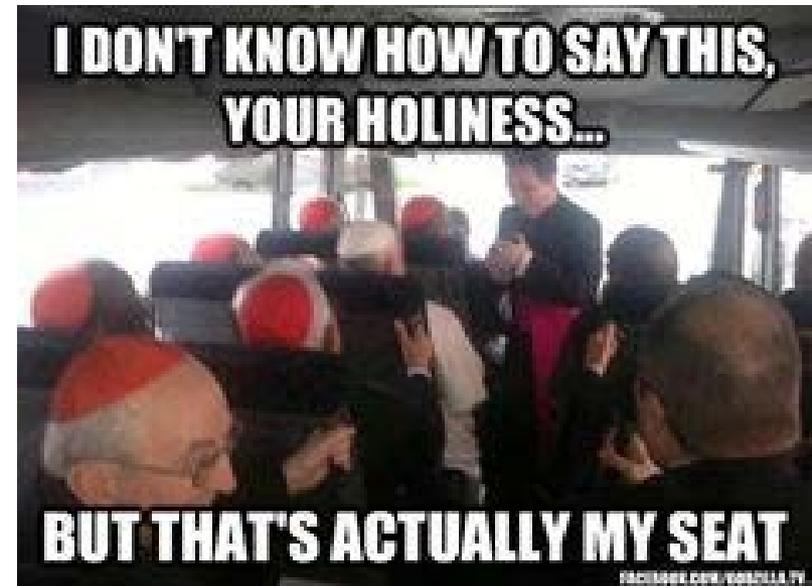
◆ Infallible

- ◆ 1. Incapable of error; not liable to deceive or mislead
- ◆ 2. Absolutely trustworthy or sure
- ◆ Applies to the Papacy

VS.

◆ Impeccable:

- ◆ 1. faultless; flawless; irreproachable
- ◆ 2. not liable to sin; incapable of sin.
- ◆ Does NOT apply to the Papacy



Three Requirements for Infallibility

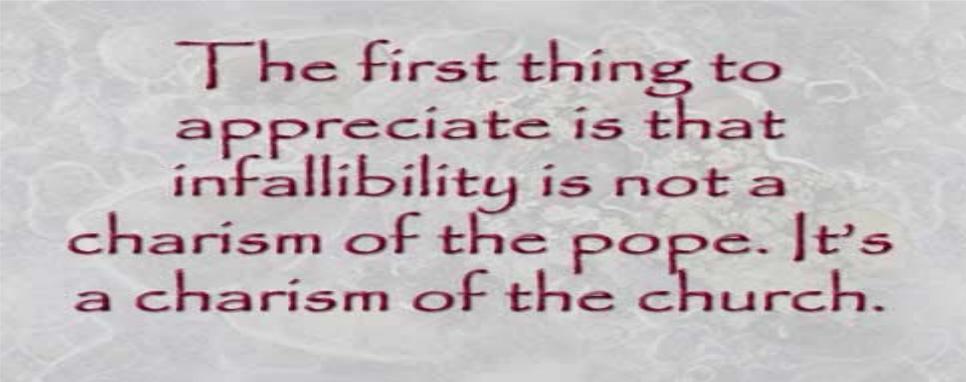
- 1. The pronouncement must be made by the official successor to Peter.
- 2. The subject matter must be in the area of faith and morals.
- 3. The Pope must be speaking *ex cathedra* (from the chair) of Peter, and must be intending to proclaim a doctrine that binds the entire Church to assent.

Apostolic Succession

- ◆ “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” Mt. 16:19
- ◆ Therefore his definitions, of themselves, and not from the consent of the Church, are justly held irreformable, for they are pronounced with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, an assistance promised to him in blessed Peter." - Second Vatican Council

The Holy Spirit's Role

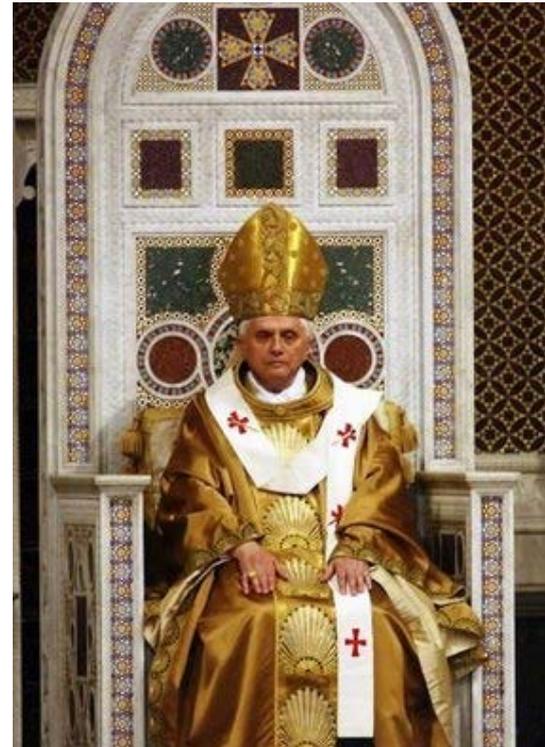
- ◆ Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church
- ◆ The Holy Spirit guides the Church
 - ◆ "When the Spirit of truth comes He will guide you to all truth"
–John 16:13
 - ◆ “So that she can fulfill her mission, the Holy Spirit ‘bestows upon the Church varied hierarchic and charismatic gifts, and in this way directs her’” CCC 768



The first thing to appreciate is that infallibility is not a charism of the pope. It's a charism of the church.

Ex Cathedra

- ◆ “From the chair” in Latin
- ◆ “Jesus spoke of the authority of the Old Testament magisterium saying, ‘The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their **seat on the chair** of Moses. Therefore, do and observe whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach what they do not practice.’” –Mt. 23: 2-3
- ◆ Highlights the teaching of the Pope infallible when speaking Ex Cathedra but the Pope is not infallible in his actions



2 Times Infallibility Exercised

- ◆ 1. 1854: Immaculate Conception
 - ◆ Pope Pius IX
- ◆ 2. 1950: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven
 - ◆ Pope Pius XII
- ◆ (There are other doctrines given Ex Cathedra but these are the only two Ex Cathedra statements by a Pope)
 - ◆ Ex: 1870 First Vatican Council OFFICAILLY declares Papal office infallible

Clearing up the Misconceptions

- ◆ 1. The Pope is not sinless. He goes to confession like all other Catholics.
- ◆ 2. The Pope is only infallible when speaking Ex Cathedra
- ◆ 3. Catholics do not worship the Pope but recognize that the Holy Spirit guides the Church through the Pope and Apostolic Succession.
- ◆ 4. Christ is the Head of the Church and guides the Church through the Pope