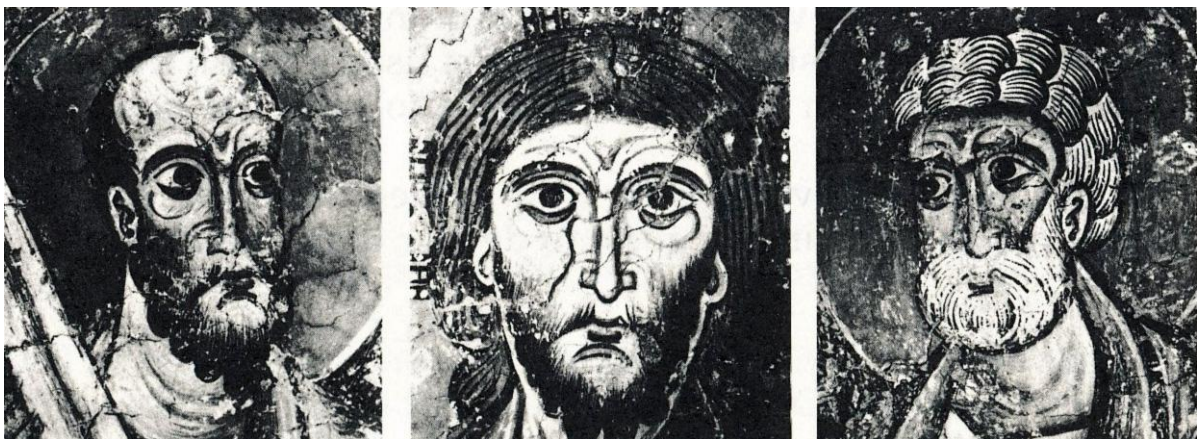


## QUESTIONS WITHOUT ANSWERS

We see many Faces of Christ in art which have nothing in common with the traditional Shroud-like face. It is curious, then, that the types for St. Peter and St. Paul have remained uniform since they were represented in the Constantinian Basilicas of St. Peter and the Lateran. The illustration on the cover shows how Christ, Peter and Paul were portrayed on the frame of a portal of St. Peter's in the IV<sup>th</sup> century. The ancient statue shown on facing page, discovered during Vatican excavations not too long ago, shows a solemn elder dressed in a Roman toga and Roman sandals; but we know it is Peter from the massive head, the curly hair and beard. If there were any doubt, the figure not only raises his right hand in blessing, but in his left he holds the Keys.

And below, details from a fresco of 1255, in the Basilica of SS. John and Paul (Rome) depict Paul, the Savior and Peter.

What was the prototype for these two apostles? Could oral tradition have preserved their facial and physical appearance through three centuries? Or, as some believe, was their physical appearance "invented" to convey their individual characters?



Details from a XIII<sup>th</sup> century fresco in the church of SS. John and Paul. Peter and Paul have not changed a bit since the IV<sup>th</sup> century. (Illus. from *Il Titolo di Pammachio, Santi Giovanni e Paolo*, Passionist Fathers, Rome 1967.)



Ancient statue of St. Peter, now in the Vatican Grottoes.