



The Legion of Mary and St. Peter: Grounded in Holiness

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Introduction

- **St. Peter's Life**
 - **Humble Origins**
 - **Family**
 - **Name: Shimon to Peter, Kephas to Petros**
- **Highlights of St. Peter's Ministry**
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 - **Holiness of St. Peter**
 - **Patron of the Legion of Mary**



St. Peter's Humble Origins

- **Name**
 - **Shimon bar Jonah (Simon, son of John)**
 - **Jesus renamed him Peter**
 - **Matthew 16:17, John 1:42**
 - **Aramaic: Kepahs (ܟܦܬܐ)**
- **Places associated**
 - **Birthplace: Bethsaida (John 1:44)**
 - **Settled: Capernaum**
 - **Martyred: Rome (64 AD)**
- **Other Common Information:**
 - **Occupation: Fisherman**
 - **Education: uneducated (Acts 4:13)**



Saint Peter and his Family

- **Relationships**
 - **Father: John**
 - **Brother: St. Andrew**
 - **Partners: St. James and St. John (sons of Zebedee)**
- **Family**
 - **Wife (1 Corinthians 9:5, 1 Peter 5:13)**
 - **Mother-in-Law (Matthew 8:14–15, Mark 1:29–31, and Luke 4:38–39)**
 - **Spiritual Son: St. Mark**
- **Age**
 - **Probably around the same age as Jesus or older**



Shimon to Peter

- **Shimon - “shama” (Hebrew, v.) ”to hear” / “to listen”**
 - **Shimon means: “He has heard” or “God has heard”**
 - **“Shema Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad” – “Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord is One.” (Deuteronomy 6:4)**
- **Jesus gives Simon the name Peter**
 - **Peter from Greek Petros (Πέτρος) - rock/stone**
 - **New Testament Greek manuscripts used Petros**
 - **Except: St. Paul used the Hellenization the Aramaic Kephas to Cephas (Κηφᾶς)**
 - **1 Corinthians**
 - **1 Corinthians 1:12, 3:22, 9:5, and 15:5**
 - **Galatians**
 - **Galatians 1:18, 2:9, and 2:11-14**

Kephas to Petros

- **Kephas (Aramaic: ܟܦܪܐ) - Rock/Stone**
 - “k-f-h” (כ-פ-ח) - Proto-Semitic (PS)
 - **solidity/firmness/strength/stone/stability/foundational and examples on derivatives**
 - **Hebrew: Kefa (כֶּפֶה) – rock/stone**
 - **Arabic: Kifah (كِفاح) – “struggle”, “fight”, “strength”**
 - **Syriac: Kepha (ܟܦܪܐ) – dialect of Aramaic, means rock/stone**
 - **Ancient Ge’ez (Ethiopic): Käffa (ኣፋ) – solid objects**
- **Petros (Greek: Πέτρος) – Rock/Stone**
 - “*petr-” - Proto-Indo-European Language (PIE)
 - **Same meaning as in PS and examples of derivatives:**
 - **Sanskrit: parvata (पर्वत) – mountain**
 - **Greek: petra (πέτρα) – rock**
 - **Latin: petro – rock/stone -> Petrus**



St. Peter during Jesus' Ministry

- **Travelled with Jesus from Galilee, to Judea, and up to Ceasarea Philippi**
- **Spokesperson for the Apostles**
- **Paradoxical Biblical Characterizations**
 - **Confident vs Coward**
 - **Loyal vs Denier**
 - **Trusting vs Doubting**
 - **Leader vs Follower**
- **And yet**
 - **Jesus always saves and restores St. Peter.**
 - **Jesus entrusted him the Keys of Heaven**
 - **the power to bind and loose in Earth and Heaven**



Narratives with Contrasting Traits of St. Peter

- **St. Peter walks on water towards Jesus**

- Matthew 14:22-33

- **St. Peter Professes Jesus as the Messiah**

- Matthew 16:13-20

- **St. Peter Denies Jesus**

- Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:54-62, John 18:15-18, 25-27

- **Jesus cooks for St. Peter and the Disciples (the Restoration of St. Peter)**

- John 21:15-19



Apostolic Ministry of St. Peter

- **Acts 1-12: St. Peter's Leadership after Pentecost**
 - **First Sermon**
 - Acts 2:14-41
 - **Confrontation by St. Paul**
 - Galatians 2:11-14
 - **First Council of Jerusalem**
 - Acts 15:1-35
- **Acts of Peter (apocryphal)**
 - **Travels: Caesarea -> Antioch -> Rome** (setting for 1 Peter)
 - **Encounter with Simon Magnus**



Martyrdom of St. Peter

- **63 AD – Burning of Rome charged against Christians**
- **Appian Way incident / “Quo vadis” legend**
- **Ties in with the prophecy in John 21:19 on St. Peter’s death**
- **Upside-down crucifixion at the Circus on Vatican Hills**

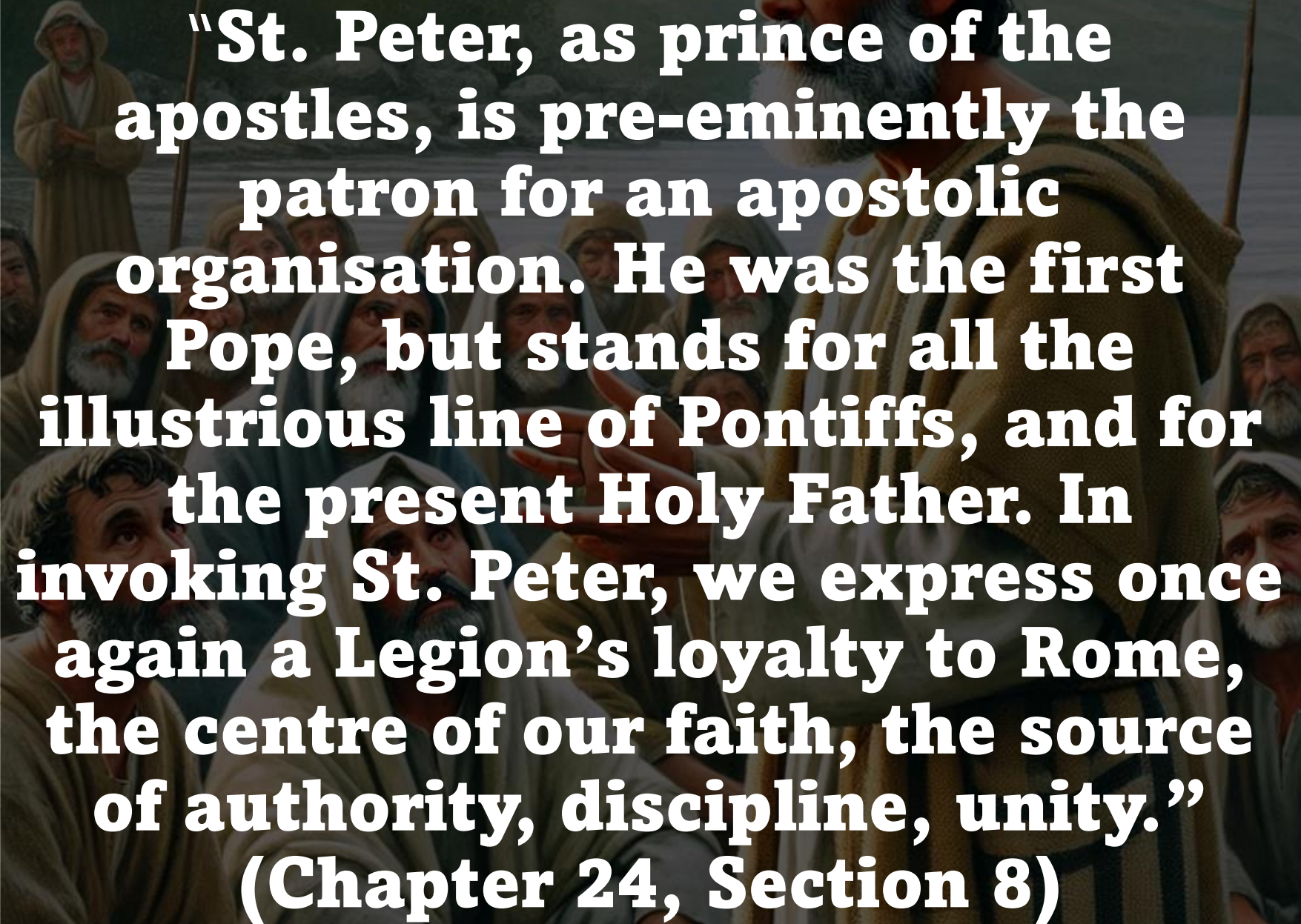


**Holiness
of
St. Peter**

- **Recognition of our frailties and our need for Jesus' salvation**
- **Humble Leadership**
- **Perfect Obedience**



St. Peter in the
Legion of Mary
Handbook



“St. Peter, as prince of the apostles, is pre-eminently the patron for an apostolic organisation. He was the first Pope, but stands for all the illustrious line of Pontiffs, and for the present Holy Father. In invoking St. Peter, we express once again a Legion’s loyalty to Rome, the centre of our faith, the source of authority, discipline, unity.”
(Chapter 24, Section 8)

Conclusion

- **Church as the Pillar of Truth (1 Tim 3: 15) and the need to root Legion of Mary activities in the Church.**
 - **We pray for St. Peter's intercession to keep help us in our works.**
- **St. Peter as exemplar**
 - **Humility our failings and limitations**
 - **Seek redemption by Jesus**
 - **Amidst our failings and inchoate imperfect human actions, Jesus perfects these and restores these -- gift/charism of infallibility**
 - **Find our Appian Way moments in our daily lives**
 - **Ask Jesus "Domine, quo vadis?"**
 - **Pray for the the courage to follow Him there.**