

## Patrons of Parishes

### SAINT PETER, PRINCE OF APOSTLES



WE shall at first give a general outline of his life which is given almost at length in our Holy Books.

Saint Peter was named Simon before being called to the apostolate. He came from Bethsaida, a village of the tribe of Nephthali, on the lake of Genesareth. He dwelt with his mother-in-law at Capharnaum, where he plied his trade as a fisherman, when Jesus-Christ began to preach the Gospel.

His brother Andrew, having learned from saint John the Baptist that Jesus was the Messiah, went to hear Our Lord and Simon accompanied him. *And Jesus, looking upon him, said: Thou art Simon the son of Jona, thou shalt be called Cephas; which is interpreted Peter* (John 1, 42.)

Some time afterward, Peter and Andrew being engaged in washing their nets, Jesus-Christ, followed by a large crowd, came to pass along the shore of the sea of Galilee. He went up on Peter's bark and from there, he taught the people. Then he gave the two brothers a miraculous draught of fishes and at last he said to them: « Follow me and ye shall be takers of men. » *And when they had brought their ship to land, leaving all things, they followed him.* (Luke v. 3.)

From that moment Peter never quitted the divine Master.

He affirmed that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the living God, and Christ in his turn, explaining the name of Peter which he himself had given him, told him that he would be the foundation of his Church.

Peter was present at Our Lord's transfiguration and accompanied Jesus to the Garden of Olives. But while Jesus-Christ was in the hands of his enemies, Peter denied him. An inflexible look from the Master excited deep regret in him.

After the Resurrection, Our Lord claimed the greatest love from Peter: *Simon, son of Jona, lovest thou me more than these?*