

# **April 15, 2004, NOTES: First Letter of Saint Peter**

## **1. Opening Address (1:1-2)**

## **2. Dignity of the Christian Vocation (1:3-2:10)**

A. New Birth in Christ (1:3-9)

B. Testimony of the Prophets (1:10-12)

 C. Be Holy Yourselves (1:13-2: 3)

D. Christ the Living Stone (2:4-10)

## **3. Duties of Christian Life (2:11-3:12)**

A. Civil Duties of the Saints (2:11-17)

B. Suffering Like Christ (2:18-25)

C. Household Duties of the Saints (3:1-7)

D. Moral Duties of the Saints (3:8-12)

## **4. Duties of Christian Life (3:13-5:11)**

A. Conduct during Persecution (3:13-22)

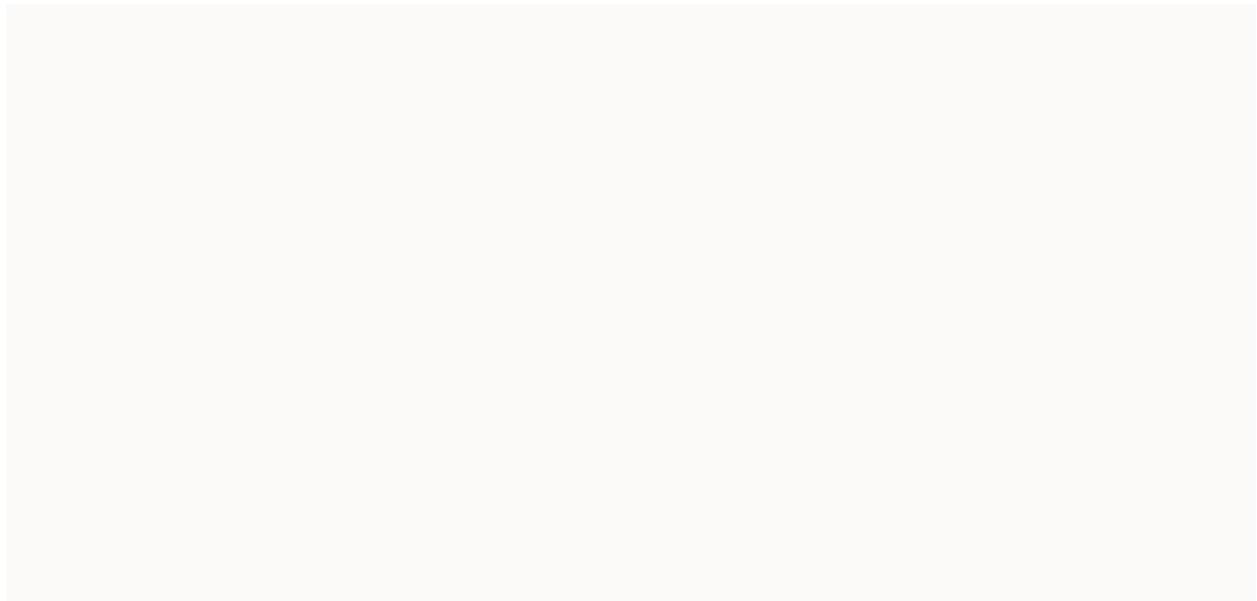
B. Living for the Last Days (4:1-11)

C. Suffering and Christian Glory (4:12-19)

D. Sheperds and the Flock (5:1-5)

E. Humility and Vigilance (5:6-11)

## **5. Closing Benediction (5:12-14)**



## Invoke as Father 1:17

**2780** We can invoke God as "Father" because *he is revealed to us* by his Son become man and because his Spirit makes him known to us. The personal relation of the Son to the Father is something that man cannot conceive of nor the angelic powers even dimly see: and yet, the Spirit of the Son grants a participation in that very relation to us who believe that Jesus is the Christ and that we are born of God.

**2781** When we pray to the Father, we are *in communion with him* and with his Son, Jesus Christ. Then we know and recognize him with an ever new sense of wonder. The first phrase of the Our Father is a blessing of adoration before it is a supplication. For it is the glory of God that we should recognize him as "Father," the true God. We give him thanks for having revealed his name to us, for the gift of believing in it, and for the indwelling of his Presence in us.

**2782** We can adore the Father because he has caused us to be reborn to his life by *adopting* us as his children in his only Son: by Baptism, he incorporates us into the Body of his Christ; through the anointing of his Spirit who flows from the head to the members, he makes us other "Christs."

Saint Ambrose:

God, indeed, who has predestined us to adoption as his sons, has conformed us to the glorious Body of Christ. So then you who have become sharers in Christ are appropriately called "Christs."<sup>34</sup>

The new man, reborn and restored to his God by grace, says first of all, "Father!" because he has now begun to be a son.

## Lamb without blemish 1:19

**602** Consequently, St. Peter can formulate the apostolic faith in the divine plan of salvation in this way: "You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers. . . with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was made manifest at the end of the times for your sake." Man's sins, following on original sin, are punishable by death. By sending his own Son in the form of a slave, in the form of a fallen humanity, on account of sin, God "made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

