

# Saint Peter Claver

1580 - 1654  
MEMORIAL -  
SEPTEMBER 9



**B**orn in Spain, Peter was educated by Jesuits. He joined a Jesuit mission to the New World and arrived in what is now Colombia in 1610. He was ordained there and began a life-long ministry among African slaves. Peter felt it best to show by action the Christian spirit, so he brought the slaves food, medicine, and tobacco. Later, he would convey with drawings that they were loved by God even though they were abused by man. He was said to have baptized more than 300,000 and is patron of missionary work among blacks.



Catholic  
Current

The likeness of St. Peter Claver is seen in stained glass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria, Ill. Canonized in 1888, St. Peter Claver is now considered the patron saint of human rights in Colombia. (CNS photo/The Crossiers) Copyright © 2019, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops—Catholic News Service, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

Saint of the Week