

PETER BAPTIST

for whom he had the hospice on the Lirde St Bernard pass rebuilt; he also endowed a charity for the free distribution of food to hill farms in the spring; this, under the name of *pain de mai*, May-bread, was continued until the French Revolution. But Peter was apparently never really happy outside a monastery, for we are told that in 1155 he disappeared for a year and was found hiding in a remote Swiss abbey. He often visited the Grande Chartreuse, where he was looked after by a young monk later to be known as *St Hugh of Lincoln*. Peter's activity on behalf of Pope Alexander III against the anti-pope Victor led to his being commissioned to treat between Louis VII of France and Henry II of England; it was at this time that he died. Another Peter of Tarentaise became Pope Innocent V, who is a *beatus*.

PETER BAPTIST \diamond under *Japan, Martyr in*

PETER CANISIUS, theologian. B. at Nijmegen in Holland, 1521; d. at Fribourg in Switzerland, 1597; cd 1925; f.d. 21 December. Peter Kanis was the son of a burgo-master at Nijmegen. He was sent to the university of Cologne, with the idea of his becoming a lawyer; but he turned to theology and, coming under the influence of the celebrated Jesuit Peter Favre, he entered the Society of Jesus in 1543. Between 1546 and 1562 he became known as a preacher, assisted at the Council of Trent, spent six months with *St Ignatius of Loyola* in Rome, taught in the first Jesuit school, at Messina, and reformed the university at Ingolstadt in Bavaria; from there he was sent to do similar work at Vienna, where he became a religious power in the city. Father Canisius had already given much attention to strengthening the faith of Catholics in face of Protestantism, and he now began writing with the same object. In 1556 he was made provincial superior of the Jesuits in southern Germany, Austria, and Bohemia; first at Prague and then at Augsburg he worked with his usual astounding energy, founding schools, colleges, and clerical seminaries, preaching, writing, and giving missions (it has been estimated that he travelled 20,000 miles on foot and horse back in thirty years). Later he was stationed at Dillingen in Bavaria, at Innsbruck and finally at Fribourg, where he died.

St Peter Canisius, whom a modern Lutheran theologian referred to as 'a noble Jesuit, of faultless character', was an outstanding figure in the Catholic revival that followed the Council of Trent and he did more than any other single man to keep the south German peoples in the Catholic church; he was also one of the exceptions among the controversialists of those days in that he was courteous, moderate, and understanding. He early realized the influence of pen and press, and gave every encouragement to printers and publishers; his own numerous writings caused him to be named a doctor of the church when he was canonized at Rome in 1925. His best-known works by far are the

PETER CLAVER

three catechisms of Christian doctrine for pupils of different ages; they had an immense diffusion in many languages, English and Scots versions being made in the author's lifetime and a Welsh one soon after his death.

J. Brodick, *St Peter Claver* (1963).

PETER CELESTINE \diamond *Celestine V*

PETER CHAMEL, martyr. B. at Quet near Bellef, 1803; d. on Futuna, 1841; cd 1954; f.d. 28 April. The missionary Society of Mary was formed at Lyons in 1822 and one of its earliest members was a peasant's son, a young priest named Peter Chanel. He had for three years worked with good effect in a run-down country parish when in 1831 he was accepted as a member by the Marists. In 1836 the society was allotted the New Hebrides in the Pacific as a field for evangelization, and Father Chanel was one of the group of missionaries sent there. He was stationed on Futuna, an island where cannibalism had only recently been forbidden by the local ruler, Niuliki; with him were a laybrother and an English layman, Thomas Boog. They were at first well received; but, when Father Chanel had learned something of the language and gained the people's confidence, jealousy and fear were aroused in Niuliki. This was aggravated by the conversion and baptism of his son and other young men. Three years after his arrival, when his companions were away, Father Chanel was set upon by Niuliki's men and clubbed to death. When called on to justify his conversion, one of Chanel's catechumens had said of him, 'He loves us. He does what he teaches. He forgives his enemies. His teaching is good.' St Peter Chanel was the first martyr in the South Seas.

PETER CHRYSOLOGUS, bishop. B. at Iznola, c. 400; d. there, c. 450; f.d. 30 July. Although St Peter Chrysologus ('golden speech') is included among the doctors of the church, since 1729, very little indeed is known about his life and all his writings have perished except a large collection of short sermons. There is no account of him earlier than nearly 400 years after his death, and little reliance can be put on it. He was made bishop of Ravenna c. 435, and was one of those who received a letter from the monophysite leader Eutyches protesting at his condemnation by *St Flavian of Constantinople*; in his reply Peter urged Eutyches not to cause dissension in the church and referred him to the teaching authority of the bishop of Rome. The sermons of Chrysologus are nearly all on gospel subjects, simple, practical, and clear, but without that eloquence that his surname suggests.

PETER CLAVER, missionary to Negro slaves. B. at Verdú in Catalonia, 1580; d. at Cartagena, 'in the Indies', 1654; cd 1888; f.d. 9 September. It was the old half-porter at the Mission college in Majorca, *St Alphonsus Rodriguez*, who dispelled the young Jesuit Peter Claver's nervousness of being a priest and directed his attention to the religious



From: The Penguin Dictionary of Saints by Donald Attwater. 2nd edn