

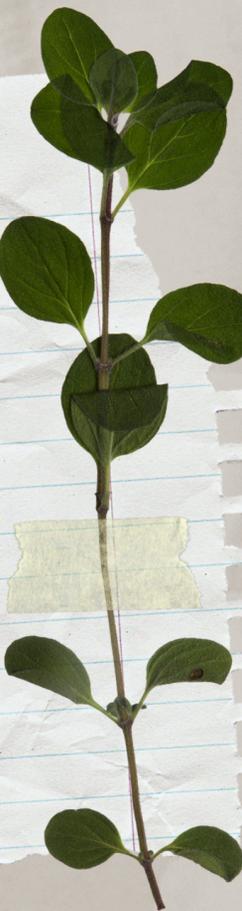
Saint Peter Canisius



- Feastday: December 21
- Patron Saint of: Catholic press, Germany
- Birth: May 8, 1521
- Death: December 21, 1597
- Canonized: on May 21st 1925, by Pope Pius XI

*"If you have too much
to do, with God's help
you will find time to
do it all."*

*"Anyone who wishes to
frolic with the devil
cannot rejoice with
Christ."*



Although Peter once accused himself of idleness in his youth, he could not have been idle too long, for at the age of 19 he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterward he met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced Peter so much that he joined the recently formed Society of Jesus.

At this early age Peter had already taken up a practice he continued throughout his life—a process of study, reflection, prayer, and writing. He could often be found visiting the sick or imprisoned, even when his assigned duties in other areas were more than enough to keep most people fully occupied.

In 1547, Peter attended several sessions of the Council of Trent, whose decrees he was later assigned to implement. Peter was entrusted with the mission to Germany—from that point on his life's work. He taught in several universities and was instrumental in establishing many colleges and seminaries.

Renowned as a popular preacher, Peter packed churches with those eager to hear his eloquent proclamation of the gospel. He had great diplomatic ability, often serving as a reconciler between disputing factions. In his letters—filling eight volumes—one finds words of wisdom and counsel to people in

all walks of life. He also wrote unprecedented letters of criticism to leaders of the Church—yet always in the context of a loving, sympathetic concern.

Peter was one of the most important figures in the Catholic Reformation in Germany. He played such a key role that he has often been called the "second apostle of Germany," in that his life parallels the earlier work of Boniface.

At 70, Peter suffered a paralytic seizure, but he continued to preach and write with the aid of a secretary, until he died in his hometown in Netherlands.