



ADVENT

Peter Canisius

1521–1597

Feast Day—December 21



This Doctor of the Church was born in Holland and studied canon law in Belgium before turning to the study of theology in Germany. In 1543, after meeting St. Peter Faber, one of St. Ignatius of Loyola's companions, he entered the Society of Jesus and soon became a well-known preacher. He attended two sessions of the Council of Trent and was an important figure in the post-conciliar Catholic revival in Europe. After completing his doctorate, St. Ignatius assigned him to renew the Catholic faith in Germany. As the Jesuit provincial in southern Germany, Austria, and Bohemia, Peter Canisius started schools, colleges,

and seminaries. He wrote three catechisms in German and is credited with keeping the southern German peoples Catholic.

