

St. Peter Claver

St. Peter Claver, the 17th century black Spanish Jesuit spent his life ministering to black slaves arriving at Cartagena, Colombia, a city teeming with merchants and slave traders. Claver was one of the few people in the history of the church to be considered a saint in his own lifetime. He boarded slave ships holding the cross aloft. He bandaged their wounds, treated leprosy and attended to their sicknesses contracted on the long voyage. He befriended the Africans and tended to their physical needs before catechizing them and hence is considered a model of missionary evangelization. He is patron of black missions.