

AUGUST 2
 SAINT PETER FABER
 PRIEST

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL

Peter Faber was born in 1506 at Villaret in Haute Savoie, and spent his youth there as a shepherd in charge of his father's flocks. In 1525 he went as a student to Paris, where he shared lodgings with Francis Xavier and Ignatius of Loyola, who adopted him as his first companion. At his ordination in 1534 he became the first priest of the Society of Jesus. At the Pope's bidding he covered most areas of Europe, everywhere promoting the Catholic renewal with great success. He died in Rome on August 1, 1546, and in 1872 was beatified by Pius IX. Pope Francis, by a decree of "equivalent canonization", inscribed Faber in the Church's universal calendar of saints on 17 December 2013.

From the Common of Pastors, or the Common of Men Saints, for Religious.

THE OFFICE OF READINGS

Second Reading

(From the *Memoriale* of Saint Peter Favre [Nn. 7-9, MHSI, *Fabri Monumenta*, Madrid, 1914, p. 493]. English translation from Martin Palmer, S.J., *The Spiritual Writings of Pierre Favre*, St. Louis, The Institute of Jesuit Sources, 1996, pp. 64-65.)

We became one in our determination to adopt the way of life which now we follow.

On January 10, 1529, at the age of twenty-three, I became a Bachelor of Arts, and after Easter was awarded the Licenciante under Master Juan de la Peña, now a Doctor of Medicine.

May it please the divine goodness to grant that I may remember with gratitude the corporal and spiritual benefits conferred on me in various ways during those three

and a half years: such a master for myself and such companions as I met in his room, especially Master Francis Xavier, a member of the Society of Jesus.

That year Iñigo entered the same Collège Sainte-Barbe and lodged in the same room as ourselves, intending to begin the course in arts on the coming feast of St. Remy; our master (mentioned above) was to give this course.

Eternally blessed be all this that divine providence arranged for my good and for my salvation. For after providence decreed that I was to be the instructor of that holy man, we conversed at first about secular matters, then about spiritual things. Then followed a life in common in which we two shared the same room, the same table, and the same purse. As time passed he became my master in spiritual things and gave me a method of raising myself to a knowledge of the divine will and of myself. In the end we became one in desire and will and one in a firm resolve to take up that life which we lead today—we, the present or future members of this Society of which I am unworthy.

May it please the divine clemency to give me the grace of clearly remembering and pondering the benefits which the Lord conferred on me in those days through that man.

Responsory (cf. Ps. 20:4; Job 31:18; Eph. 3:18; Ps. 30:20)

R. O God, you have met me with goodly blessings, which grew with me from my childhood; and now I cannot comprehend what is the depth of your love.

V. How great is your goodness, Lord, which you have stored up for those who fear you; and now. . . .

Concluding Prayer

Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you revealed yourself to Saint Peter, your humble servant, in prayer and in the service of his neighbor. Grant that we may find you and love you in every thing and in every person. **We** ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.