

April 28, 2021

Good Morning All,

Adoration following the morning Mass till 5:00 PM "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it shall be opened to you." Mt 7:7
Jesus tells us to ask and we will receive. There is no prayer that is not heard.

1. Today's Readings: [Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Easter | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: St. Peter Chanel (1803-1841) was born in France and died a martyr's death in the island of Futuna, Melanesia. He is called the apostle of Oceania where he spread the Gospel. He was a religious of the Society of Mary (Marists).

3. Quote of the Day: "It does not matter whether or not I am killed; the religion has taken root on the island; it will not be destroyed by my death, since it comes not from men but from God." *St. Peter Chanel*

St. Peter Chanel, Pray for Us!
St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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St. Peter Chanel



Peter Chanel was a French missionary priest, martyred on the Island of Wallis and Futuna, whose body lay in state in the chapel of Villa Maria in Sydney for two weeks in route to France. As the "proto martyr of Oceania" it was fitting that he was patron of the first WYD held in Oceania, inspiring others to be Jesus' "witnesses to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Peter Chanel was born on July 12, 1803 in Cuet, France. As a boy his piety and intelligence attracted the attention of the local priest in Cuet, and he was put into a Church-sponsored education program. Entering the diocesan Seminary, Peter won the affection and the esteem of both students and professors. After his ordination he found himself in a rundown country parish and completely revitalized it in the three-year span that he remained there. However, his mind was set on missionary work; so, in 1831, he joined the newly formed Society of Mary (Marists) which concentrated on missionary work at home and abroad. To his dismay, he was appointed to teach at the seminary at Belley and remained

there for the next five years, diligently performing his duties. In 1836, he was made the superior of a band of Marist missionaries headed for the South West Pacific. They set out on December 24, 1836, accompanied by Bishop Jean Baptiste Pompallier who was to become the first bishop of New Zealand.

On reaching their destination after an arduous ten-month journey, the band split up and St. Peter went to the Island of Futuna accompanied by a lay brother and an English layman, Thomas Boog. The practice of cannibalism had reduced the islands' population to a few thousand and those that remained were deeply engrossed in a religion that involved the worship of terror, offered to evil deities.

Peter labored faithfully, learning the native language, attending the sick, baptizing the dying, and winning from all around him the reputation of one with a kind heart. Peter's message of kindness and display of unconditional love in the work with the natives was initially well-received by the King Niuliki, however resentment grew. King Niuliki believed Christianity threatened his rights as high priest and stealing the natives from the idol deities.

At daybreak on April 28, 1841, Peter was beaten and tortured by the King's favored warrior Musumus and a group of chiefs, who had hatched their own plan to put an end to his influence. Peter eventually died from a fatal axe wound to the head. His body was taken back to France and Rome via New Zealand and Australia, where it rested at Villa Maria in Sydney for two weeks.

Peter was declared a martyr and beatified in 1889. Pope Pius XII canonized him in 1954. Within a few years of Saint Peter Chanel's death, most of the island of Futuna had converted to Catholicism.

St Peter Chanel exemplifies a life of the Spirit's gifts of courage and fruit of kindness required of all young people, but especially young priests.

Source: catholicnewsagency.com and catholic.org