

*Excerpt from*

***IN PLURIMIS***

ENCYCLICAL OF POPE LEO XIII ON THE  
ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

“We therefore advise [apostolic men] to look, as if into a mirror of apostolic virtue, at the life and works of St. Peter Claver, to whom We have lately added a crown of glory.<sup>1</sup> Let them look at him who for fully forty years gave himself up to minister with the greatest constancy in his labors, to a most miserable assembly of Moorish slaves; truly he ought to be called the apostle of those whose constant servant he professed himself and gave himself up to be. If they endeavor to take to themselves and reflect the charity and patience of such a man, they will shine indeed as worthy ministers of salvation, authors of consolation, messengers of peace, who, by God's help, may turn solicitude, desolation, and fierceness into the most joyful fertility of religion and civilization.”

<sup>1</sup>Pope Leo XIII canonized St. Peter Claver on January 15, 1888.

[In Plurimis \(May 5, 1888\) | LEO XIII \(vatican.va\)](#)