JAMESTHE APOSTLE

James is noted in the Gospels as the brother of St. John. James, John, and Peter were the three apostles named who witnessed the Transfiguration and who were with Christ during the night spent in the garden of Gethsemane before the Passion. We know little of James's life after Christ's death except that he was present at several councils in Jerusalem and that in 43 CE Herod Agrippa had him "killed by the sword" (Acts 12:2). Legend, however, which was undoubtedly inspired by accounts of the extensive voyages of St. Paul, described James as the Apostle to the Iberian Peninsula, sowing the seeds of the Gospels in the very first years of the Christian era. He returned to Palestine to his martyrdom but his followers reputedly brought his body back to Iria Flavia in northwestern Spain to be buried. When the land was colonized by Muslims from Africa, James's tomb was forgotten. In the ninth century, during the reconquest of Spain from the Arabs, his remains were claimed to be discovered and Alfonso el Casto, ruler of Leon, ordered them transferred to the city of Compostela, which then became a major pilgrimage site.

The presence of St.

Of particular importance in this chapel, dedicated in 1926 to the memory of those who had served in armed conflicts, was a saint coming to the aid of soldiers. James also has a special relationship to the College of the Holy Cross: the Society of Jesus was founded by Ignatius Loyola, who first served Spain as a soldier;