



ST. MARTIN DE PORRES



Feast Day November 3rd

Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru in 1579 to a former African slave from Panama and a Spanish soldier and nobleman. His father left his family when Martin was 8 leaving Martin, his baby sister and their mother very poor. Martin still gave to the poor whatever he could.

People made fun of him because he came from two races, but he still blessed his enemies and did good to those who laughed at him.

When he was 12, Martin went to work for a barber. He learned to cut hair and to heal wounds. Later, he wanted to join the Dominican order, but was only allowed to be a servant sweeping the floors and answering the door because the law did not allow persons of mixed races to enter religious life. Eventually, his years of good works and miraculous cures led the Dominicans to allow him to become a lay brother.

He founded orphanages for homeless children and cared for lonely African slaves left in Lima. He gave all he could to those in need: clothing, feeding, and sheltering them.

He died in 1639 and was mourned by all, even bishops and members of the royal court. In 1962, the Church declared him a saint. He loved animals and was said to have solved a rat problem by simply asking the rats to leave.

He is the patron saint of persons of mixed race and discriminated persons.

FLORIDA