

Feast of All Saints

Let us rejoice in all the men and women blest in the eyes of the Lord. They stand in Gods Holy Place and sing of the love the Father has bestowed upon them through the Blood of the Lamb.

November 3rd is the feast day of Martin de Porres, born December 3rd 1579 and died in 1639.

Juan Martin de Porres Velasquez was an illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman. He was born in the city of Lima, Peru.

Don Juan de Porres Velasquez and Ana Velasquez, a freed slave from Panama was of African descent.

Young Martin inherited the features and dark complexion of his mother which was a matter of vexation to the noble Porres, who nevertheless acknowledged the boy and his sister as his children, but eventually left Martin to the care of his mother.

When he was twelve, his mother apprenticed him to a barber-surgeon, but three years later, having received the habit of the Third Order of St. Dominic, he was admitted to the Rosary Convent of the Friars Preachers at Lima, eventually becoming a professed lay-brother.

Brother Martin de Porres attended to many offices: being a barber, a surgeon, a wardrobe keeper, and an infirmarian. He filled all these jobs with great liberality, promptness, and carefulness.

Martin extended his care of the sick to those of the City and was instrumental in establishing an orphanage and a foundling hospital. He was given the office of distributing to Convents daily alms of food to the poor (which it is said sometimes increased miraculously).

He took it upon himself to care for the miserable slaves who were brought to Peru from Africa.

He was greatly desirous of going to some foreign mission where he might earn the Crown of Martyrdom. This was impossible, so he made a martyr of his own body. As well as his penances, much is said of his aerial flights, bi-locations, and other supernatural gifts.

Brother Martin was a close friend of St. Rose of Lima as well as the Blessed John Massias who was a lay brother at the Dominican priory of St. Mary Magdalene in the same town.

Martin was at the Rosary Priory when he died on November 3rd, 1693. He was carried to his grave by prelates and noblemen. He was beatified in 1837 by Pope Gregory XVI, and canonized by Pope John XXIII in 1962. He is patron saint of mixed races, barbers, innkeepers, public health workers, and all those seeking racial harmony.

