SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES

FEAST DAY 3RD NOVEMBER

Saint Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru on the 9th December 1579. At a young age, Martin's father abandoned him, his mother and his younger sister, leaving Martin to grow up in deep poverty. After spending just two years in primary school, Martin was placed with a barber where he learnt to cut hair.

As Martin grew older, he experienced a great deal of ridicule for being of mixed-race. He felt called by God to become a religious and entered the Dominican Order first as a helper and then became a lay brother in 1603. He worked in the infirmary and became known for carefully and patiently caring for the sick, even in the most difficult situations. He took care of everyone from the Spanish nobles to the African slaves.

He was instrumental in founding an orphanage and a children’s hospital to care for Lima’s many street children. Saint Marin died on the 3rd November 1369. He is the Patron Saint of interracial harmony.

Saint Martin de Porres, pray for us.

