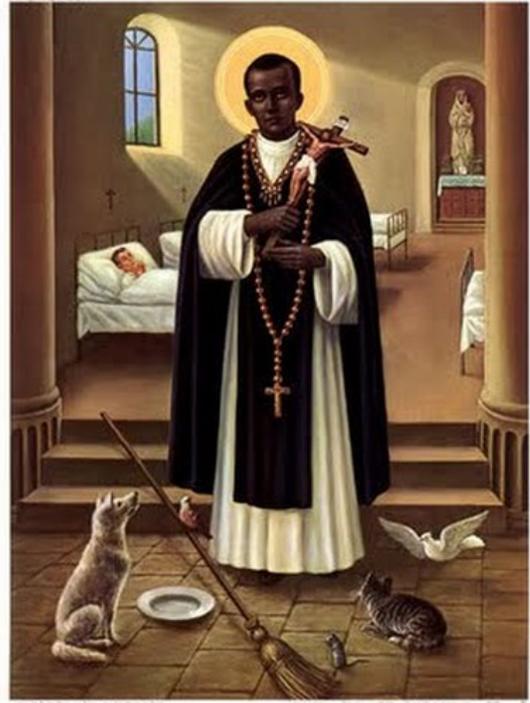


# ST. MARTIN DE PORRES



St. Martin de Porres was a Dominican Saint who lived from 1579 to 1639 in Lima, Peru. He was half African and half Spanish. He was born out of wedlock, and his father abandoned the family after Martin's sister was born. For this reason, he grew up in poverty. His mother was only able to afford to send him to two years of schooling. After these two years, however, he was placed under the apprenticeship of a barber and surgeon in order to learn the medical arts. Since Martin was a pious child and spent his nights in prayer to God, he desired to serve God with his life. He started off as a volunteer with the Dominicans. Later, he became a Third Order Dominican. Later still, he would go on to take vows as a Dominican lay brother.

As a lay brother, Martin was assigned to the infirmary, where he took care of the sick until he died at the age of 59. He also did innumerable menial tasks in the prior, from laundry to cleaning to working in the kitchen to countless other things. He saw himself as a servant of all, and called himself, "Brother Broom."

He lived a heroically holy life, spending all his time in prayer, penance, and service. This service would overflow to the poor throughout Lima. On normal days he would serve over 150 poor persons through alms he helped collect. He spearheaded the building an orphanage and children's hospital. He was known for countless miracles. He loved animals and had a miraculous rapport with them, even making a deal with mice, that he would feed them if they would agree to no longer come into the priory and chew on liturgical vestments. It worked!

St. Martin de Porres is depicted in our own church. He inspires us to devote time to God, and joyfully serve others in humility and through menial tasks. Inspired by his example, then, perhaps we can look at the many menial tasks of daily life (such as laundry, cooking, and cleaning) all as great opportunities to grow in holiness and serve others in love, joy, and humility. St. Martin de Porres, pray for us!

*-Homily on St. Martin de Porres by Fr. Hyacinth Cordell, OP on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015*

## Discussion Questions

1. Why are animal issues more relevant than ever?
2. How are animal and human issues related?
3. What strikes you about what Scripture and Church teaching tell us about animals?
4. How can we imitate St. Martin de Porres—in our own way—in our relationship with animals?