

Saint Martin de Porres

Saint Martin de Porres is best known for his deep humility, his tireless care for the poor and sick in Lima, Peru.
He earned the nickname 'Saint of the Broom' because of his humble work sweeping, cleaning, and doing laundry in the Dominican monastery, viewing every menial task as an act of service to God. He trained as a barber-surgeon and spent his life tending to the sick in the monastery infirmary, feeding hundreds of poor people daily, and refusing to eat meat.

He founded an orphanage and a hospital for abandoned children, and actively ministered to enslaved Africans and marginalized communities in Peru.

He was famous for his gentle treatment of animals, often depicted with a broom alongside a dog, cat, or mice. There is one famous legend that involves a colony of mice which has taken up residence in the Monastery where Martin was. The abbot wanted to poison all the mice but Martin said he would sort it out. He caught a mouse and discussed a way forward that did not involve poison. The mouse and the colony would move out of the Monastery to somewhere else and in exchange Martin would bring them food each day. The mice moved out and everyone was happy!

He is recognized as the patron saint of **social justice**, **racial harmony**, mixed-race people, barbers, public health workers, and animals.

His feast day is November 3rd.