

St. Martin de Porres

BY PATRICIA MATHSON

FEAST DAY: **NOVEMBER 3**

Martin de Porres was born into poverty in Peru. His single mother struggled to raise him after his father left. As a youth he was an apprentice to a barber. In those days barbers also gave medical care to the sick. Martin faced prejudice in his life because he was biracial; but he forgave those who were against him.

Each person is made in God's image

He decided to become a brother in the Dominican order. Martin knew that each person is created in God's own image and should be treated with respect. He cared for the sick, the dying, slaves, and people living in poverty. He made a difference in the lives of others.



He saw Jesus in all people

Throughout his life Martin worked to serve God and others. He saw Jesus in all people. Martin cared about children too and started an orphanage for children without homes and a hospital for sick children. We too are called to see Jesus in other people.

Humble person

Martin was a humble person who also helped in the laundry and the kitchen at the monastery where he lived. He was a person of prayer in all things and had a great devotion to Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. He died in 1639. He is known as the patron saint of social justice.

What can we do?

- * Let's talk about St. Martin de Porres. What job did he have as a youth? What did he do when people were prejudiced against him? Whom did Martin help? Why are all people to be treated with respect? What are ways we can help people who are sick?
- * Let's work in small groups to make works of mercy posters. Each group will talk about how to live one of the works of mercy from Matthew 25:35-40. Then make a poster about your work of mercy. Each group will share its poster with the whole group.
- * Let's create cheerful get-well cards for people in our parish who are sick. We will use colorful card stock and fold each sheet in half.

NOVEMBER SAINTS

- 1** All Saints
- 4** St. Charles Borromeo
- 10** St. Leo the Great
- 11** St. Martin of Tours
- 13** St. Frances Cabrini

DECEMBER SAINTS

- 3** St. Francis Xavier
- 9** St. Juan Diego
- 12** St. Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 14** St. John of the Cross
- 26** St. Stephen

Use foam stickers to decorate the front of the card. On the inside print "Praying for you" and sign your first name.

Prayer

God, Father of all people, open our hearts to the needs of others. Help us to bring hope to the lives of other people like St. Martin de Porres. We pray for justice in our world for all nations and all races and all people. Amen.

Patricia Mathson has many years of experience in faith formation as a DRE and holds a MRE degree from the University of Dallas. She is the children's ministry coordinator at Hope Family Center in Des Moines, IA. She is the author of many books including *Prayers and Activities on Service* (Twenty-Third Publications).

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