

- Jesus light our way on our faith journey. Be our guide, our joy and our

St. Martin de Porres

1579 - 1639

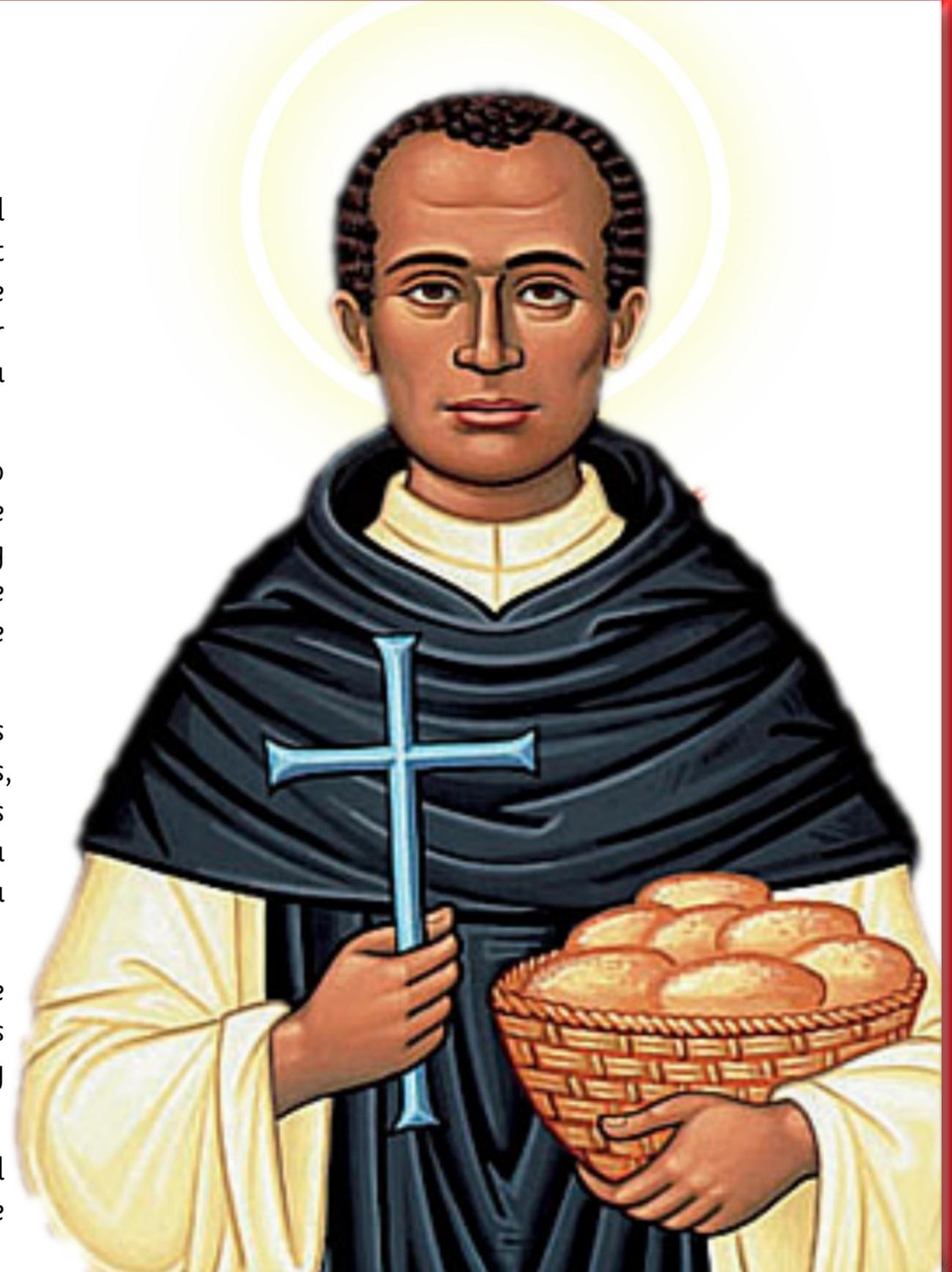
Martin was born at Lima in Peru. His father was a Spanish knight and his mother was earlier an Indian slave from Panama who had been set free. When Martin was very young, his father went away, leaving the family to look out for themselves. As they were very poor, his mother could not support Martin or his sister and they were sent to live at a primary school for two years.

When he was just ten years old, Martin was placed with a surgeon to learn about the medical field and earn his living. He felt great joy while helping the sick. He also learned how to cure many diseases according to the practices of those days. Even as a young boy, he spent some time every night in prayer. Martin grew up good and holy and decided to give himself to God and asked for admission to a Dominican Convent.

Brother Martin soon proved to be a wonderful religious. No one was kinder or more obedient or holy. Before long, he began to work miracles, too. He was known to go through locked doors to help the sick. He was even seen in other countries helping the sick although he never left Lima all his life. He cured so many sick people that everyone in the city of Lima would ask for Brother Martin when there was sickness.

This kind-hearted saint was also very good to animals. He excused the comings and goings of rats and mice by saying, "The poor little things don't have enough to eat." In his sister's house, he kept a home for stray cats and dogs too.

When Martin died on November 3, 1639, this beloved saint was carried to his tomb by bishops and noblemen who wanted to honour the humble and holy brother.



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