

Saint Martin de Porres

by Paula de Rushe - Quintal

Saint Dunstan's Catholic Church
Toronto, ON

Thanks for bringing me to "Take Your Kids to Work Day" mom! One day I want to be a doctor like you.

That's wonderful Donna! You can do anything if you put your mind to it! Study hard and follow your dreams.

I can't wait to tell my friends Katie and Alisha all about my day!

Thanks for picking up Donna, Mr. MacDonald!

My pleasure, Dr. Amoto! The girls are waiting for her in the car. They want to go for slushies before I take them home from school.

I had such a great time with mom today. It's so cool she helps people get well.

Here we are girls. What flavours would you like?

Hmmm... Lemonade I think.

Cherry please!

Strawberry thank you!

So this guy comes in with a broken foot, and they took Xrays, and mom had to put it in a cast, and he felt so much better!

Let's go sit outside and enjoy the sunshine with our slushies.

It's wonderful your mom is a doctor, Donna! Do you girls know there is a saint who also cared greatly for the sick and wounded? His name is Martin de Porres.

Tell us about him please!

Martin was born in Peru in 1579. His father was a Spanish gentleman and his mother a freed slave.

WHILE STILL YOUNG, HIS FATHER ABANDONED MARTIN, HIS MOTHER, AND HIS SISTER. THEY WERE LEFT IN POVERTY TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES.

Martin, you will need to leave school and find a job to help us survive.

MARTIN GREW UP BEING TEASED BY OTHERS BECAUSE OF HIS MIXED RACE HERITAGE.



EVENTUALLY MARTIN FOUND A JOB ASSISTING A SURGEON.



MARTIN DID MENIAL TASKS IN RETURN FOR BEING ABLE TO LIVE AT THE MONASTRY. HE ALSO SPENT LONG HOURS IN PRAYER AND CARING FOR THE SICK. HE HELPED EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF STATUS OR RACE, EVEN DURING TOUGH TIMES.



AFTER YEARS PASSED, MARTIN WAS ABLE TO RAISE THE FUNDS TO START UP AN ORPHANAGE FOR ABANDONED CHILDREN AND TO ASSIST SLAVES AND OTHERS IN NEED.



MARTIN WAS A SIMPLE AND CHEERFUL PERSON WHO LOVED GOD WITH ALL HIS HEART. HE WAS ESPECIALLY RESPECTED FOR HEALING OF THE SICK.



Eventually, when Martin was 60 years old, he became very ill. He passed away in 1639 after suffering for a year.



In his actions, humility and service to others, Martin is still a great example to us even now in speaking up for social justice.



MARTIN WAS CANONIZED A SAINT IN 1962. HE IS THE PATRON SAINT OF MIXED RACE PEOPLE, BARBERS, PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS AND MORE. HIS FEAST DAY IS CELEBRATED ON NOVEMBER 3.



HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS SHORT STORY IN OUR "LIVES OF THE SAINTS" COMICS SERIES FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART. THANK YOU FOR READING! St. Dunstan's Catholic Church, Toronto, ON Canada. 06/2021