

Saint Martin de Porres Velázquez was born in Lima, Peru in 1579. He was the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a freed slave from Panama who was of African descent. Because of his mixed race, he was often scorned and excluded; when he wished to join the Dominicans, he was only allowed to be a volunteer in the order. After almost 10 years of devoted service, the Dominican prior allowed him to take vows as a lay brother over the objections of several members. Saint Martin became a skilled healer and was well known for his compassionate care of the sick. His feast day falls on November 3rd.

Prayer to St. Martin de Porres

St. Martin, we live in a world
That sorely needs you as a model.
Guide us in the ways of tolerance and healing.

St. Martin, you endured the torments of so many
Because of your mixed racial and cultural heritage.
Guide us in the ways of tolerance and acceptance,
Open to welcoming all without questioning
Or challenging their identity.

St. Martin, you displayed patience and respect
While waiting many years
For full acceptance in your order.
Guide us to be patient and respectful
As we work for the acceptance and inclusion
Of all God's children into our communities.

St. Martin, you became a caring and compassionate healer
Treating the rich and the poor, the powerful and the powerless
With the same concern and compassion.
Guide us to become a nation and a world community
That offers every human person quality health care.

St. Martin, we live in a world
That sorely needs you as a model.
Guide us in the ways of tolerance and healing. Amen.

- Jane Deren, Ph.D.

