

Saint Martin of Porres

1579-1639

Contemporary and countryman of Saint Rose, Saint Martin of Porres at the age of 15 asked to enter the Monastery of the Holy Rosary of Lima.

Frequent mystical phenomena – bi-location, levitation, ecstasy – all give testimony to the degree of union with God this humble lay-brother had attained. He erected a boarding school for abandoned youth and he asserted his influence to defend from hidden dangers the young girls who were without economic resources.

Immense is the devotion that the indigenous South Americans nurture towards this Saint. The General Chapter of 1938 proclaimed Brother Martin the Patron of Dominican Brother Cooperators.

day Saint Martin was going up the stairs which lead to the infirmary of the monastery. In one hand he held a brazier and in the other some medical supplies. In the middle of the stairway a horrible monster suddenly appeared. When the Saint demanded what the beast was doing in that place, the monstrous being revealed that to be the devil himself and confessed that he was there to destroy a soul. Saint Martin unfastened his cincture and began to whip the demon with the hope that he would leave, but each attempt of his resulted in vain. He then took one of the coals and drew the sign



He was solemnly canonized by Pope John XXIII on the 5th of May 1962.

One of his biographers, the Dominican Fr. J. Kearns, tells how the Virgin Mary often sent Angels to him. These Angels always presented themselves in the guise of young men holding lit candles in their hand; they would accompany him from the dormitory to the choir and then they would disappear. This privilege was seen and attested to by many of the fellow brothers of the Saint. On another occasion the priests and brothers of his community saw one day Saint Martin in the company of two angels during the recital of the Office of the Virgin Mary. Another time, the Saint was seen walking in the cloister (courtyard) of the monastery in the company of four very beautiful angels who carried lit torches in their hands. But Saint Martin also underwent frequent assaults of the demon. Famous is the incident which tells of how one

of the cross on the wall with it. The tempter could not resist the sign of the Redeemer and ran away immediately. To memorialize the event, Saint Martin placed a wooden cross at the site where the encounter with the devil took place. Another time the devil started a fire in the cell of Saint Martin. A dense black smoke began to leak out of the room of the Saint. Two fellow brothers were passing by in the corridor quickly rushed to the cell. As soon as they opened the door they found in front of them frightening flames of fire and all seemed lost when they suddenly noticed Saint Martin praying on his knees completely unharmed. The Saint then calmly reassured his brothers making them notice that regardless of the flames that danced around the furniture, nothing was destroyed. He explained to them that it was an illusion created by the devil to terrorize them and make them lose faith in God.