

Saint of the Week for October 29, 2017:

Also known as Saint of the Broom

(for his devotion to his work, no matter how menial)

Memorial: November 3

Menial means lacking dignity or interest. Menial work was done by servants.

Profile:

- This saint was the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman, Juan, and a young freed black slave, Anna Velasquez
- He grew up in poverty and spent part of his youth with a surgeon–barber from whom he learned some medicine and care of the sick.
- At age 11, he became a servant in the Holy Rosary Dominican priory in Lima, Peru.
- He begged more than \$2,000 a week from the rich to support the poor and sick of Lima.
- Placed in charge of the Dominican’s infirmary (hospital), he was known for his tender care of the sick and for his spectacular cures.
- His superiors dropped the stipulation that “no black person may be received to the holy habit or profession of our Order” and Martin took vows as a Dominican brother in 1603.
- Established an orphanage and children’s hospital for the poor children of the slums. Set up a shelter for the stray cats and dogs and nursed them back to health.
- Lived in a plain and simple life; never ate meat, fasted continuously, and spent much time in prayer and meditation with a great devotion to the Holy Eucharist.
- He was the first black saint from the Americas.

Born: December 9, 1579 at Lima, Peru

Died: November 3, 1639 in Lima, Peru of fever.

Venerated: February 27, 1763 by Pope Clement XIII

Beatified: October 29, 1837 by Pope Gregory XVI

Canonized: May 6, 1962 by Pope John XXIII



Who am I?