



DARE TO BE SAINTS

ST MARTIN DE PORRES

Feast: 3rd November

Born to parents of mixed race in Lima, Peru on December 9, 1579, Martin's father abandoned the family leaving the mother and two children alone.



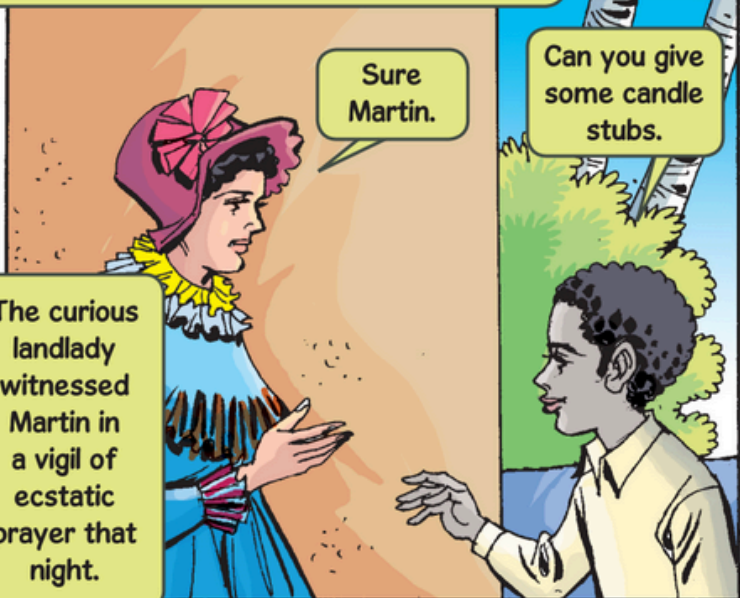
Martin grew up in utter poverty but he was very kind hearted and would feed the poor with his scarce resources.



When he was twelve, Martin began work as an apprentice to a barber-surgeon. He learned to cut hair and the medical arts.



Martin was very prayerful from his childhood. One day he begged his landlady:

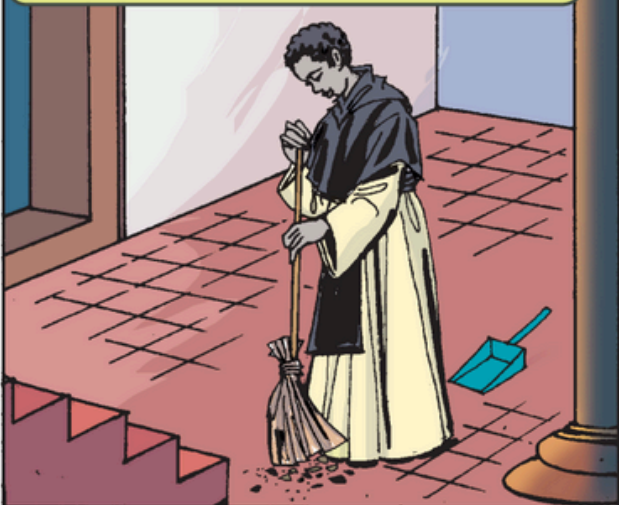


Sure Martin.

Can you give some candle stubs.

The curious landlady witnessed Martin in a vigil of ecstatic prayer that night.

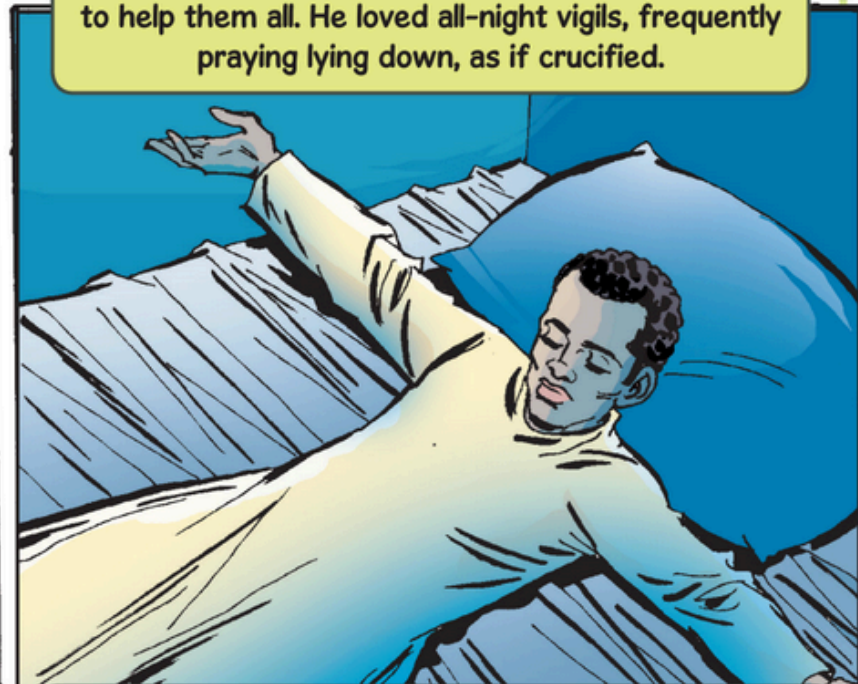
Martin applied to the Dominican Convent of the Holy Rosary in Lima and was accepted as a servant there. He would do hard and menial tasks like cleaning, cooking, doing laundry, etc.



By his prayers and thorough medical knowledge, he cured the most frightening diseases.



During an epidemic in Lima, many of the friars in the convent became very ill. Martin was miraculously able to help them all. He loved all-night vigils, frequently praying lying down, as if crucified.



Martin had a special love for animals. Once, the monastery faced a terrible rodent problem. Martin took care of this.

I promise you to feed you every day in the garden. But please do not touch the food of monastery.



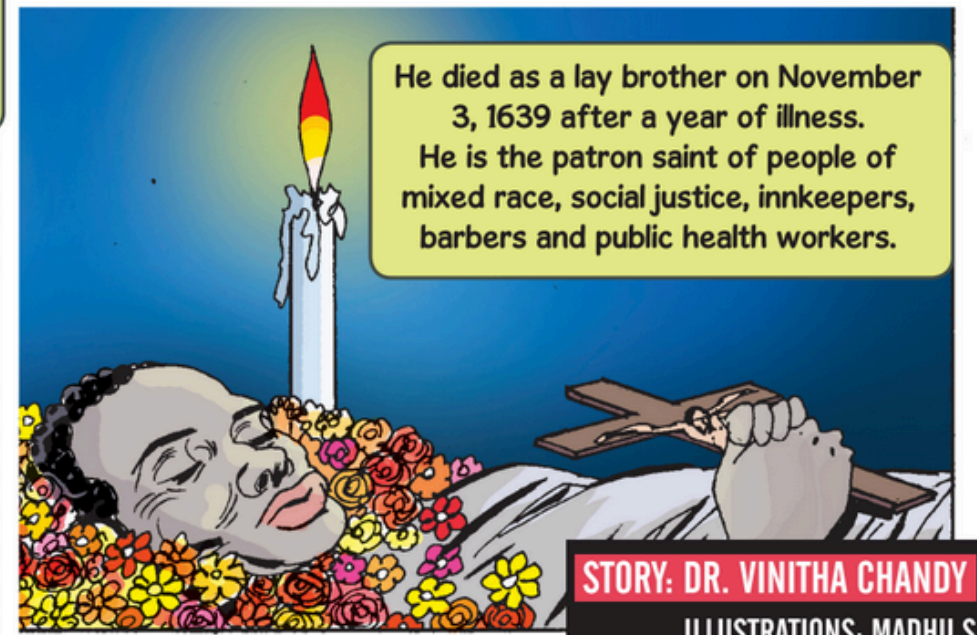
He had the gift of bilocation; he was seen in different places by people who knew him well, despite never leaving Lima since entering the order.



Martin was great friends with both St. Juan Macias, a fellow Dominican lay brother and St. Rose of Lima.



He died as a lay brother on November 3, 1639 after a year of illness. He is the patron saint of people of mixed race, social justice, innkeepers, barbers and public health workers.



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