

Daily Homily
St. Martin de Porres, Religious
Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time: Friday
3 November 2023
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We just celebrated All Saints... and then All Souls... and now we are back to individual saints. Today, St. Martin de Porres. Born in Lima, Peru in 1579... His father was from Spain and his mother was from Panama.

At the age of 15 he became a Dominican lay brother and spent his time there as a barber, farm laborer, almoner, and worked with the sick in the infirmary, among other things.

When a saint is canonized, one of the first things that the Church attributes to them would be scripture readings that exemplifies their life... a Gospel that they lived out till their death. So that's why today we hear from Paul to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always." St. Martin was known for his joyful spirit even in the midst of hardship.

And then the "Greatest Commandment..." St. Martin's love extended to everyone, including animals big and small. But his love for God also granted him insight into God's thoughts. He had a spiritual wisdom about him that led others – including bishops – to seek his counsel. Others made their way to sainthood because of their mutual friendship, like St. Rose of Lima.

May the saints and the souls whom we have lifted up in prayer this week, continue to have an influence on our own way of moving about in the world so that we too, like St. Martin, can live out God's Word and the Good News of the Gospel.