

martin de porres



A Beggar for Justice

1579–1639

Born in Lima, Peru

Feast Day: November 3

Patronage:

Social justice

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Illustrated by Katherine A. Borgatti



Liguori

Dedication

To my family:
my parents Jim and Peg,
my husband Bill,
our son Sam and daughter-in-law Erin,
and our precious grandchildren
Ben, Lucas, and Andrew

To all the children I have had the privilege
of teaching throughout the years.

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First Edition

Dear Parents and Teachers:

Saints and Me! is a series of children's books about saints, with six books in each set. The first set is titled *Saints of North America*. This set, *Saints of Christmas*, selects seven heavenly heroes who teach us to love the Infant Jesus. Some saints in this set have feast days within Advent and Christmas time, but others are celebrated within ordinary time and Easter time. We selected these saints based on their connection to the Christmas story and how they inspire us to let the mystery of Christ's birth grow within our hearts.

Saints of Christmas includes the heroic lives of seven saints from different times and places who loved Jesus. Saints Mary and Joseph witnessed the miracle of God's abundant love for humanity as our Infant Savior entered the world to bring us home to God. Saint Lucy followed Jesus in a time when Christianity was against the law. The story of Saint Nicholas was so incredible that it inspired our secular notion of Santa Claus. Saint Francis of Assisi added much flavor to our current Christmas traditions. Saint Martin de Porres is a biracial saint who teaches us about divine love for all people. And a saint of our own era, Gianna Beretta Molla, witnessed a deep belief in the gift of life.

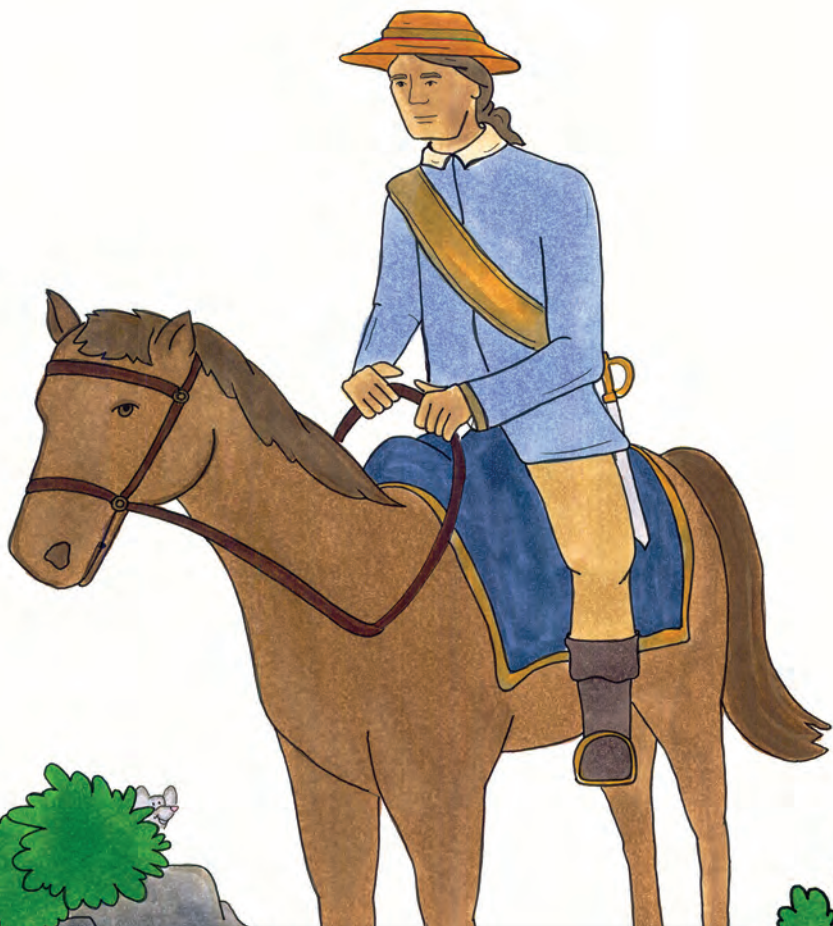
Which saint cared for slaves from Africa? Who became a doctor and mother? What saints were present at Jesus' birth in Bethlehem? Who desired to be a knight? Which saint was a bishop of a seaport city? Do you know which saint's name means "light?" Find the answers in the *Saints of Christmas* set, part of the *Saints and Me!* series, and help your child identify with the lives of the saints.

Introduce your children or students to the *Saints and Me!* series as they:

- READ** about the lives of the saints and are inspired by their stories.
- PRAY** to the saints for their intercession.
- CELEBRATE** the saints and relate to their lives.

This is a story about a very kind boy named Martin de Porres. He lived in Peru, a country in South America. Little Martin had brown eyes and dark skin just like his mother.





His father, a Spanish soldier, moved away when Martin was young. Life was not easy for Martin. Children laughed at him because of his dark skin. He did not have lots of toys and clothes. Sometimes he went to bed hungry.

But instead of being sad, Martin was cheerful. And instead of being mad at people, he was helpful and kind. He prayed every day. Martin loved God with all his heart.



One day Martin's mother sent him to the market. He bought bread and potatoes. Martin put the food in his basket and began to run home. When he saw a beggar on the side of the road, he stopped. The beggar looked hungry. "Here, take this," Martin said with a smile. He gave all his food to the poor woman.



