

## “A Great Cloud of Witnesses”

A Historical Series of the Murals on the Walls of Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Church

### Saint Martin de Porres

*17th Century South America*

St. Martin was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579, the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a former African slave. He would spend hours in prayer even at a young age.

When he was 15 years old, he entered a Dominican convent as a Third Order Dominican. He began as a servant, but his duties and responsibilities increased as the Dominicans noticed his piety and ability. They soon made him a full member of the Dominican Order, dropping the racial limits to becoming a Dominican brother.



He was never ordained a priest, but from the age of 24 until his death at age 60, he was in charge of the infirmary of the convent. It was in this capacity that he revealed his holiness. Many times St. Martin would bring in strangers who were sick and heal them, and often place them in his own bed. He would also beg in the city of Lima for money to buy the necessities of the infirmary. It is said that St. Martin also begged for enough money to feed 160 poor people a day, an extraordinary phenomenon.

When St. Martin died in 1639, he was known to the entire city. He is the patron saint of people of mixed race, innkeepers, and public health.

**His Feast day is November 3.**

Each month, this series will feature the murals painted on the walls of Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Church along with history and commentary. You can also find this series on our website at [www.hcscchurch.org](http://www.hcscchurch.org).  
*Historical commentary researched and prepared by Anthony Lickteig (Seminarian).*