



SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES

St. Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru in 1579. His father was a Spanish nobleman, and so would not marry Martin’s mother who was a freed slave. For many years, he wouldn’t even recognize Martin as his son because he had dark skin like his mother. Many people looked down on him because of this, but he knew that his identity did not come from how others treated him. St. Martin was kind and thoughtful with everyone. When he joined the Dominican Order, he was happy to do the humble, hard jobs. St. Martin gave food and shelter to many people in need and started a home and school for orphans where they learned how to find work. He is famous for his gifts of healing. St. Martin loved everyone and found great happiness in seeing and taking care of the needs of others.

GIFT-OF-SELF

1) Take a moment to pray. In prayer, ask God to help you think of someone you love who is in need. What do they need? Ask God to help you think of a way you can help by being a gift-of-self to that person.

2) Write your Gift-of-Self below. Once God has helped you think of someone, write down his/her name and how and when you will make a gift-of-self.


3) Do what you have written. Pay attention and notice. Did your gift-of-self make them happy? Whether or not it made them happy, did it make you happy to do it? Thank God in prayer for giving you the idea.

MY GIFT-OF-SELF

SOMEONE IN NEED _____

MY GIFT-OF-SELF _____

WHEN I WILL DO IT _____




THEOLOGY OF THE BODY TIDBITS...

Authentic identity and true happiness are not found in what others think of us, what we have or focusing on ourselves. The very act of giving to others out of love as in listening to, praying for or serving others from love brings joy. Knowing who we are in God’s eyes and being a gift-of-self reveals our identity and purpose.