



VOCATION SPIRIT NEWS

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THE YEAR OF THE PRIEST

Saint Martin de Porres: Feeding the Hungry of Lima

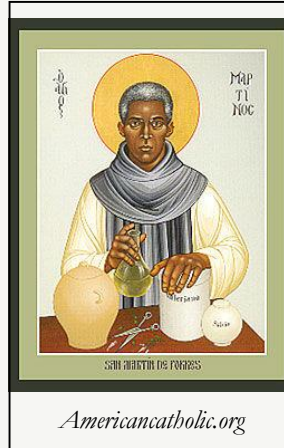
By Bob Spoerl
 This week, a number of groups on the campus of Loyola University here in Chicago unite to bring awareness to a worldwide struggle. We begin the week running by fasting (Though it would be really difficult to begin fasting with a run). Each year, nearly 200 students at Loyola University Chicago have committed to fasting for nearly 12 hours, abstaining from both food and drink to remember the millions around the world who go without today. Known as the "Fast-a-Thon," and sponsored by Loyola Muslim Students' Association, the event is a time to feel hunger and fight hunger." The saint honored by the Catholic Church today is one that I actually recognize fairly well, and is one who was known to do his fair share of fasting. His name is Martin de Porres, and he lived in Lima, Peru in the late 1500s, early 1600s. His father was a Spanish knight, his mother a freed woman from Panama. Martin was accepted as a brother in a

religious order known as the Dominicans. Martin worked with the sick his whole life, caring for them with what his peers would refer to as an endless patience. He would establish a hospital for sick children in his hometown and would also provide food for African slaves in Lima.

St. Martin de Porres holds a unique place in my heart because of his incredible love and service for the most poor and needy of his time and his work with children. I also find him to be a hero because he broke racial boundaries. He is remembered as a patron of social justice and a patron saint for African-Americans. Here is a link that gives a little more detailed blurb about Martin:

[Martin de Porres](http://Americancatholic.org)

I see a saint like Martin de Porres as a figure who can appeal to anyone, regardless of religious affiliation, seeking to bring social justice to society-at-small and society-at-large. It is interesting to note that, though he dreamed of being



a missionary, Martin never left Lima. With all his work focused in one place, he was able to bring health care, food, healing to those in his city. His concentrated ministry can teach us all a thing or two about really putting stake in the place we are. As good as it is to give to organizations and to people all over the world, it is just as good to look to assist those in need in our own backyard.

How can *we* feed the hungry?
 How can *I* feed the hungry?

Something to think about while celebrating Martin de Porres' saintly life

from American Catholic:

Racism is a sin almost nobody confesses. Like pollution, it is a "sin of the world" that is everybody's responsibility but apparently nobody's fault. One could hardly imagine a more fitting patron of Christian forgiveness (on the part of those discriminated against) and Christian justice (on the part of reformed racists) than Martin de Porres.

Let us
 who are the children
 of pain
 be now a bridge
 of reconciliation.

—*What We Have Seen and Heard*,
 U.S. Black Catholic Bishops

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Milwaukee

There is a church in our Archdiocese whose patron saint is Martin de Porres. St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, located on 128 W. Burleigh Street on the north side of Milwaukee, is home to a welcoming community of Catholics. St. Martin de Porres' Community describes itself like this: "Like St. Martin de Porres himself, our parish is a rich mixture of people and talents with a commitment to discipleship and service in the spirit of Jesus. Many Sundays during our Call to Worship one of our ministers will assure our visitors: "If you already have a church home, we hope that you'll consider St. Martin de Porres your 'home away from home,' and if you don't have a church home, we welcome you to join us."

[Click here to visit St. Martin de Porres' website!](http://Americancatholic.org)



Picture of recent Pastor, Fr. John, and parish members of Martin de Porres.

VOCATIONAL AND YOUNG ADULT QUICK LINKS:

thinkpriest.org

[HOW DO I KNOW?](#)

[HOUSE OF PEACE](#)

[Cardinal Stritch
Campus Ministry](#)

[Capuchin Volunteers](#)

[Jesuits](#)



Saint Charles Borromeo: Patron Saint of Learning and the Arts

November 4 Feast Day:

From [catholic.org](#) Charles received the clerical [tonsure](#) when he was twelve and was sent to the Benedictine [abbey](#) of SS. [Gratian](#) and Felinus at Arona for his education. In 1559 his uncle was elected Pope Pius IV and the following year, named him his Secretary of State and created him a [cardinal](#) and [administrator](#) of the see of Milan. He served as Pius' [legate](#) on numerous diplomatic missions and in 1562, was instrumental in having Pius reconvene the Council of Trent, which had been suspended in 1552. Charles played a leading role in guiding and in fashioning the decrees of the third and last group of sessions. He refused the headship of the Borromeo [family](#) on the death of Count Frederick

Borromeo, was ordained a [priest](#) in 1563, and was consecrated [bishop](#) of [Milan](#) the same year. Before being allowed to take possession of his see, he oversaw the catechism, missal, and [breviary](#) called for by the Council of Trent. When he finally did arrive at [Trent](#) (which had been without a resident [bishop](#) for eighty years) in 1556, he instituted radical reforms despite great opposition, with such effectiveness that it became a model see. He put into effect, measures to improve the morals and manners of the clergy and laity, raised the effectiveness of the diocesan operation, established seminaries for the [education](#) of the clergy, founded a Confraternity of [Christian](#) Doctrine for the religious instruction of [children](#) and encouraged the Jesuits in his see. He increased the systems to



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the poor and the needy, was most generous in his help to the English [college](#) at Douai, and during his bishopric held eleven diocesan synods and six [provincial](#) councils. He founded a [society](#) of secular priests, Oblates of [St. Ambrose](#) (now Oblates of St. Charles) in 1578, and was active in preaching, resisting the inroads of protestantism, and bringing back lapsed Catholics to the Church. (Our diocese has two St. Charles Borromeo churches, one in Burlington, the other in Milwaukee).

WHAT IS A VOCATION TEAM?

A Parish Vocation Team is a group of men and women dedicated in creating an environment in the parish that is conducive to fostering vocations. They are willing to devote time, talent and energy to help other parishioners come to a better understanding about vocations within our church today. A Vocation Team helps to assure that the vocation committee remains vibrant through prayer, study and planned activities for the Parish. They also serve as the connecting link with the Vocation Office about the progress and activity of the parish vocation committee, engaging in on-going dialogue about how the office can be of assistance – raising questions, concerns and issues for discussion. They have the support and approval of the pastor and pastoral staff parish

Thanks to St. Jude League!

Victory! Go fighting Saint Francis de Sales Seminarians!



On Sunday, October 25, **Deacon Matthew Widdler** (right) graciously accepted a \$1,000 donation to the Vocations Office. The officers of the **St. Jude League of Kenosha** who presented the gift are the treasurer, Joseph Carlini (left) and the president, William Rice, Jr. (Center). The presentation took place after a celebration of Mass at St. James Catholic Church in Kenosha. **Deacon Matthew will be ordained to the priesthood this coming May.**

Saint Francis de Sales Seminary defeats worthy opponent to bring home the St. Lawrence Cup

Anonymous Saint Francis Sports Beat Writer:

In a great display of athleticism, Saint Francis de Sales Seminary defeated Nashotah House Episcopal Seminary 14-6 to bring home the much-coveted St. Lawrence Cup. The two seminaries took to the St. Thomas More High School football field in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to battle in a game of flag football on Sunday, October 18. The second annual football game evens the score between Saint Francis de Sales and Nashotah House – last year's win went to the Nashotah House team.



After the game, both teams joined together in evening prayer and ended the day with dinner at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary. The silver St. Lawrence Cup, donated by Fr. William Crary, Jr. and Fr. Lee Nelson of St. Lawrence Parish in Grapevine, Texas, will sit proudly on display at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary until what promises to be an exciting rematch next year. Congratulations and thanks to both teams for a fun-filled event!



Saint Francis Seminary Online

THE CATHOLIC PRIEST TODAY
A MAN OF FAITH - A MAN OF TRADITION - A MAN OF GOD

"The Catholic priest is a man shaped by God's self revelation to the world. The priest shares all that he has received."

Francis Cardinal George, OMI
Archbishop of Chicago