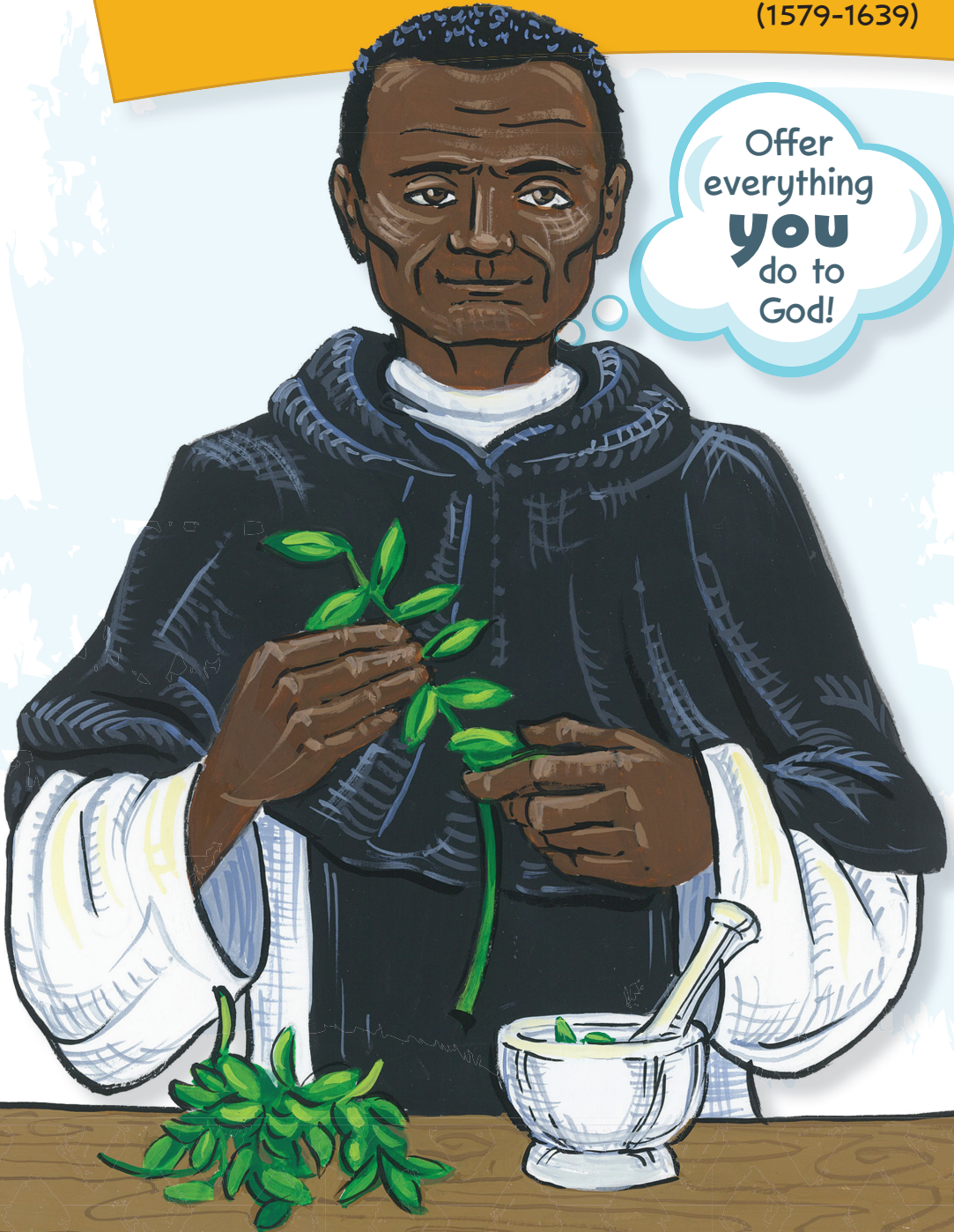


Saint Martin de Porres

(1579-1639)

Offer
everything
you
do to
God!





Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru. He inherited the features and dark complexion of his mother, who was from Panama. His father, originally from Spain, disliked his son's looks. After Martin's sister was born, his father abandoned the family and left Martin's mother to raise the two children alone. In childhood and even as an adult, Martin was mocked for being of mixed race.

When Martin was twelve, he went to work for a barber. He not only learned to cut hair but also to use various herbs to help the sick. He joined the Dominican order as a "lay helper," but after a few years, the community asked him to join as a vowed member. Martin oversaw almsgiving (helping the poor with money and goods), as well as taking care of the sick. His concern extended to animals, and he founded the first animal shelter in the New World (the lands across the ocean from Europe) at his sister's farm. Martin is the patron saint of those seeking racial harmony.



Prayer

Saint Martin de Porres, pray for me, that I may treat everyone I meet with kindness.



Saint Martin de Porres was looked down on because he was different. Write a prayer here for those who are teased or bullied.

