

St. Martin de Porres (1579-1639) was born at Lima in Peru as the son of a Spanish father, and a black mother. He learned how to cut hair and to dispense medicines. Later he joined the Dominican Order leading a humble and austere life and had a great devotion towards the Holy Eucharist. Martin's life reflected God's extra-ordinary gifts.



First Reading: (Rom 13:8-10) Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbour has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9

R./ The good man takes pity and lends.

Gospel: (Lk 14:25-33) Great multitudes accompanied him; and he turned and said to them, "If any one comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sis-

ters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build, and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an embassy and asks terms of peace. So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

REFLECTION

Love is surrender. Can love do harm? No. Love does no wrong neither to oneself nor to a neighbor. Instead, love inspires the right direction, accompanies in life's situations and leads into eternal salvation. Love is inoffensive yet all-powerful. It respects freedom while being ever-present. Love is God Himself. True discipleship is about loving God above all things and above everyone else. Jesus in today's Gospel calls for total availability and surrender to the priorities of God our Heavenly Father. Francis de Sales has understood the wealth of being committed to Him. He says: **the heart of God is abounding in love. His goodness is supremely infinite. This infinity is so great that all can possess it without each one possessing less of it.**