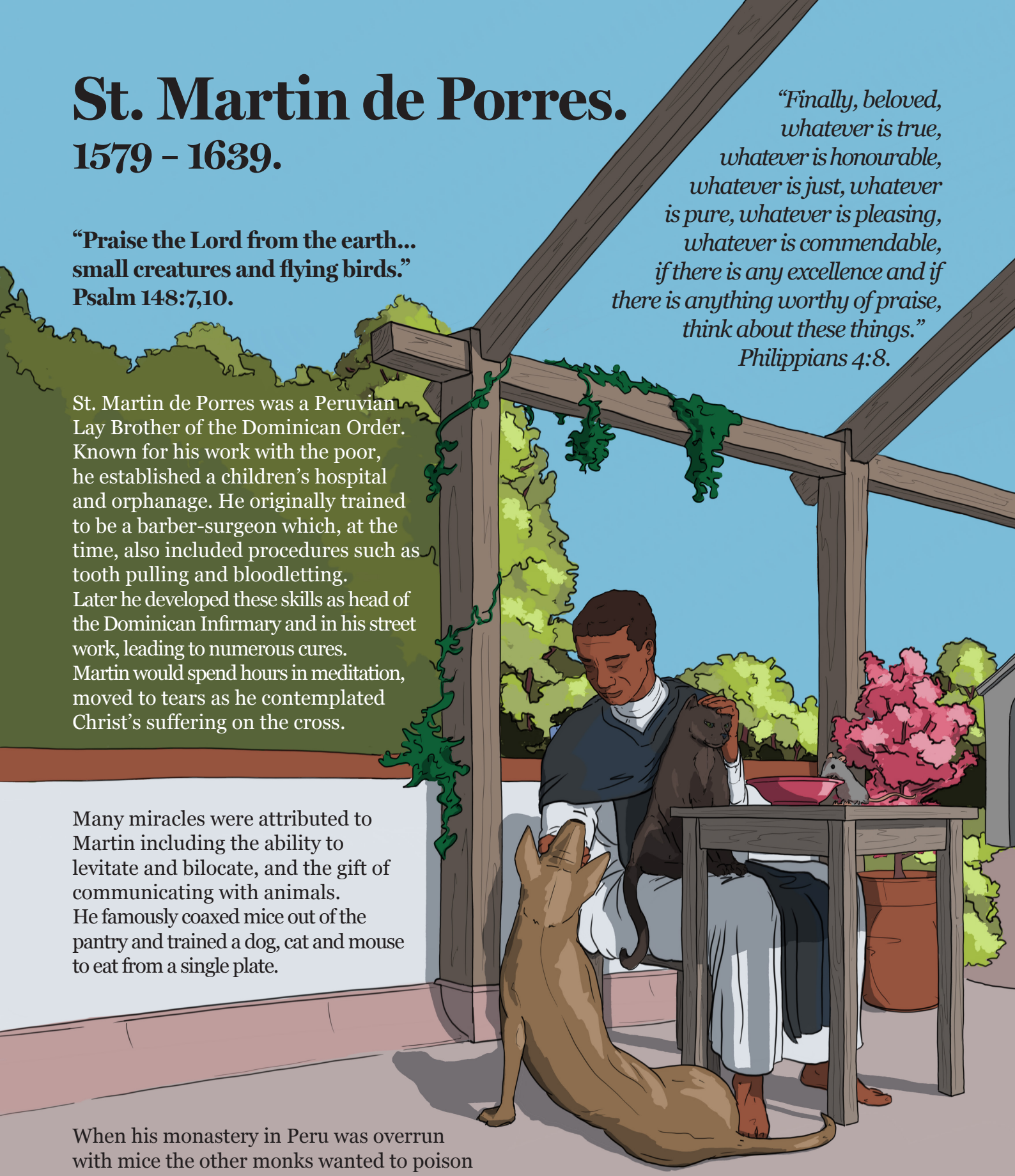
St. Martin de Porres.
1579 – 1639.

"Praise the Lord from the earth... small creatures and flying birds." Psalm 148:7,10.

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4:8.

St. Martin de Porres was a Peruvian Lay Brother of the Dominican Order. Known for his work with the poor, he established a children's hospital and orphanage. He originally trained to be a barber-surgeon which, at the time, also included procedures such as tooth pulling and bloodletting. Later he developed these skills as head of the Dominican Infirmary and in his street work, leading to numerous cures. Martin would spend hours in meditation, moved to tears as he contemplated Christ's suffering on the cross.



Many miracles were attributed to Martin including the ability to levitate and bilocate, and the gift of communicating with animals. He famously coaxed mice out of the pantry and trained a dog, cat and mouse to eat from a single plate.

When his monastery in Peru was overrun with mice the other monks wanted to poison them. Martin refused to kill them, instead he made an agreement with the mice that if they stayed outside the monastery, he would feed them at the garden door. The mice obeyed and left. Throughout his life, Martin modelled radical inclusion - he treated animals, wealthy nobles, enslaved peoples and the indigenous poor with equal love and dignity.

Feast Day:

3rd November