

A decorative border of colorful flowers and leaves surrounds the text. The flowers include tulips, roses, and smaller blossoms in shades of blue, pink, and green.

Book of Saints

“SUPERHEROES OF GOD”

By **REV. LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, S.V.D.**

Divine Word Missionary

PART 7

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Saint Valentine

February 14

VALENTINE was a Roman priest and may also have been a Bishop. Together with St. Marius and his family, Valentine assisted the martyrs who suffered during the reign of Emperor Claudius in the third century.

In time, Valentine was arrested and placed in the custody of a judge who had a daughter who was blind. Valentine cured her blindness. So the judge and all his family became Christians.

Because of this, Valentine was sent to the Prefect of Rome, who commanded that the holy man should be beaten with clubs and afterward beheaded. Valentine suffered martyrdom about the year 270.

Today, it is a custom to send Valentines to those we love on the feastday of St. Valentine. The origin of this custom is not known with certainty.

One explanation given is that the custom began during the Middle Ages because of the belief that birds begin to mate on February 14. Hence, people began to send cards on this day. Since it was St. Valentine's feastday, his name came to be associated with the custom.



Saint Martin de Porres

November 3

MARTIN was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579, of a Spanish father and an African or Indian mother. He grew up in poverty and had a deep understanding and love for the poor.

When quite young, Martin went to work for a surgeon-barber. Here he learned about medicine and how to care for the sick and the wounded.

At the age of fifteen, Martin entered the Dominican convent in Lima as a helper. Later he became a lay brother. With joy and generosity, he performed lowly tasks in the kitchen, laundry, wardrobe room, and infirmary.

His charity knew no bounds as he helped those in need of food or a word of encouragement. He loved all God's creatures, even the mice that did so much damage to the convent linens.

Blessed with the gift of healing, Martin once cured the ailing Archbishop of Mexico with a touch of the hand. He died of fever in 1639 and was beatified in 1873. In 1962, he was canonized by Pope John XXIII.