

Namesake Saints of Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican

Each Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican hospital is named for a Catholic saint whose life embodied values that inspire modern health care. The extraordinary compassion modeled by these three individuals continues to serve as a guiding presence for the employees of Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican. The hospital system derives its name from that of the original campus, Rose de Lima, while the second and third hospital campuses adopted names of saints who served the sick and helpless.

Saint Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)

Originally named Caterina Benincasa, Catherine of Siena was born in Siena, Italy, on March 25, 1347, to a family of modest means. She was a lay member of the Dominican Order and had great compassion for the poor and sick. Her preaching took the form of prolific writing, extensive travel and active involvement in both church and civil politics which was unusual for a woman of her time.

Catherine died on April 29, 1380, was canonized by Pope Pius II in 1461, and in 1939, Pope Pius XII named her Co-Patroness of Italy. In 1970, Pope Paul VI declared her a Doctor of the Church which means her teachings are considered relevant for the whole church and for all time. She is only one of three women who hold that title.

Saint Rose de Lima (1586-1617)

Born April 20, 1586, Rose of Lima (Peru) lived two centuries after Catherine. She took the habit of the Third Order of Dominic and followed the dedicated path of Catherine of Siena. Throughout her life, Rose strived to imitate Catherine's prayerfulness and dedication to the poor and sick.

Rose was the first canonized saint of the Americas. She combined her spiritual life with a life of service to oppressed Indians and African slaves. Rose's care was so exceptional that she is remembered to this day in Latin America as a "mother of the poor." Rose died August 30, 1617. She was beatified by Clement IX in 1667 and canonized in 1671 by Clement X.

Saint Martin de Porres (1579-1639)

Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru, on December 9, 1579. His father was Don Juan de Porres, a Spanish Knight, and his mother was Anna Velasquez, a freed woman from Panama of African descent. Early in his life, Martin apprenticed with a surgeon-barber where he learned about medicine and the basics of caring for the sick and afflicted. At the age of 24, he was the first person of African descent to be given the habit of a Dominican lay Brother and was assigned to the infirmary of that monastery, where he provided physical and spiritual care to the sick and poor, including slaves. He was a personal friend and counselor to Rose de Lima in the 1600s. St. Martin maintained an animal hospital and established an orphanage and hospital for poor children and begged the wealthy people of Lima to support the poor and sick. He served the people of Lima until his death in 1639 at the age of 60.

Martin de Porres was well loved and his momentous dedication and service to others was recognized in 1962 when Pope John XXIII canonized him. Martin de Porres became the first saint of African descent.

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