



LENT

Turibius of Mogrovejo

1538–1606

Feast Day—March 23



Spanish-born Turibius was a pious youth, devoted to prayer and service of the poor. He studied law and taught as a professor of law in Salamanca. In 1574, he was appointed by King Philip II as chief judge of the inquisition of Granada, an office he fulfilled with integrity and prudence.

Known for his holiness and wisdom, and although he a layman, he was chosen to be a missionary archbishop for the Spanish colony in Peru. In humility, Turibius wrote letters to protest his appointment but seeing the need of the Church in Peru he eventually relented. In 1580, he was named archbishop of Lima, Peru; he then received Holy Orders and was ordained a bishop in Seville.

In 1581, Turibius arrived in Lima, as its second archbishop. Throughout his 25 years of missionary service, he labored to build up the local Church. He convened diocesan and provincial synods, made pastoral visits around the vast diocese—often on foot, and implemented clergy reforms to root out corruption. He also protected the rights of the native Indian people from the oppression of the Spanish colonists and was responsible for creating indigenous-language catechisms.

To better care for the physical and spiritual needs of the people, he introduced several European religious orders into Peru and founded schools, churches, and hospitals. He also opened the first seminary in the New World and encouraged native Indians to become priests. As archbishop, he baptized and confirmed many into the Christian faith, including St. Rose of Lima and St. Martin de Porres.

Turibius is a patron saint of indigenous rights, Latin American bishops, and Peru.