Reflection Thursday Week 31 St Martin de Porres 2022

Saint Martin de Porres (1579 - 1639) was born in Lima, Peru, the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a black ex-slave. His mother gave him a Christian education and he became a pharmacist and a nurse. Despite his father's opposition he entered the Dominican Order as a lay brother in 1603 and spent his life working for the sick and the poor. People of all ranks came to him for advice. He had a great devotion to the Eucharist. He is a patron saint of those of mixed race.

It could well be that St Paul originated the belief that *it is not **what you know** that is important but **who you know***. For him and for us the who is Jesus Christ. The same Jesus Christ who inspired Martin de Porres to join the Dominicans and filled him with a wisdom that helped others. This was a wisdom he discovered by working for the poor and the sick. He helps us see that Jesus wanted to help the marginalised and excluded so that he could better serve them and consequently be better able to serve others. Whatever we may have done in life, good or bad, Jesus has the wisdom he gained from living among us to know the best way to help us. In our service of others, like St Martin, we too will become wiser and better able to help others in need.

A wise old man said to me once, "The things you fear are the things you will one day encounter in life."   Never have I been so afraid of a million dollars.

I once knew a very wise herb gardener. He was known for his sage advice