

# Honoring St. Martin de Porres

By Arlene Edmonds

SPECIAL TO *THE CS&T*

PHILADELPHIA — The 48th annual Archdiocesan celebration of the canonization of St. Martin de Porres brought hundreds of Philadelphia-area Catholics to remember the contributions of the saint at a Nov. 7 Mass held at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul.

Cardinal Justin Rigali drew applause from those gathered when he recognized the presence of retired Auxiliary Bishop Robert P. Maginnis at the Mass. He also singled out Father Stephen D. Thorne, director of the Office for Black Catholics, for his contribution in coordinating the St. Martin de Porres Mass, as well as the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver for their participation.

"St. Martin de Porres was a humble man, and as every saint, did extraordinary things," said Cardinal Rigali in his remarks after the Mass. "We need more 'Martin de Porreses' in Philadelphia."

Cardinal Rigali said he hopes the 2011 Mass will be filled to capacity, and he urged all of those present to bring a friend as Catholics not only honor St. Martin de Porres, but "rededicate ourselves as members of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia."

Among those who were thrilled to be part of the Mass processional was Madeline Tymes of Yeadon, a member of the St. Charles Borromeo Parish in South Philadelphia. She was among the Ladies Court of



(Sarah Webb)

**The Ladies of Grace, Ladies of Peter Claver and Daughters of Peter Claver process into the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul Nov. 7 before the annual Mass recognizing the canonization of St. Martin de Porres.**

the Knights of Peter Claver who wore their signature white suits and hats.

"We are so pleased to have 10 of our junior ladies with us today," Tymes said. "They are from St. Benedict's and St. Athanasius parishes in Northwest Philadelphia. We also have some deacons here who all contribute to making this a proud day. It's just a wonderful gathering."

Ernest Tymes, a member of the Knights of Peter Claver since 1995, looks forward to the Martin de Porres Mass each year.

"We are celebrating an African-American saint today who had a strong faith and many talents," he said.

Martin Kline, who is not African-American, joined the Knights of Peter Claver after a Martin de Porres Mass five years ago. He said he's been coming to the Mass since its inception and always marveled

at the regal appearance of the knights. "I just feel blessed to be part of this organization and this particular Mass," Kline said.

Marilyn Barnes and Louise Hill, members of St. Benedict Parish in the West Oak Lane section of Philadelphia, said they felt honored to be at a Mass that acknowledged a saint of color. "I have been a member of the Martin de Porres mission ever since he was canonized," Barnes said.

"Today we are just here to honor this particular saint and all saints," said Norbertine Brother Gerard Jordan of Daylesford Abbey in Paoli. "Martin de Porres is not just a saint for African-Americans but for the whole Church."

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