





Saint Martin of Tours

November 11

MARTIN was born of pagan parents in what is now Hungary around the year 316 and was raised in Italy. The son of a Roman officer, he was forced to serve in the army at the age of 15. He was baptized at 18.

On a cold day, the legend goes, Martin met a poor man, almost naked, trembling, and begging from people who passed by. Martin had nothing but weapons and clothes. He drew his sword, cut his coat into two pieces, and gave one to the beggar. That night in his sleep Martin saw Christ dressed in the half of the garment he had given away.

At 23 Martin went to be a disciple of St. Hilary of Poitiers, France, and was ordained a priest. He preached throughout the countryside for ten years.

The people of Tours demanded that he become their Bishop. He became the most celebrated Bishop of the 4th century, and one of the great Saints of France. He died in 397.