

Saint Turibius died on March 23, 1606, repeating the words by the same prophet, "into thy hands I commend my spirit." His body being translated the year after to Lima, was found incorrupt, the joints flexible, and the skin soft. His historian, and the acts of the canonization, mention many sick restored to their health, and a girl raised to life by him whilst he was living; also many miracles wrought through his intercession after his death. He was beatified by Pope Innocent XI in 1679, and solemnly canonized by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726.

\*(excerpted from: [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com); [www.ucatholic.com](http://www.ucatholic.com))



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## Saint Turibius de Mogrovejo of Peru

Feast Day: March 23



*"We ought not to fear dangers for the sake of immortal glory"*

Saint Turibius de Mogrovejo

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\*Saint Toribio, or Turibius Alphonsus de Mogrovejo, was the second son of the lord of Mogrovejo, Spain, and was born in the kingdom of Leon, on November 16, 1538. In his childhood he would erect and adorn altars, and serve the poor. One day, seeing a poor peddler woman angry because she had lost something out of her pack, he most movingly entreated and exhorted her not to offend God by passion; and, in order to appease her, gave her the value of her loss, which he had begged of his mother for that purpose. He was very devout to the Blessed Virgin, and every day said her office and rosary, and fasted every Saturday in her honor.

He was educated for the law, and became a brilliant scholar. He was made professor of law at the University of Salamanca and eventually Chief Judge of the Inquisition at Granada. He was not sharp enough a lawyer to prevent a surprising sequence of events. When the Archbishop of Lima in Peru required a new leader, Turibius was chosen to fill the post. He was the one person with the strength, character, and holiness of spirit, required to heal the scandals that have infected that area.

King Philip II readily nominated him to that dignity, but Turibius citing all the canons that forbade giving laymen ecclesiastical dignities resisted the nomination, but he was overruled. After a suitable preparation, he received the four minor orders on four successive Sundays, and after passing through the other orders, he was consecrated bishop. Immediately afterwards he set out for Peru, and landed at Lima, in the year 1581, at the age of forty-three.

His diocese extended over a wide area, comprising of three cities, many towns and villages, with innumerable cottages scattered over two ridges of the Andes Mountains, one of the most highest and most rugged mountains in the world. Civil wars and dissension completed the misfortune of that country; and covetousness, cruelty, treachery, fraud, and debauchery seemed triumphant. The repeated orders of the Spanish court did little to redress these evils.

Upon his arrival, he immediately began a visitation of his vast diocese – an undertaking of incredible fatigue, and attended with many dangers. He often crept over the steepest and most rugged mountains, covered with snow or ice, to visit some poor hut of Indians, and give them suitable comfort and instruction. He traveled often on foot, and sometimes barefoot, and by fasting and prayer never ceased to implore the divine mercy for the salvation of the souls committed to his charge. He placed everywhere able and zealous pastors, and took care that no one in the most remote corners of the rocks should be left destitute of the means of instruction and of the benefit of the sacraments. To settle and maintain discipline, he appointed diocesan synods to be held every two years, and provincial synods every seven. Without respect of persons, he reproved injustice and vice, and made use of all the means of his authority to check the insolence of public sinners, and to protect the poor from oppression.

To extend and perpetuate the advantages of religion, he filled the country with seminaries, churches, and many hospitals. When he was at Lima, every day he would visit several hospitals, comforted and exhorted the sick, and administered the sacraments. When a pestilence raged in some parts of his diocese, Turibius distributed his own possessions in relieving the afflicted: he preached penance, because sins are the cause of chastisements, and are infinitely the most worst of evils.

He spent seven years in performing his first visitation; his second employed him for four years, but the third was shorter. He converted innumerable infidels, and left monuments of his charity everywhere he went. On his arrival at a place, it was his custom to first repair the church and then to pray before the altar. Then he would catechize to the poor, and would sometimes stay two or three days in places where he had neither bed nor any kind of food. He visited every part of his vast diocese, and when others suggested to him the dangers that threatened him from rocks, precipices, marshes, rivers, robbers, and savages, his answer was that Christ came from heaven to save man, we are not therefore to fear dangers for the sake of immortal glory.

The decrees of his provincial councils are monuments of his zeal, piety, learning, and discretion: they have been ever since esteemed, not only in the new world, but also in Europe, and at Rome itself, as oracles. The flourishing state of the church of Peru, the great numbers of saints and eminent pastors with which it abounded, and the establishment of innumerable seminaries of piety and learning, and hospitals for the poor, were the fruit of his zeal. If he did not originally plant the faith, he was at least the great propagator of it, and the chief instrument of God in removing scandals and advancing true piety in that vast country, which till then had been a land of abominations.

In 1606 doing a visitation of his diocese, Saint Turibius fell sick at the town of Santa, located near Lima Peru. He foretold his coming death, and ordered to reward anyone who would bring him the first account from his physician that his recovery was despaired of.

The ardor of his faith, his hope, his love of his Creator and Redeemer, his resignation, and perfect sacrifice of himself, gathered strength in the fervent exercises and aspirations which he repeated almost without ceasing in his illness. By his last will he ordered what he had about him to be distributed among his servants, and whatever else he otherwise possessed to be given to the poor. He would be carried to the church, there to receive the holy Viaticum, but received extreme unction in his sick bed. He often repeated those words of St. Paul, "I desired to be dissolved, and to be with Christ;" in his last moments, he ordered to be sung by his bedside , the words of the Psalmist, "I rejoiced in the things that were said to me: we shall go into the house of the Lord."