

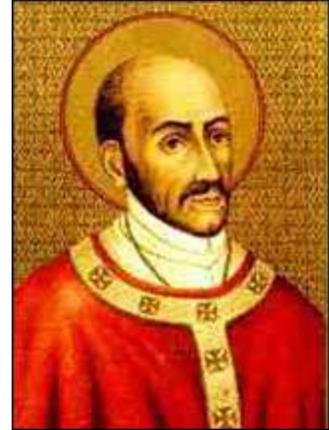
Saint Turibiusn De Mogrovejo

Name: Turibius Alfonso de Mogrovejo

Dates: November 16, 1538 – March 23, 1606

Location: Mayorga, Spain

Feast Day: March 23



Turibius Alfonso de Mogrovejo was born November 16, 1538 in Mayorga Spain to the noble parents Anna de Robles y Moran y Villaquejida and Luis Alfonso de Mogrovejo. As a child, he frequently prayed, fasted and gave to the poor. He developed the daily habit of praying the Rosary. Turibius studied law at the University of Salamanca, and later served as a judge for five years in the territory of Granada. Turibius (still a layman) gained the attention of King Philip II who wanted him to be consecrated as a missionary archbishop for the Spanish colony of Peru – a most difficult charge both religiously and geographically. Turibius argued with the king and Church that he was not a priest and could not accept the charge. He pled that he was not capable of serving as the Archbishop of Lima, Peru nor did canon law permit a layman to become an archbishop; however, he had little choice but to comply. At the age of 43, he was consecrated as a bishop and left for Lima, Peru. Archbishop Turibius traveled on foot through his entire diocese seven times which was a rugged and mountainous terrain, exposing himself to the hot climate, wild animals, maladies and other dangers to reform his clergy. He observed many of the worst effects of colonialism. He witnessed slavery and oppressed natives along with greed from the rich Spanish landowners. He was shocked to find that priests were not caring for their people and the poor were being neglected. For the next twenty-five years, Archbishop Turibius worked tirelessly in the service of his flock. He founded the first seminary on the American continent and baptized and confirmed nearly a million people. He supervised the building of numerous churches, schools and hospitals. His teachings were successful because he took great pains to learn the Indian languages and opposed all attempts to justify their mistreatment by the Spanish. Archbishop Turibius united the Peruvian Church at an administrative level by holding several local councils of its clergy. He became seriously ill in 1606, and sensing that his death was imminent, he decreed that his possessions should be distributed to the poor.

St. Turibius died on March 23, 1606. His body was found to be incorrupt the following year. He was Beatified July 2, 1679 and was declared a saint December 10, 1726. He became one of the first canonized saints of the Americas. He is the patron of native people's rights and we celebrate his feast day on March 23.