St. Martin Hall
Pat García

A few years ago I wrote a piece called "The Muye Saints" for a previous issue of Carriers of the Mission. In it, I described my morning routine of walking through Muye on my way to my office and classes in the Main building. Typically, I would review the day's activities in my head, but I always glanced over thoughtfully at the four saints who watched over me, my students, and my colleagues. St. Catherine, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Teresa of Lisieux, and St. Joan of Arc reminded me of the importance of education, intellectual pursuits, leadership, and spirituality. More than anything, seeing these strong women saints motivated me to balance everyday duties with a larger call to serve. It was a lovely ritual, and one that I especially miss now. I know that they still watch over us, but I rarely walk by them anymore.

Now, with the loss of my office and our classrooms in Main, I live and work on the other side of campus. I leave my office in Ayers to teach in St. Martin Hall. When I first walked into this former elementary school now transformed to college classrooms and offices, I wondered about St Martin. What could I learn from his life to help me adjust to my new one here at OLLU? I discovered that St. Martin of Tours was the patron saint of Father Juan Martin Moye, one of the founders of the Congregation of Divine Providence. St. Martin was a Roman soldier best known for sharing his cloak with a poor beggar. Later, he had a vision of Christ wearing this cloak. He eventually became a monk and then bishop of Tours. He often interceded on the behalf of prisoners and argued against the practice of putting heretics to death. He worked tirelessly until the day he died, and reportedly prayed towards the end of his life for the strength to continue his work: "Lord, if your people still need me, I do not refuse the work. Your will be done."
St. Martin’s courage, generosity, and fortitude are qualities that resonate with me as I walk from my new office into my new classrooms. As we work to rebuild our beautiful school, I know that each day I teach with my heart, mind, and spirit, I can live the mission of all five of these saints.

Outside St. Martin Hall, there is a small shrine to Our Lady. It is diminutive in comparison to the Lady who braved the fire on that night in May. But, it is a final reminder to me that with her blessing and with the watchful eye of the patron saints of our university, we too will continue our work and, ultimately, God’s as well.

\[1\] Information from http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/SaintOfDay/.