



My Life with the Saints

By James Martin SJ

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One of Publishers Weekly's Best Books of the Year

—
Winner of a Christopher Award

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Winner of a Catholic Press Association Book Award

Meet some surprising friends of God in this warm and wonderful memoir

James Martin has led an entirely modern life: from a lukewarm Catholic childhood, to an education at the Wharton School of Business, to the executive fast track at General Electric, to ministry as a Jesuit priest, to a busy media career in Manhattan. But at every step he has been accompanied by some surprising friends—the saints of the Catholic Church. For many, these holy men and women remain just historical figures. For Martin, they are intimate companions. “They pray for me, offer me comfort, give me examples of discipleship, and help me along the way,” he writes.

The author is both engaging and specific about the help and companionship he has received. When his pride proves troublesome, he seeks help from Thomas Merton, the monk and writer who struggled with egotism. In sickness he turns to Thérèse of Lisieux, who knew about the boredom and self-pity that come with illness. Joan of Arc shores up his flagging courage. Aloysius Gonzaga deepens his compassion. Pope John XXIII helps him to laugh and not take life too seriously.

Martin’s inspiring, witty, and always fascinating memoir encompasses saints from the whole of Christian history—from St. Peter to Dorothy Day. His saintly friends include Francis of Assisi, Ignatius of Loyola, Mother Teresa, and other beloved figures. They accompany the author on a lifelong pilgrimage that includes stops in a sunlit square of a French town, a quiet retreat house on a New England beach, the gritty housing projects of inner-city Chicago, the sprawling slums of Nairobi, and a gorgeous Baroque church in Rome. This rich, vibrant, stirring narrative shows how the saints can help all of us find our way in the world.

“In a cross between Holden Caulfield and Thomas Merton, James Martin has

written one of the best spiritual memoirs in years.”

—Robert Ellsberg, author of *All Saints*

“It isn’t often that a new and noteworthy book comes along in this genre, but we have reason to celebrate *My Life with the Saints*. It is earmarked for longevity. It will endure as an important and uncommon contribution to religious writing.”

—Doris Donnelly, *America*

“An account . . . that is as delightful as it is instructive.”

—*First Things*

“In delightful prose Martin recounts incidents, both perilous and funny, that have prompted him to turn to the saints, and in doing so shows us a new way of living out a devotion that is as old and universal as the Church.”

—Avery Cardinal Dulles, SJ, Fordham University

“An outstanding and often hilarious memoir.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Martin’s final word for us is as Jungian as it is Catholic: God does not want us to be like Mother Teresa or Dorothy Day. God wants us to be most fully ourselves.”

—*The Washington Post Book World*



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My Life with the Saints By James Martin SJ Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Martin, a Jesuit priest and associate editor of *America* magazine, takes a splendid idea and develops it masterfully by weaving stories from his life into those of his favorite saints. Leading off with St. Jude, whom he affectionately dubs "the saint of the sock drawer" (where his statue of the saint of impossible causes took up residence after the author entered high school), Martin relates how he discovered various "saints" and how each has affected his life. Thomas Merton, for example, influenced his decision to leave a corporate career for the priesthood, and John XXIII taught him how to live chastely as a member of a religious order. Both Merton and Jesuit Pedro Arrupe served as models for obedience to religious superiors even as Martin's own superiors instructed him to avoid certain controversial topics in writing this book. Martin's personal experiences of befriending saints provide convincing testimony as to their efficacy as role models. He draws a distinction, however, between the superstition that sometimes surrounds Catholics' reverence for the saints and true devotion to them. Despite a theme built on a particular facet of Catholic belief, Martin's animated style and wide-ranging experiences make this a book readers of diverse backgrounds will enjoy. (Mar.)

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From [Booklist](#)

It is one thing to read the lives of the saints, quite another to read about somebody who lives with the saints, who thinks about, researches, and calls upon certain saints regularly. Such a person is, today, a rarity. Such a person is GE-exec-turned-Jesuit Martin, associate editor of the national Catholic weekly *America*, who details his introduction to and relationship with more than a dozen of his favorite haloed heroes in this book. They include Jude, patron saint of lost causes, whom Martin refers to as "the saint of the sock drawer" because that's where, when a young man, Martin kept a statuette of Jude; Ignatius Loyola, who inspired Martin to look for God in his daily life; and St. Joseph, whose quiet service to Christ motivates Martin. With wit and candor, Martin brings those and his other seemingly distant role models down to earth, citing instances from their biographies and, with deepest effectiveness, revealing his personal connection to each and how each has assisted his life. *Donna Chavez*

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From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michelle Pacheco:

The experience that you get from *My Life with the Saints* may be the more deep you digging the information that hide in the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but *My Life with the Saints* giving you joy feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by simply anyone who read the idea because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this particular *My Life with the Saints* instantly.

Marianne Guzman:

This book untitled *My Life with the Saints* to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail outlet or you can order it via online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, since you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this e-book from your list.

Irvin Ashbaugh:

Exactly why? Because this *My Life with the Saints* is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will distress you with the secret it inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such amazing way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking method. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I have been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Janet Thaxton:

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