



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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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:

Dianne Tripp:

Now a day people who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not call for people to be aware of each information they get. How many people to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Reading a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information particularly this *My Life with the Saints* book because this book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

Tamiko Harmon:

The actual book *My Life with the Saints* will bring someone to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to explain the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to study, this book very appropriate to you. The book *My Life with the Saints* is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Thomas Paine:

Reading a book for being new life style in this season; every people loves to read a book. When you go through a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read textbooks, you can improve your knowledge, mainly because book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, this sort of us novel, comics, as well as soon. The *My Life with the Saints* provide you with a new experience in examining a book.

Hoa Gilkey:

Many people spending their period by playing outside together with friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to enjoy your whole day by studying a book. Ugh, do you consider reading a book really can hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It all

right you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Cell phone. Like My Life with the Saints which is obtaining the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's notice.

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