



My Life with the Saints

By James Martin SJ

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One of Publishers Weekly's Best Books of the Year

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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:

Eleanor Sotomayor:

My Life with the Saints can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to get every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing My Life with the Saints nevertheless doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into new stage of crucial contemplating.

Simona Vela:

Are you kind of stressful person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your day to upgrading your mind skill or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you are experiencing problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short period of time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find guide that need more time to be examine. My Life with the Saints can be your answer mainly because it can be read by anyone who have those short extra time problems.

Debra Brunette:

Do you like reading a book? Confuse to looking for your preferred book? Or your book was rare? Why so many problem for the book? But just about any people feel that they enjoy intended for reading. Some people likes examining, not only science book but in addition novel and My Life with the Saints or others sources were given information for you. After you know how the good a book, you feel would like to read more and more. Science guide was created for teacher or maybe students especially. Those guides are helping them to include their knowledge. In other case, beside science guide, any other book likes My Life with the Saints to make your spare time considerably more colorful. Many types of book like here.

Mark Brainerd:

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