



My Life with the Saints

By James Martin

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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.”

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“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.”

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Editorial Review

Review

Before you know it you're swept under his writerly wing, and riding along on his mystery tour of saints he wants you to know — and befriend. And through some transitive literary property, it works.

(Barbara Mahany *Chicago Tribune*)

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*)

In a volume that is part spiritual memoir, part inspirational guide, Martin, a Jesuit priest and associate editor at *America*, applies the teachings of great saints to everyday life. Martin is interested in holding up the saints not as paragons but as exemplars of holy struggle. All the saints, he writes, struggled in one way or another. . . . 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*)

Martin takes a splendid idea and develops it masterfully by weaving stories from his life into those of his favorite saints. Martin's animated style and wide-ranging experiences will make this a book readers of diverse backgrounds will enjoy.

(*Publishers Weekly*)

The saints are given to us as patrons and companions. James Martin tells us how they have been resources for him in every time of need. In delightful prose he 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)

This wonderfully written volume interweaves the spiritual pilgrimage of a young Jesuit and his discovery of the saints of the Catholic tradition. Readers of this book will receive both the abundant gift of good writing and the more abundant grace that flows from the witness of the saints. Enthusiastically recommended.

(Lawrence S. Cunningham)

The saints' stories and their relevance to Martin's own spiritual journey form the spine of this remarkably engaging book. A mix of history, memoir, social commentary, and spiritual exercise, *My Life with the Saints* reveals the familiar and not familiar stories of a handful of holy people.

(*U.S. Catholic*)

In a cross between Holden Caulfield and Thomas Merton, James Martin has written one of the best spiritual memoirs in years. With help from the saints who have inspired and guided his way, he recounts a journey that is as entertaining as it is profound.

(Robert Ellsberg)

From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Block:

This book untitled My Life with the Saints to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book store or you can order it by using online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, as you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason for you to past this book from your list.

Violet Shook:

Reading a book tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their very own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the guides. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some research before they write on their book. One of them is this My Life with the Saints.

Jeremy Hutchings:

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book particularly book entitled My Life with the Saints the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe not known for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a reserve then become one application form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get before. The My Life with the Saints giving you another experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful facts for your better life in this particular era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Joshua Matthews:

Reading a reserve make you to get more knowledge from the jawhorse. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is created or printed or outlined from each source that filled update of news. In this particular modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for you. From media social similar to newspaper, magazines, science reserve, encyclopedia, reference book, book and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Isn't it time to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just searching for the My Life with the Saints when you needed it?

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