



My Life with the Saints

By James Martin

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One of Publishers Weekly's Best Books of the Year

Winner of a Christopher Award

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:

Cindy Searcy:

This My Life with the Saints tend to be reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The key reason why of this My Life with the Saints can be one of many great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple reading through food but feed an individual with information that possibly will shock your previous knowledge. This book is handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed versions. Beside that this My Life with the Saints giving you an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day exercise. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

Douglas Reece:

The book untitled My Life with the Saints contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the girl idea with easy means. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was authored by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of literary works. You can read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site and order it. Have a nice go through.

Scott Anderson:

That book can make you to feel relax. This kind of book My Life with the Saints was multi-colored and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book My Life with the Saints has many kinds or category. Start from kids until teenagers. For example Naruto or Private eye Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book are usually make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book for you personally and try to like reading which.

Bruce Hardin:

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