

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA PARISH

- Catholic Book Discussion: *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything* by Father James Martin, SJ
- Chapter 10: "More by Deeds Than by Words", pages 231 – 265
- August 27, 2015

DISCUSSION OUTLINE

1. Father Martin describes the purpose of Chapter 10, "More by Deeds Than by Words" as to help you "find ways to strengthen or deepen your appreciation of relationships with family and friends." (page 265)
 - Why does Father Martin spend so much time on "good friendships" and "healthy relationships"?
 - What do friendships and healthy relationships have to do with your personal "spiritual journey"?

2. St. Ignatius wrote: "It is a great help to progress to possess a friend who is privileged to point out to you your failings."
 - Describe the "friendship" that existed between St. Ignatius and St. Francis Xavier. (page 237ff)
 - Describe the friendship between St. Ignatius and Peter Favre. (page 237,ff)
 - Describe the friendship between St. Ignatius and Simon Rodrigues (page 248,ff)
 - What makes each of these friendships "healthy" and "wonderful"?
 - How are they the same? How are they different?
 - What do these friendships teach you about your own relationships with family and friends?

3. According to Father Martin and his circle of friends, a good friendship and a healthy relationship are characterized by: (pages 260 to 263)
 - freedom to change
 - welcoming
 - humor
 - help
 - listening
 - honesty

What does Father Martin mean by each of these characteristics of "healthy friendship"?
Are these characteristics found in your own relationships with others?

4. According to Father Martin and his circle of friends, obstacles to healthy relationships and good friendships are: (page 246,ff)

- possessiveness
- over activity
- excessive emotional involvement
- competition
- envy
- complaint driven

What does Father Martin mean by each of these characteristics that put friendship in jeopardy?

Have you ever experienced any of these characteristics in your own circle of friends?

5. "Jesuits have to grow in the ability to make and keep close friendships." (page 231) "All of us are called to live compassionately with one another and to maintain healthy friendships with love, patience and wisdom." (page 234)

- Has your reading of Chapter 10 given you any new insights as to why friendships are important on your spiritual journey?
- "What do you think it takes to keep a good friendship?" (page 251)

6. What is the significance of Father Martin's advice to "Listen Much"? (page 255)

7. Why does Father Martin say "One of the best gifts to give a friend is freedom"? (page 243)

8. Anything else that struck you, challenged you, helped you, confused you that you wish to share with the group...