ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA PARISH

- Catholic Book Discussion: The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything by Father James Martin, SJ
- Chapter 13: "Be Who You Is"
- November 19, 2015

DISCUSSION OUTLINE

- 1. The foundational principle of the spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola is "to find God everywhere" in everyone and in everything. In Chapter 13, Father Martin guides us to find God in work, job, career, vocation and life. He asks three questions:
 - a. How can you make space for a life of prayer and worship? (page 349)
 - b. How do you balance the need to be connected with the need for solitude? (356)
 - c. How do you stay true to your own morals and values? (360)

Do these questions make any "sense" to you? How do you answer these questions on your own spiritual journey?

2. Father Martin asks the question: What kind of person do you want to become? He writes: "The primary way that we discover what we are meant to do and who we are: desire." (page 342) What kind of person is God calling you to become? What kind of "work" is God calling you to do?

3. Throughout Chapter 13, Father Martin makes references to the "examine practice". (for example: pages 349, 365, 385) What is the "examine"? How does it help a person become a better "version" of oneself? How does it help a person find God everywhere? How does it help a person "skim" from the surface of a person's soul what prevents a person from seeing one's true self? (page 345) Have you put into practice some form of the "examine"? Have you found it helpful? How?

4.	Beginning on page 369, Father Martin goes into great detail in explaining the Jesuit-concept of "magis'? What is the significance of "magis"? What does it have to do with a person's spiritual journey? Did Father Martin's reflection on the word resonate in your heart? Give you any new insight into your own personal spiritual journey? In what ways?
5.	What is the importance of the phrase: "There is no guarantee that a Xavier will reach China." (page 377) (Hint: you may find insights on pages 374-376)
6.	Do you ever find yourself comparing yourself to others? Did you find the section, "Compare and Despair" (page 381), true to your own life experience? What insights does Father Martin offer when we find ourselves comparing ourselves to others?
7.	Finally, reflect upon these two passages: - "It will take some time before you are able to integrate your insights fully, and longer before they are translated into action, and still longer before you find that you have changed from inside and outside." (page 386) - "God has created something wonderful in you, but God is still creating." (page 384) Your "response" to this message from Father Martin?
8.	Anything else that struck you, challenged you, helped you, confused you that you wish to share with the group