

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA PARISH

- Catholic Book Discussion: *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything* by Father James Martin, SJ
- Chapter 6: "Friendship with God – Father Barry's Insight", pages 115 to 142
- April 23, 2015

DISCUSSION OUTLINE

1. Father Martin entitles Chapter 6 of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything* "Friendship with God – Father Barry's Insight". What is the basic theme, the basic premise of Father Martin in this Chapter? What is Father Barry's "insight"? What did Father Martin and Father Barry teach **YOU** in this Chapter about friendship with God through prayer?

2. "The way you think about friendship can help you think about, and deepen, your relationship with God." (page 115) Father Martin talks about qualities that characterize/define "good and healthy" friendships. Some of these qualities are:

- Spending Time
- Learning
- Being Honest
- Listening
- Changing
- Being Silent

Describe what Father Martin means by each of these characteristics in a human friendship. How do these qualities apply to a "friendship" with God through prayer? For you personally, how many of these qualities are part of your prayer-life NOW? Which characteristic is the most important for you or, better, needs to be worked on as you grow in your own prayer life?

3. "Holy people teach you something about how God works, and in this way you learn about God?" (page 121) Can you identify a person(s) who helped you learn about God? (Remember: you may never have met this person.) What did you learn?

4. We tend to think of prayer as a way to come to know God. But Father Martin says "letting God come to know *you* is also essential." (page 122) How does Father Martin suggest we let God come to know us? How do YOU let God know about YOU?
5. When we pray, why is it important to "see, and remember what God has already done"? (page 131)
6. Why does Father Martin insist on the importance of *silence*? (pages 139 to 141) Where else have we heard an author remind us of the importance of "silence"? Father Martin says we tend to fear "silence" because it "might ask us to change"? Are you "afraid" of the silence? Why? Why not?
7. "While friendship is a terrific analogy for a relationship with God, it is not perfect". (page 142) What is Father Martin teaching us?
8. Anything else that struck you, challenged you, helped you, confused you that you would like to share with the group...