

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA PARISH

- Catholic Book Discussion: *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything* by Fr. James Martin, SJ
- Chapter 8: "The Simple Life – The Surprising Freedom of Downward Mobility", pp 174-212
- June 18, 2015

1. Father Barron entitles Chapter 8: "The Simple Life".
 - How does Father Barron define/describe the "simple life"?
 - Did his reflections on the "simple life" challenge you in any way?

2. On page 178, Father Barron writes: "Poverty is a mystery for me. But not in the way you might think. The mystery is why more people don't choose to live more simply." How does Father Barron describe the "benefits" – the "graces" – of the simple life? Why do people – YOU – choose or shy away from the "simple life"?

3. In describing the vision of St. Ignatius with regards to the simple life, Father Barron says Ignatius called his followers to a "sensible simplicity", a "moderate asceticism", a "healthy poverty". (page 188) What do these terms mean to you? How are they lived in your own personal life?

4. St. Ignatius wrote that poverty "should be loved as a mother". (page 195) How is "poverty" like a "mother"?

5. "When I think about the ways in which the poor teach us..." (page 198)...how do the poor teach us? What do the poor teach us?

6. Describe: "Poverty In Spirit". (page 205 and following)

7. After celebrating Holy Mass for the poor in a slum in South America, Father Pedro Arrupe, the former Superior General of the Jesuit Congregation, wrote: "Many indeed are the things I learned thanks to that Mass among the poor. What a contrast with the great gatherings of the powerful of this world." (page 212)
 - What did Father Arrupe learn from that Mass with the poor?
 - What have you learned from Chapter 8?

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