

## ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA PARISH

- Catholic Book Discussion: *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything* by Father James Martin, SJ
- Chapter 9: “Like the Angels – Chastity, Celibacy and Love”, pages 213 to 230
- July 23, 2015

### DISCUSSION OUTLINE

1. In Chapter 9, “Like the Angels”, Father Martin reflects upon friendship, relationships, sexuality and what it means to follow Jesus Christ chastely. He talks about three friends with whom he has shared love and life deeply: Bob, Tim and Maddy (pages 217-220).
  - Why does Father Martin tell us about these people?
  - What do these three individuals have to do with “chaste living”?
  
2. Father Martin distinguishes between “celibacy” and “chastity”. (page 217)
  - What is the difference between the two?
  - Who is called to “celibacy”? Who is called to “chaste living”? Why?
  
3. There are (at least) five signs that, according to Father Martin, are characteristic of the “chaste life” – characteristics that he insists “can help us to refocus our priorities: the goal of life, whether single, married or religious”. (page 221) These characteristics are:
  - Listen compassionately;
  - Be present:
  - Do something practical:
  - Love freely:
  - Forgive:

What does Father Martin mean by each of these characteristics?

How many of these are found in your life? In what ways?

Which one of these characteristics do you need to work on most? How? Why?

How do these characteristics help us refocus on “our priorities” and what does Father Martin mean by our “priorities”?

4. Father Martin writes: "The goal of chastity is giving and receiving love" (page 216) What does he mean by this statement?
  
5. Throughout Chapter 9, Father Martin says several times that chastity teaches us many things. He writes: "Chastity has a great deal to teach everyone, not just members of religious orders." (page 220) What are some of the lessons we can learn from chaste living?
  
6. Father Martin quotes Dostoevsky (page 230): "Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared to love in dreams." Why does Father Martin include this quote in Chapter 9? What are Father Martin and Dostoevsky teaching us?
  
7. The ultimate question is: "What do you *do* when you fall in love?" (page 224) And how do you answer this question after reading, praying over and reflecting upon Chapter 9?
  
8. Anything else that struck you, challenged you, helped you, confused you that you wish to share with the group...