

**BOOK DISCUSSION** – *My Life With the Saints* by Father James Martin, SJ

- “In the Grotto of Massabielle”
- Saint Bernadette Soubirous

1. Concerning the Person and Personality of St. Bernadette:

- What did you know about St. Bernadette before you read her story?
- What new insights did you gain into St. Bernadette from reading the book?

2. Read the following Scripture Passages:

- a. Exodus 3, 13-15
  - b. Jeremiah 1, 4-10
  - c. 1 Corinthians 1, 26-29
- How do these passages apply to St. Bernadette?
  - How do these passages apply to you?

3. Father Martin writes: “(The Shrine) is a vision of what the world could be.” (p.141)

- Why does Father Martin describe Lourdes in this way?
- By imitating St. Bernadette, how can you help bring about such a world?

4. “For most of her life, Bernadette patiently endured endless questions about her visions, consistently refused gifts, and occasionally faced jealousy from some of her sisters in the convent.” (page 136)

- What does St. Bernadette teach you about being a disciple of Jesus, the “cost” of discipleship?

5. “We are all *malades* in one way or another.” (page 143)

- Was St. Bernadette a *malades*?
- Where else in our readings (book discussions) did we come across the idea that we are all basically the same? The *malades*’ story is really MY story?
- In what way are you a *malades*?

6. Father Martin writes: “I think of the incongruity of it all: we are here because of a poor fourteen-year-old girl.” (page 148)

- What is father Martin saying about Lourdes, Bernadette, himself, ourselves?

7. A volunteer at Lourdes says: "After that nothing was the same." (page 149)  
- After reading about St. Bernadette has anything changed in you?
8. What did you learn from:  
- the Virgin of Lourdes  
- St. Bernadette  
- Father Martin?
9. How has/will St. Bernadette help you on the great journey towards becoming a more "dynamic Catholic"?

Saint Bernadette, pray for us!

August 22, 2013