

## **BOOK DISCUSSION: *MY LIFE WITH THE SAINTS***

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish – Thursday, January 23, 2014

Chapter 11: Saint Peter “For I am a Sinful Man”, pages 229 -251

1. Write down everything you ALREADY KNOW about St. Peter, especially the events/stories in Peter’s life mentioned in the Gospels.
  
2. Father James Martin writes: “Far from being the perfect disciple, Peter, like the other apostles was thoroughly human.” (page 233) How does Peter demonstrate that he is “thoroughly human”? What does that say to you about your own personal call to “discipleship”?
  
3. In choosing apostles, Jesus looked for men who were
  - patient
  - persevered
  - courageous....(pp 233-234)How does Peter demonstrate these virtues? How do YOU demonstrate these virtues?
  
4. Why would Peter keep saying about himself: “What a loser am I!” (page 235) Do you ever feel like a “loser” in your own relationship with God?
  
5. Why is it “hard not to feel sorry for Peter”? (page 235)
  
6. Peter was “a flawed human being”. (page 236) Yet Christ called him to shepherd the fledgling Christian Community. Is there a lesson in this for you? All of us?
  
7. What do these words of Father Martin mean to you and your own spiritual journey: “Using our humanity as an excuse for not following God allows us to avoid our individual calls and our responsibility to one another.”(page 239)

8. At what point in Peter's life and ministry do you think he came to realize that he was "powerless to change things" and discovered his "reliance on God none the less"? (page 245)
  
9. Why would Father Martin write these words about Peter: "St. Peter's limitations were precisely what led him to be closer to Jesus." How can our own personal limitations bring any one of us closer to Jesus? (page 249)
  
10. "St. Peter serves as a model for everyone who struggles with human frailties and limitations...How even his severest limitations were ultimately put to good use by God." (page 250)  
What do these words – and the very example of St. Peter – teach YOU about your own call to discipleship?
  
11. What new insight into the life of Saint Peter do you wish to share with the members of our book discussion?
  
12. How does St. Peter help you on your personal journey towards becoming a more "dynamic Catholic"? towards becoming "a Saint"?