

AUGUST 26, 2018



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



JOSHUA 24:1-2A, 15-17, 18B

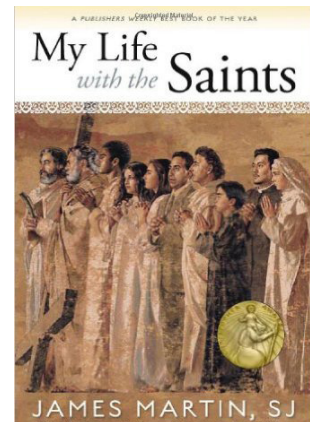
PSALM 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21

EPHESIANS 5:21-32

JOHN 6:60-69

REFLECTION

After presenting a difficult teaching, Jesus asks the disciples, "Does this shock you?" (v. 61). Shouldn't the entirety of our faith shock us? It definitely shocks me. There are distinct moments where the hugeness of our faith comes down on me in a very real and overwhelming way. This week's readings share stories of faith, of choosing God in spite of confusion or doubt. In the Gospel accounts, there are twenty-seven instances in which the disciples were confused or did not understand Jesus' teaching. However, we can see in John's account that Simon Peter has faith that Jesus has "the words of eternal life" (v. 68), regardless of whether or not the Apostles understand every word that he preaches. The Apostles tried their best to interpret the Word in their lives, and so do we.



MY LIFE WITH
THE SAINTS
James Martin, SJ

ACTION

This week, I urge you to explore the lives of the saints. Consider selecting a few saints that you have heard of but don't know much about, or even some unfamiliar saints. One of my favorite American Catholics on her way to possible canonization (being recognized as a saint) is Dorothy Day. Dorothy had a wayward journey to the Catholic faith, which made me realize how easy I had it growing up Catholic. She was a fantastic writer, social justice advocate, and worker for peace. Many of her writings are incredibly applicable to today's social issues. Saints are those who answered Jesus' call toward holiness, and we are urged to answer this call in small ways every day!

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Who are some saints that you have a connection to? Why do you feel connected to them? How can you take some of the ideas and stories of the saints into your daily life?
- Is there someone in your own life that you recognize as "saintly," or having saint-like qualities? What are these qualities?