

## The Rev. James Martin, S.J.

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., is a Jesuit priest, author, editor at large at *America*, the national Catholic review, and a Consultor to the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication.

James Martin was born in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., in 1960, attended Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business in 1982, where he received his bachelor's degree in economics (B.S. Econ.) with a concentration in finance. After working for six years in corporate finance with General Electric in New York City and in human resources with GE Capital in Stamford, Ct., he entered the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in August 1988.

During his Jesuit novitiate in Boston, Martin worked in a hospital for the seriously ill in Cambridge, Mass.; in a hospice for the sick and dying with the Missionaries of Charity, and an orphanage, in Kingston, Jamaica; at a homeless shelter in Boston; and at the Nativity Mission School, a Jesuit school for inner-city boys, in New York City. In 1990, he pronounced his First Vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. From 1990 to 1992, he studied philosophy at Loyola University Chicago, and worked in an outreach program with street-gang members in Chicago housing projects, and at a community center where he helped unemployed men and women. For his "regency" assignment, he worked for two years with the Jesuit Refugee Service/East Africa in Nairobi, Kenya, where he helped East African refugees start small businesses and co-founded a refugee handicraft shop called The Mikono Centre; and for one year as an associate editor at *America* in New York City. In 1995, Martin began graduate theology studies at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology (now Boston College School of Theology and Ministry) in Cambridge, Mass., where he received his master's degree in divinity (M.Div.) in 1998, and his master's degree in theology (Th.M.) in 1999. During his theology studies, he worked as a chaplain at the Suffolk County House of Correction, a Boston jail. After completing his Jesuit studies, he was ordained a Catholic priest in June 1999 in Chestnut Hill, Ma. On Nov. 1, 2009, he pronounced his Final Vows as a "fully professed" Jesuit in New York City.

Father Martin is the author and editor of several books:

- *Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Sensitivity and Compassion* (HarperOne, 2017).
- *In All Seasons For All Reasons: Praying Throughout The Year* (Give Us This Day, 2017)
- *James Martin: Essential Writings* (Modern Spiritual Masters), Edited by James T. Keane (Orbis Books, 2017)
- *Seven Last Words: An Invitation to a Deeper Friendship with Jesus* (HarperOne, 2016)
- *The Abbey: A Story of Discovery*, (Fr. Martin's first novel, HarperOne, 2015).
- *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* (HarperOne, 2014), which combines travel narrative, biblical criticism and spiritual reflections on the life of Christ, was a *New York Times* bestseller

and won both a Christopher Award and Catholic Press Association Award.

- *Together on Retreat: Meeting Jesus in Prayer* (HarperOne, 2013), an e-book that uses the technology of the e-reader to lead readers on a guided retreat.
- *Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor and Laughter are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life* (HarperOne, 2011), which was named as one of “Best Books” of 2011 by *Publishers Weekly*.
- *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life* (HarperOne, 2010), a *New York Times* bestseller, was awarded a 2010 Christopher Award, and was also a number one bestseller in Catholic books.
- *A Jesuit Off-Broadway: Center Stage with Jesus, Judas and Life’s Big Questions* (Loyola, 2007), was named one of *Publishers Weekly’s* “Best Books” of 2007 and was awarded a First Place award from the Catholic Press Association.
- *My Life with the Saints* (Loyola, 2006), was a memoir which received a 2007 Christopher Award, was named one of the “Best Books” of 2006 by *Publishers Weekly*, and also received a First Place award from the Catholic Press Association. *My Life with the Saints* has sold over 150,000 copies and is used in universities, high schools, parishes and book clubs around the world, and was chosen for use in hundreds of U.S. parishes through the Dynamic Catholic Program. It was re-issued in a 10th anniversary edition in 2016.
- *Lourdes Diary: Seven Days at the Grotto of Massabielle* (Loyola Press, 2006)
- *Becoming Who You Are: Insights on the True Self from Thomas Merton and Other Saints* (Paulist, 2006)
- *Celebrating Good Liturgy: A Guide to the Ministries of the Mass* (Editor), (Loyola, 2005);
- *Awake My Soul: Contemporary Catholics on Traditional Devotions* (Editor), (Loyola, 2004)
- *Searching for God at Ground Zero* (Sheed & Ward: 2002)
- *In Good Company: The Fast Track from the Corporate World to Poverty, Chastity and Obedience* (Sheed & Ward: 2000) *In Good Company* was re-issued as a 10th anniversary edition, in 2010.
- *This Our Exile: A Spiritual Journey with the Refugees of East Africa* (Orbis,1999), was the winner of a Catholic Press Association award.
- *How Can I Find God: The Famous and Not-So-Famous Consider the Quintessential Question* (Editor), (Liguori, 1997)

- *Professions of Faith: Living and Working as a Catholic* (Co-editor, with Jeremy Langford) (Sheed & Ward, 2002).

His books have been translated into Spanish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Polish, Dutch, Chinese, Czech, Croatian, Korean, Japanese, Indonesian, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Romanian, Latvian, Slovak, Slovene, Norwegian, and Swedish.

Besides articles in Catholic publications like *America*, *Commonweal*, *U.S. Catholic*, *Catholic Digest* and *The Tablet* (London), Father Martin has written for, among others, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *O Magazine* and other newspapers and websites, including Slate, Time, CNN, The Huffington Post and *The New York Times's* and *The Washington Post's* websites. He has commented on religion and spirituality in the national and international media, and he has appeared on all the major radio and television networks, and in venues as diverse as National Public Radio's "Fresh Air with Terry Gross," NPR's "Weekend Edition," PBS's "Newshour," Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report" and Fox News Channel's "The O'Reilly Factor," as well as ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, MSNBC, PBS, The History Channel, the BBC, National Geographic and Vatican Radio. He has served as an expert commentator for ABC News during the 2013 papal conclave and also during Pope Francis's visit to the United States in 2015.

He also has served as a consultant to several plays and films, including Stephen Adly Guirgis's play "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot," John Patrick Shanley's film "Doubt" and Martin Scorsese's films "Silence" and "The Irishman."

Father Martin has received honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees (D.D.) from Regis College in Toronto in 2015 and from Wagner College in New York 2007. He has received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees (D.Hum.) from the following colleges and universities: Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia and from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Ct., in 2010; from Le Moyne College in Syracuse in 2011; in 2012 from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, St. Louis University and Immaculata University in Immaculata, Pa.; in 2013 from St. Peter's University in Jersey City, NJ; in 2014 from Marquette University; in 2015 from Fairfield University and Santa Clara University; and in 2016 from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Creighton University in Omaha and Canisius College in Buffalo; in 2017 from Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore, the University of Scranton and Misericordia University in Dallas, Pa.; and in 2018 from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama; and Loyola University New Orleans.

He has received Fordham University's *Gaudium et Spes* Award, the Ignatian Volunteer Corps' Madonna della Strada Award, the Loyola Institute of Spirituality's Writers' Award, the Religion Communication Association's Scholar of the Year Award, the Breukelein Institute's *Gaudium* Award, SOAR's St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award, New Ways Ministry's Building Bridges Award, PFLAG's Flag Bearer Award, the Catholic Library Association's *Aggiornamento* Award, the Sisters of Mercy's Good Samaritan Award, the Partnership for Global Justice's Peace and Justice Award, the Gay and Lesbian Alumni of Notre Dame and St. Mary's Thomas Dooley

Award and the Ignatian Solidarity Network's Holstein Award.

Besides his editorial, publishing and media work, Father Martin has been invited by Catholic dioceses and archdioceses to address gatherings of clergy and laity, has spoken at colleges and universities across the country and has taught at Boston College's Summer Institute, and leads seminars and directs retreats. He has spoken frequently at the annual Los Angeles Religious Education Congress and the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice. In 2013, he was invited by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to speak at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro. In 2015, he preached the Seven Last Words on Good Friday in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City at the invitation of Timothy Cardinal Dolan, archbishop of New York; and later did the same in Washington, DC, at the invitation of Donald Cardinal Wuerl, archbishop of Washington. In 2018, Cardinal Blase Cupich invited him to speak at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago for Lent, and Archbishop Wilton Gregory invited him to speak his archdiocese on LGBT Catholics. That same year, in 2018, he was invited by the Vatican to speak on the topic of LGBT Catholics at the World Meeting of Families in Dublin, Ireland.

In 2017, Pope Francis appointed Father Martin as a "Consultor" to the Vatican's Dicastery of Communication.

On Sundays he assists at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City. He lives in the America House Jesuit community in New York City.

His public Facebook page is FrJamesMartin, his Twitter account is @JamesMartinSJ, his Instagram account is JamesMartinSJ, and his Snapchat account is JamesMartinSJ