

Ask Mason & Teo



Head of household? I earn more than him!

Hi Mason & Teo, What does it mean for me to respect my husband as “head of the household”? How can he be the head when it comes to finances when I earn more money than him? Sometimes I feel both guilty and resentful that I financially provide more in our relationship. By head of the household is he supposed to be making more than me? In Jesus’ time and culture it seemed unlikely for married or single women to surpass men in physically providing for a family, but how does that affect how I relate to my husband today? (Headache in the Household)

Dear Headache, St. Paul’s reflection on marriage in his letter to the Ephesians is considered controversial today: “Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything” (Ephesians 5:22-24).

Some would believe that this teaching is culturally conditioned, reflecting the common domination of men over women in Paul’s society. Such a perspective is superficial, it fails to see the profound beauty or grasp the depths of meaning in Christian marriage. For St. Paul continues, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her” (Ephesians 5:25).

The kind of love — Christ’s love for the church — is the redeeming love that transforms and makes holy her members. It is agape love, unconditional love that seeks only the good of the other without the slightest trace of selfishness.

So when St. Paul urges wives to be subject to their husbands he is actually encouraging them to experience their husbands’ love for them. Pope John Paul II, in his “Theology of the Body,” stated, “The husband is, above all, he who loves, and the wife, on the other hand, is she who is loved.”

St. Paul is not saying that “the husband is the lord of the wife,” but rather that both husband and wife are subject to one another in the mutual self-giving that is love. St. Paul clearly stresses that each should “be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians 5:21). Husbands and wives are to discover Christ in each other by loving and serving the Lord in the person of their spouse. It is this submission that is related to the image of the submission of the church to Christ.

Thus, love makes the husband simultaneously subject to the wife as well as to the

Lord himself, just as the wife should to the husband “out of reverence for Christ.” A sacramental marriage transcends the mere human love between a man and a woman by embodying the very love of Christ for his bride, the church.

A vocation of marriage is the road to holiness for a husband and wife when it actively reflects the self-giving love of Christ.

In money matters, the term “head of household” is a filing status for American taxpayers who provide more than half the cost of maintaining a household. The whole business of money and who is in charge of the finances is a critical part of marriage. Money is equated to power and control.

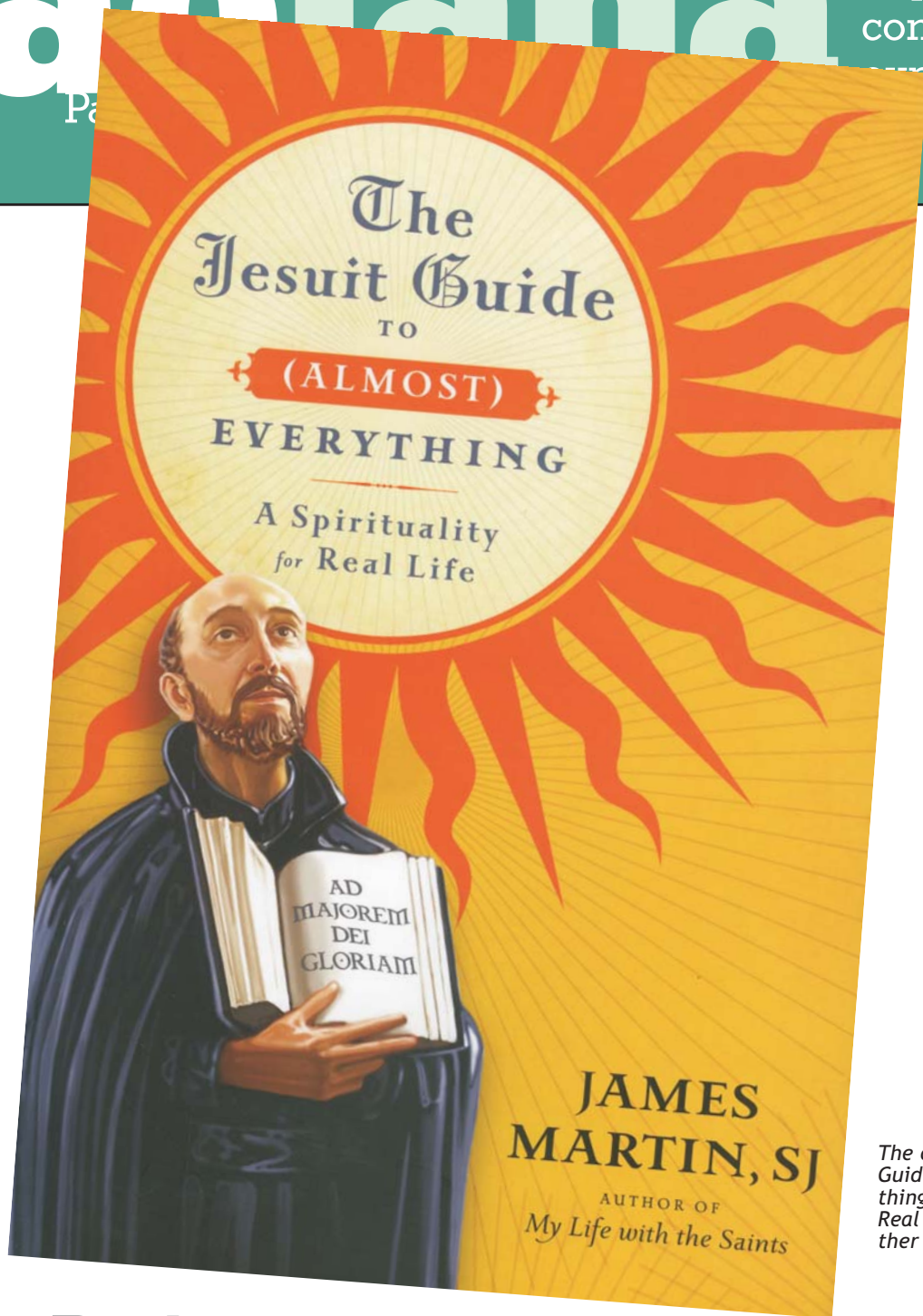
When money matters are managed well, the partners feel equal and trust each other more. When money matters are handled poorly, one spouse may feel that he or she is being treated like a child while the other assumes the role of an overburdened parent. The result is less trust.

It is not the amount of money — or debt — that is important, although most couples would prefer to have plenty of money. And it shouldn’t matter if one spouse makes more than the other. More important is how the couple shares the responsibilities of family financial matters.

Different couples will have different ways to manage their money successfully. The best plan is one in which both spouses trust and respect each other and feel adequately involved in financial decisions.

Communicate your concerns and feelings to your husband. Then together come up with a game plan for managing your finances that is respectful and trusting. Begin by praying together to be good stewards of the finances God has given the two of you.

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The cover of “The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life” by Jesuit Father James Martin.

Book review

Seeking — and finding — God in (almost) everything

“The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life” by James Martin, SJ. HarperOne (San Francisco, 2010). 406 pp., \$26.99.

Reviewed by Allan F. Wright
Catholic News Service

Jesuit Father James Martin, author of numerous books including the best-seller “My Life with the Saints,” draws primarily from the writings of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the wisdom of other Jesuits to bring to life an abundance of spiritual and practical insights for living in today’s world full of complexities and confusion.

In “The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything,” the insights of St. Ignatius, a 16th-century mystic and saint, are presented as relevant today as they ever were. Through the skillful writing and pastoral nature of Father Martin, the Ignatian way of “finding God in all things” is made accessible to scholar and layperson, believer and nonbeliever alike on each page of this book.

Father Martin’s gift as a writer and storyteller allows the reader to feel right at home with the writings and thought of St. Ignatius, who becomes a friend on the journey rather than an archaic, antiquated saint whose spirituality is out of touch with the 21st-century thinker. Quite the opposite. Questions that confront all people are addressed in this book including: How do I know what I’m supposed to do in life? How do I make good decisions? How can I face suffering? How can I find God? How do I pray? How do I love? All these questions and many more are discussed through the lens of Ignatian spirituality, which is at its core very practical and useful no matter what the generation or century.

“The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything” does not shy away from naming the foundation of St. Ignatius’ life, after his army injury, which was his relationship and commitment to follow Jesus Christ and the teachings in the Gospel. Father Martin does an excellent job of repeatedly going back to the underpinning of all Catholic theology and spirituality which is Jesus himself.

In the chapter titled “The Six Paths,” Father Martin examines the different paths people choose to take in life concerning their relationship or lack of relationship to God. People are often in transition between these paths, but he is insightful about the popular credo that a person can be “spiritual but not religious.”

He aptly points out, “While ‘spiritual’ is obviously healthy, ‘not religious’ may be another way of saying that faith is something between you and God. And while faith is a question of you and God, it’s not just a question of you and God. Because this would mean that you, alone, are relating to God. And that means there’s no one to suggest when you might be off track.”

Later on in a chapter titled “What Do You Want,” Father Martin reflects on his own journey from Wall Street to the seminary and insists that God meets you where you are and that “you are loved even in your imperfections. God already loves you.”

Throughout the book, Father Martin writes about aspects of Ignatian

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Movie reviews

Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (Warner Bros.): Entertaining and inventive 3-D spy adventure — seamless blending live action, puppetry, and computer animation — in which rogue feline agent Kitty Galore (voice of Bette Midler) threatens to make the world her “personal scratching post” by unleashing the “Call of the Wild,” a screech that serves as a weapon of mass destruction. Led by Diggs (voice of James Marsden), a police K-9 German shepherd who hates cats, and Catherine (voice of Christina Applegate), a feline agent who puts her nine lives on the line, the covert pet intelligence agencies DOG and MEOWS must put differences aside and work together to bring Kitty down. Plenty of excitement, gizmos, and cute-as-a-button moments will charm and enthrall the youngsters, while their parents will enjoy the inside jokes referencing James Bond films. A-I (PG)

Charlie St. Cloud (Universal): After losing his younger brother (Charlie Tahan) in a car accident for which he was indirectly responsible, a gifted sailboat racer (Zac Efron), racked by guilt and grief, becomes the caretaker of the cemetery where his sibling rests, on the edge of which, briefly each evening, he is mysteriously able to see and communicate with the lad. But his reclusiveness is challenged when a high school classmate and fellow sailor (Amanda Crew) returns to town and captures his heart. Though unusually spiritual and even explicitly religious, director Burr Steers’ melancholy parable, adapted from Ben Sherwood’s best-selling 2004 novel, “The Death and Life of Charlie St. Cloud,” never quite jells, despite Efron’s sensitive portrayal of his isolated, ethereal character, while the script romanticizes the premature consummation of the scarred youth’s potentially life-altering love. Nongraphic premarital sexual activity, a few instances of sexual humor, at least one use of profanity, a couple of crude terms and six crass remarks. A-III (PG-13)



CNS photo/Columbia Pictures

Salt (Columbia/Relativity): Well-acted but thoroughly violent action thriller in which, after being accused by a Russian intelligence officer (Daniel Olbrychski) of being a double agent, a highly skilled CIA operative (Angelina Jolie) goes on the run, leaving her colleagues (principally Liev Schreiber and Chiwetel Ejiofor) scrambling to uncover whether she is friend or foe, even as they try to track her down. As directed by Phillip Noyce, Jolie makes a weak script reasonably compelling, and her character displays strong marital loyalty; yet, as an all-but-superhuman killing machine, her path is littered with corpses. Frequent violence, some of it bloody, at least 10 uses of profanity, one instance of the F-word, six crude terms. L (PG-13)

Dinner for Schmucks (Paramount): To score a promotion, a financial analyst (Paul Rudd) must bring a suitable guest to the titular meal organized by his boss (Bruce Greenwood) as a competition to see which corporate hotshot can produce the most amusing idiot as a target for secret ridicule, so his accidental meeting with a bizarrely naive and nerdy IRS agent

(Steve Carell) seems like a god-send until his victim’s well-intentioned bumbling begins to ruin both his career and his relationship with his live-in girlfriend (Stephanie Szostak). Though its underlying message is one of sensitivity and respect, director Jay Roach’s comedy, adapted from Francis Veber’s 1998 French feature “Le Diner de Cons,” showcases numerous way-

ward riffs on topics such as adultery, casual sex and venereal disease. Shadowy rear and partial nudity, cohabitation, much sexual and brief irreverent humor, a couple of uses of profanity, at least one use of the F-word, six crude terms. L (PG-13)

Ramona and Beezus (Fox): Gentle, winning comedy about a

Ratings

Conference of Catholic Bishops Office for Film & Broadcasting classifications: A-I — general patronage; A-II — adults and adolescents; A-III — adults; L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling; O — morally offensive.

Motion Picture Association of America ratings: G — general audiences, all ages admitted; PG — parental guidance suggested, some material may not be suitable for children; PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13; R — restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian; NC-17 — no one 17 or under admitted; NR — no rating.

- The A-TeamA-II (PG-13)
- Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty GaloreA-I (PG)
- Charlie St. CloudA-III (PG-13)
- Despicable MeA-I (PG)
- Dinner for SchmucksL (PG-13)
- Grown UpsA-II (PG)
- InceptionA-III (PG-13)
- The Last AirbenderA-II (PG)
- Ramona and BeezusA-I (G)
- SaltL (PG-13)
- The Sorcerer’s ApprenticeA-II (PG)
- Toy Story 3A-I (G)
- The Twilight Saga: EclipseA-II (PG)

good-hearted but accident-prone 9-year-old (Joey King) whose antics annoy her more conventional teen sister (Selena Gomez) as their happy existence in an idyllic Portland, Ore., suburb is temporarily overshadowed by their accountant dad’s (John Corbett) loss of his job, and the resulting mild tensions between him and their mom (Bridget Moynahan), but brightened again by the rekindled romance between a favorite aunt (Ginnifer Goodwin) and her high school sweetheart (Josh Duhamel). Traditional values and close-knit family relationships reign in director Elizabeth Allen’s squeaky-clean, nostalgia-tinted adaptation of Beverly Cleary’s best-selling series of children’s books and, though nothing very momentous happens, what does take place transpires in the nicest possible way. A-I (G)

Twenty something



Christina Capecchi | Facing the 10-year reunion

It was 4 p.m., and hesitation was creeping in. “Ten-year high-school reunion,” she tweeted. “To go or not to go?”

A single mom who had just been let go was facing a chance to prove she had not let herself go — and seeking a little courage online.

She played punk rock, applied extra blush and pinned on a homemade bridal hairpiece. Three hours later she was primped and pumped up. “I’m gonna rock it,” she typed.

There is nothing like a high-school reunion to force a long look in the mirror and the hard math of a decade, the difference between expectation and reality.

My Evite sent me flipping through the closet and shopping on the web. I’ve been watching RSVPs trickle in, tallying maiden

names versus married names.

I got a little preparation last month at a wedding that doubled as a college reunion. I was taken aback by the range of social circles in attendance. Someone had lost 70 pounds. Someone had lost two front teeth. Someone had hired a life coach.

At one point a cluster of women compared wedding rings. “I don’t have a ring,” the lone single among them said, “but I just ran a marathon!”

Isn’t that the impulse, to wave away perceived shortcomings and loudly broadcast achievement?

In the movie “Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion,” impact trumps accuracy. Asked what she’s been up to, Michele stammers: “Oh, OK. Um, I invented Post-Its.”

The gap between what was once imagined and what was actually accomplished can overwhelm. Undone items pop in the brain first — and stick. A neighbor lady raising two boys and forging a re-

warding career refused to attend a reunion because she hadn’t become a lawyer, as she had vowed to do.

Status makes for easy answers, but they miss the heart of the matter. The real feats are subtler, defying measurement. Good relationships with your parents. A strong prayer life. An eagerness to rise from bed no matter what work awaits.

What a decade promises is vastly different from what it delivers. At 18 I couldn’t envision what it would look like to flesh out those generic resume subheads, education and experience, how they would add color and interest to every day. I couldn’t grasp the way stamps on a passport would lift flat countries into relief and rewire my thinking. I didn’t believe the tall, dark and handsome groom I dreamed of would indeed arrive, bringing intelligence and affection and teaching me what true partnership entails.

Book review

Jesuit guide

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spirituality (the importance of listening, for example), including various quotes from St. Ignatius himself. He also inserts quotes from the Gospels or another Jesuit saint, writer or colleague and then draws from his life experience to make the story come alive. These life experiences are common to us all and the gift in reading this book is that in relating to the real-life stories, we connect our sometimes ordinary daily lives with the life of faith that connects us to God.

The wealth of spiritual insight this book provides is enormous. Although its more than 400 pages might seem intimidating for the average layperson, this user-friendly book responds to the multitude of questions that people ask regarding faith, incorporating the wealth of Scripture, tradition and personal stories to make it an enjoyable journey. Those who are accustomed to the way of St. Francis, St. Therese of Lisieux or Blessed Teresa of Calcutta will find a friend in St. Ignatius.

Wright is academic dean of evangelization for the Diocese of Paterson, N.J., and author of “Jesus in the House” and “The Bible’s Best Love Stories.”

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