



BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

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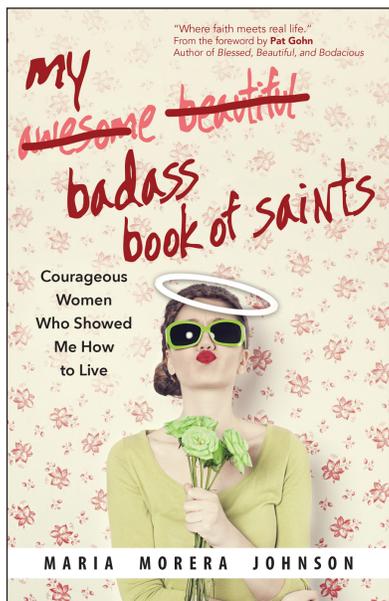
A Ministry of the United States Province of Holy Cross

JOHNSON INVOKES THE BRAVERY AND COURAGE OF HOLY WOMEN

NOTRE DAME, Ind.—In this edgy, honest, and often audacious book of Catholic spirituality, *CatholicMom.com* blogger and popular podcaster Maria Morera Johnson explores the qualities of twenty-four holy women who lived lives of virtue in unexpected and often difficult circumstances.

In *My Badass Book of Saints*, Johnson shares her experience as a first-generation Cuban-American, educator of at-risk college students, and caregiver for a husband with Lou Gehrig's disease. Through humorous, empowering, and touching portraits of twenty-four spiritual mentors who inspired her, Johnson shows how their bravery, integrity, selflessness, perseverance, and hope helped her and can help others have courage to reach for a closer connection to God.

She presents remarkable holy women and saints—including the gun-toting Servant of God Sr. Blandina Segale, who tried to turn the heart of Billy the Kid; and Nazi resister Irena Sendler, who helped smuggle children out of the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II—in a way that brings their vivid personalities to life and helps readers live out the challenges of their lives with virtue and conviction. The book includes a group discussion guide.



My Badass Book of Saints
Courageous Women Who Showed Me How to Live
By Maria Morera Johnson

ISBN: 978-1-59471-632-4

160 pages • \$14.95

Catholicism/Women's Spirituality

Also available as an eBook

"This is a book that's not afraid to talk of the beautiful mess, where faith meets real life, where saints and mortals coexist, one cheering the other on to glory."

PAT GOHN

Author of *Blessed, Beautiful, and Bodacious*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

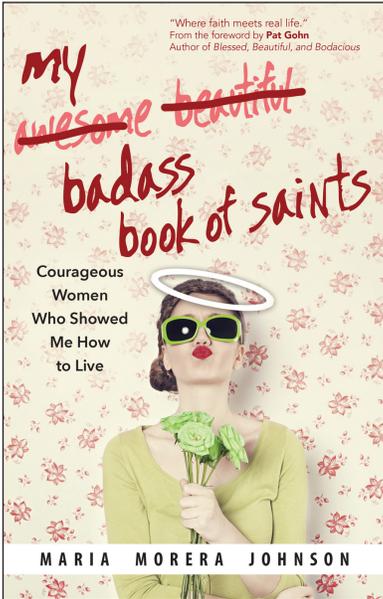
Maria Morera Johnson is a *CatholicMom.com* blogger and cohost of SPQN's *Catholic Weekend*. She is a composition and literature professor and director of English learning support at Georgia Piedmont Technical College, working with nontraditional students in innovative success initiatives. She has received a number of awards for teaching.

She speaks on behalf of and consults with several organizations, including St. Vincent de Paul (Vincentians). Johnson helped organize the Catholic New Media Conference. Johnson often presents at national education conferences to encourage women in non-traditional fields to pursue their educational goals.

Johnson is a native of Cuba. Her first book, *Confessions of a Middle-Aged Cubanita*, was self-published. She and her husband, John, have three grown children and live in Conyers, Georgia.

“Sometimes we need a little shock in our lives to get our attention. Not too much, though. Vulgarity for its own sake precludes the rich opportunity for communication opened up by an unexpected zinger such as badass. It gets your attention, and believe me, the women in these pages deserve our attention. They certainly got mine.”

Excerpt from *My Badass Book of Saints*



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PRAISE FOR MY BADASS BOOK OF SAINTS

“Maria Morera Johnson’s *My Badass Book of Saints* delivers a heavyweight message of holiness with the lightest of touches, and somehow manages a knockout punch. Her entertaining list of modern women of faith, and their saintly counterparts, exhorts women toward sainthood and says, ‘Yes, this can be you, too, if you want it.’ It’s the wanting, after all—the pursuit of sainthood despite obstacles malicious or well-meant—that brings out the badass, fearless trust that hones a saint.”

Elizabeth Scalia

Author of *Strange Gods*

“Each of us have an opportunity to be a beacon of hope to those around us. Thank you, Maria, for writing and sharing this remarkable collection of courage and inspiration.”

Immaculée Ilibagiza

Rwandan genocide survivor and author of *Left to Tell*

“In pages riddled with humor and gripping stories, I was shocked to realize that I shared qualities with great women I always thought were out of my league. In the lives of these ordinary, sometimes feisty, women I found my story, and as many of them are now saints, I found an incredible conviction to live my ordinary life loving God and allowing him to do extraordinary things through me ... with a little help from my new friends!”

Kelly Wahlquist

Founder of Women In the New Evangelization and author of *Created to Relate*

“Dying for one’s faith is one thing. Living it courageously in the midst of mockery and the threat of bodily harm is another. That’s why Maria’s book immediately appealed to me.”

Matt Swaim

Host of The Son Rise Morning Show

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The word “badass” really stands out in the title. How does that word fit with whom you are writing about—yourself and the twenty-four holy women—in the book?
2. How is your personal story reflected in and inspired by the lives of the saints and holy women?
3. How can Catholics find their own inspiration in the saints?
4. Why is it important to bring out the personal, real-life qualities of the saints?