

1st November 2020

Saints

"I'm far too small a saint than I would want to be.

I've been too big a sinner once again.

So, use this little saint – it's all that I can be –

In place of me, the sinner ... please! Amen."

Tom Gordon, New Journeys Now Begin, www.ionabooks.com

What's to be said on "All Saints Day" that hasn't already been said? Well, I'll have a go, and suggest there is sainthood in us all. "Really?" you ask. "But how can that be? Saints are special people, worthy of accolades and praise, role-models, paragons, who *deserve* the title of saint. But me and you, sinners we know we are? Surely not." Yet, in the Bible's Letter to the Hebrews, the writer offers this remarkable affirmation to those in the early Church, and, down through the years, to people like us:

*You made them a little lower than the angels;
you crowned them with glory and honour ...*

It's a powerful metaphor. In living, it tells us, we have the potential of greatness. Every day, we have the possibility of acting in a way that is worthy of a crown of glory and honour. Really? REALLY? But yes ...

Have you not seen something in a person who has loved you, something that is saintly, beyond human, just a bit below the angels – or maybe even up alongside them? I hope so. I know I have. So I give thanks for those saints who, in small ways, perhaps without even knowing it, have influenced my life. As well as the *big* saints, I remember today all the *little* saints whose love and influence I have benefitted from through the years.

So I invite you to pause with me today, and pray with me, and give thanks for the saintly people in your life. On this All Saints Day they are *all* important saints, the Communion of Saints, because they matter to you. And think on this ... if you are giving thanks for your saints, then someone, somewhere, may be giving thanks for you, as you are identified as a saint by them, because you have changed their life for the better.

Too small a saint? Too big a sinner? Maybe that's how you feel about yourself. But God can make use of you, little saint, being all you can be, to number you today in the company of the Communion of Saints.

A prayer for today

Lord, accept me as I am, as I learn to recognise the saint that I can be. Amen

An original reflection © Tom Gordon

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