

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

On this the first of November
We take time to remember
All of the saints of the past
Who are now having a blast.
Who on earth appeared to have been left in the lurch,
But reside in heaven in the triumphant church.
For their life is a story
That ends in eternal glory.

So, what makes a saint, and what ain't.
Is it because their souls had no staint?
Well, even the best had some taint.
Take St. Paul before his fall.
Or Peter's denial at Jesus trial.
I have heard that woman of Magdalene
Could make a really big scene.
Francis could party with the best
As he lived with a reckless zest.
And even Augustine had a streak of wild
That produced an out of wedlock child.

So how is it that the church exalts their life,
Despite their human weakness and strife?
There is something that emerged in their soul
That aroused their being and made them whole.
That turned them from lives that were shallow
To ones that we now revere and consider hallow.
So, what is it that gave them the edge
To focus their life and keep a pledge?

For them and for us the major thesis
Is to want to be and live like Jesus.
To live a life that imitates the divine
And is open to listen and be willing to refine.

The Gospel that begins the Sermon on the Mount
Gives clues as to how to live a life that will count.
It offers a way that differs from a worldly view
Which is to get ahead and don't care who you undo.
It starts off by calling us to have a spirit that is poor,
Which clashes with always wanting to get more.
But to be poor in spirit realizes a constant need for God
To save and redeem our mind, soul, and bod.

Blest are those who mourn and who seem forlorn,
And from losing loved ones their heart has been torn.
Yet, there is only one remedy in which one can mend,
Which is seeking God the Holy Spirit to send.
The Spirit will console,
And mend the hole in the soul.

Blessed are those who are meek? That appears to be weak.
We want to be strong and sleek, and dominate the loser and the Geek.
But what matters to God is not to be on top
But to be willing to help when one does flop.

Blest are those who thirst for what is right
And take a stance that does not align with might.
Who are not afraid to stand alone,
Because God is there to shield you from the arrow and the stone.

Blest are those who show mercy, which is not always cool.
As it can easily make one look like a fool.
Yet to be able to get to heaven,
We are called to forgive 70 times 7.

Blessed are those who desire to be pure in thought, word, and deed,
In a world filled with lust and greed.
Yet, they seem to stand out like a sore thumb
As they remain joyful rather than glum.

Blest are those who prefer to be a bridge for peace,
Rather than keeping up walls of hate and prejudice.
Who are willing to put themselves in the crossfire,
Even in times that appear to be bleak and dire.

If in all of these ventures we make a stand with Jesus,
Then we will ace the major thesis.
So that we too will end up in our heavenly place,
And be honored on this day after gracing the human race.