

1 NOVEMBER

- 1 Today's feastday of 'All Saints' *isn't* about those who are publicly named as saints - each of those has their own feastday. Instead, on the Feast of 'All Saints' we think of many ordinary good people who walked with God in their daily lives, and who are now dead. Today is *their* feastday - the unmentioned saints - who now live in God's presence.
- 2 In the early Church, "saint" was a name for a person whom today we would call a "committed Christian". In the Bible - after the four gospels - we can find the word "saint" over 60 times. Each reference concerns *living* people who seek to follow Jesus. For example, Paul writes to some Christians:
 - 3 *"If any of the saints are in need, you must share with them."* Rom 12¹³
 - 4 *"To all of you in Rome whom God loves greatly, all of you called to be saints: may God our Father... send you peace."* Rom 1⁷
- 5 This feastday of 'All Saints' also reminds us of our own potential, of what (hopefully) we are in the process of becoming. A Christian living 150 years after Jesus, wrote:

"The glory of God is a person living fully."
- 6 Paul writes to a group of "saints" - committed Christians - in the Greek city of Ephesus. He starts off that letter with the words:

"To the saints who are faithful to Christ..." Eph 1¹
- 7 We'll make our prayer today from other words in that same letter.
- 8 *Let us pray:*

**When I think of the greatness of God's plan,
I fall on my knees
before God the Father.
From his great wealth
may he give us power through his Spirit
that we may grow strong within.
Through faith, may we discover
that Christ has made his home
within each of us.**
- 9 **Then, with our roots and foundations firmly built on God's love,
may we, with all of his saints,
grasp just how wide and long
and high and deep
is Christ's love.
Yes, may we come to experience
for ourselves
the love of Christ
so that we may be filled completely
with God himself.**
- 10 **This prayer we ask of God
who can accomplish far more
than we could ever ask for or imagine.
Amen.**

(based on Eph 31¹⁴⁻²¹)

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in
'Praying Each Day of the Year',
a 3-volume book
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine
to research this topic further.

This material is part of
the prayer and education website
of the De La Salle Brothers
in Great Britain:
www.prayingeachday.org