Reflection for Friday, November 1, 2002: All Saints, Solemnity.

Reflection:

Growing up in Bayonne, New Jersey, I was quite enamored of books. I never thought that real people actually wrote these things so it was with great fascination, and some trepidation, that at the ripe old age of 15 I met my first author, Jean Shepherd, a noted radio personality in the New York area, at a book signing. I went with my cousins and I was not sure what might happen. There at the end of a table was a very funny but also very ordinary person. I shook his hand, talked a little bit, had him sign my Jersey City public library card (his hard cover book was well beyond most high school students' socio-economic bracket at the time), and said good bye.

I also never thought that real people were saints until I met Regina MacEvoy when as a college student I worked in Department of Community Medicine at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City. Regina was a contemplative Maryknoll Sister who left the monastery to work actively among the poor in Greenwich Village. She was quiet, funny and generous. There was nothing remarkable about her on the surface but in working with her I witnessed (and sometimes shared in) her compassion, care and deep love of the people whom she served. Bandaging a wound, urging someone to take their blood pressure medicine or saying an Our Father over the body of someone who died alone in a single room occupancy hotel were all one to her.

The gospel today does not tell us WHO are saints but how to reach for sanctity. There is no talk about being perfect or remaining aloof or even drinking deeply of divine bliss while floating on clouds with angels strumming away. The beatitudes are practical guides to sanctity, putting it in reach of all of us. We mourn, we hunger, we thirst, we lack, we are hurt, we make peace. These are actions and not states of being. Sanctity is a verb and not a noun.

I suppose my awe of authors and saints resided in the fact that they seemed remote and perfect (or I had made them such). It was in meeting authors that I was encouraged to peruse the path of the scholar. It was in meeting saints like Regina that I was encouraged to continue the Christian path. It is in the ordinary that we encounter Christ and His saints and are given the grace to be the beatitudes.

Today is a day to rejoice in all the Saints of the Church, all the saints in our lives, and what is saintly in each of us. The Gospel, like life itself, is full of paradoxes, for we are told today that when we and others are less than complete THEN we have the opportunity for deeper sanctity and the Kingdom of God will indeed appear.
Sunday of All Saints, Solemnity of All Saints, Feast of All Saints, La Toussaint. All Saints Day is an observation held by both Protestant and Roman Catholic churches on November 1. A similar holy day, called the Sunday of All Saints, occurs in the Orthodox Church on the first Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pentecost. In the Lutheran and some other Protestant churches, All Saints Day is celebrated with Reformation Day, which marks the beginning of the Protestant movement to reform the Roman Catholic Church. November 1 - Solemnity of All Saints! 00:00. 04:38. The saints in Heaven are in full union with God and make up the Communion of Saints in Heaven, the Church Triumphant! What's important to note, however, is that even though they are enjoying their eternal reward, they are still very much concerned about us. This Solemnity is celebrated on November 1. All Saints is also an ancient Christian formula invoking all the Saints known or unknown. If a Solemnity falls on a Sunday, the Eucharist is celebrated with the readings and prayer proper of the feast, rather than the particular Sunday. If a Solemnity falls on a Sunday, the Eucharist is celebrated with the readings and prayer proper of the feast, rather than the particular Sunday. The readings for the Solemnity of All Saints’ Day are: Revelation 7: 2-4; 9-14 Revelation 7: 2-4; 9-14 Revelation 7: 2-4; 9-14 Revelation 7: 2-4; 9-14. Psalm 24: 1-2; 3-4; 5-4. Psalm 24: 1-2; 3-4; 5-4.