



Celebrating some more Unofficial Saints - in trying times



The advent of Covid-19 has one upside: the surging appreciation of the spirit of community, service, respect, and common humanity shown by so many people.

So the Adelante Gallery of Unofficial Saints now includes a couple of timely additions to its VOICES face to appreciate in isolation or share with others – whatever the distance. This document shows these new takes, a poem already in place, and the Alphabet of Unofficial Saints. (Families – anyone- might think to create your own version of this as one of way of passing the time – maybe a letter a day...)



The updated Guide to the Gallery is on-line as a PDF at www.just1.org.uk/adelantegallery.

If you need further information, I'm at hughgibbons@just1.org.uk

With all best wishes – and many thanks. Adelante!

Hugh Gibbons

THE SAINTS NEXT DOOR

I'm thinking at this time of the saints who live next door. They are heroes – doctors, volunteers, religious sisters, priests, shop workers – all performing their duty so that society can continue functioning.

How many doctors and nurses have died? How many religious sisters have died? All serving ...

If we become aware of this miracle of the next-door saints, if we can follow their tracks, the miracle will end well, for the good of all.

Pope Francis interviewed by Austin Ivereigh
The Tablet 8 April 2020



And charity is all around us.

We are clearly all in this together and we hunger for grace. We need community, we need blessing, we need charity. Community is where we find it. No longer the Friday fish fry, it is the Thursday afternoon Zoom with college friends. It is folks on the supermarket line. It is the garbage collectors honking and waving.

Blessings come extra-ecclesial.

They come from the school crossing guard, now directing traffic at the testing-site, who says, "God bless you, honey, good luck." They come when the landlord forgives a month's rent. They come when the market owner slips a pound cake in the bag, on the house.

And charity is all around us.

Yes, we learn about it on television and Facebook, but who cannot appreciate the nurse traveling hundreds of miles to give another nurse a break? What about the restaurant owner who packs lunches for the homeless? Try counting the soup kitchens and food banks that work, day after day after day, because it is the Christian, or Jewish, or Muslim thing to do.



Dr Phyllis Zagano in *The End of Clericalism*
National Catholic Reporter 21 April 2020

The true dwelling of the holy?

Sometimes a poem just strikes a precise moment. "Small Kindnesses," by Danusha Laméris, feels utterly necessary for our time — a poem celebrating minor, automatic graciousness within a community, which can shine a penetrating light. It's a catalog of small encouragements, unfolding as might a child's palm filled with shiny stones. It almost feels like another hope we remember having. Acknowledging the modern plight of autonomy and so many separations, the poem then easily passes through them, breezing compliments and simple care. *Naomi Shihab Nye in New York Times Magazine 19 September 2019*



Small Kindnesses

by Danusha Laméris, Poet Laureate of Santa Cruz County, California

I've been thinking about the way, when you walk
down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs
to let you by. Or how strangers still say "bless you"
when someone sneezes, a leftover
from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die," we are saying.
And sometimes, when you spill lemons
from your grocery bag, someone else will help you
pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other.
We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot,
and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile
at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress
to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder,
and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass.
We have so little of each other, now. So far
from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange.
What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these
fleeting temples we make together when we say, "Here,
have my seat," "Go ahead — you first," "I like your hat."

An Alphabet of Unofficial Saints Inspirers, Encouragers & Makers of Waves

This list was prepared by Hugh Gibbons for www.just1.org.uk/adelantegallery
Who'd be on yours?

A&E Teams

Bomberos & All Fireservices)

Carpenters

Devil's Advocates

Everyone, at Times

Food Bank Staff & Supporters

Gardeners (esp Market)

Human Rights Campaigners

Interpreters & Translators

Jolly-Uppers

Kittens

Laities

Medecins Sans Frontieres etc

Nuns & Nurses

On-Timers

Picassos

Quietness-Providers

Reporters Under Fire

Schindlers & Silas Soules

Teachers & Assistants

Ukelele Players

Volunteers

White Helmets, and all first-responders

Xenas & Other Warrior Princesses

You

Zipadee-Doo-Dah Singers & Singalongers

