



Messengers from a loving God

The Angels

Ὁ ἄγγελος

ΜΕΧΑΛΙΑ



The Knighthood of St Michael

Let's take evil seriously

Angels in Genesis

Divine Mercy reveals
Satan's ambushes

Novena to St Michael

Belarus mission



It is a pleasure to welcome you to the eleventh quarterly edition of "The Angels. Messengers from a Loving God". Thank you for your emails and letters. We are pleased you are becoming more acquainted with the nine choirs of angels.

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Angels are present during the Eucharist. The Power of the Mass is the sacrifice of sacrifices, because it is the sacrifice of God for us. There is no better activity we can do than to attend Holy Mass in the state of grace, and receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Through time and space, we connect with the original Last Supper. Each Mass is a re-creation of the original Mass and we receive many spiritual benefits that occur at the Holy Mass. Saint Gregory said "The angels surround and help the priest when he is celebrating Mass."

Saint Faustina discovered in the Eucharist an unlimited source of supernatural powers She declared "All the good that is in me is due to the Holy Communion. I feel that this holy fire has transformed me completely, All my strength is in You, O Living Bread. It would be difficult for me to live through the day if I did not receive the Holy communion" (Diary 1392).

One day we will know what God is doing for us in each Mass, and what sort of gift He is preparing through

it for us. "All the tongues of men and angels united could not find words adequate to describe this mystery of your love and mercy."

Do not forget about the Feasts of Saint Michael, Gabriel and Raphael (29th September, 24th March, 24th October and the feast of Guardian Angels on 2nd October). On these days they will intercede for you in a special way.

I assure you of the constant prayer of the priests of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel for all the readers and their families every day. I would kindly ask you to let others know about our magazine and distribute it all over the world. I would be interested to hear from you by letter or email and to relate any testimonies on how the angels have helped you in your life.

Let us call on our heavenly messengers daily and ask for help, protection and guidance.

God bless you.

Father **Peter Prusakiewicz** CSMA

The Angels

Messengers from a Loving God

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St Aldegonde

The patroness saint of women who are suffering from breast cancer is St Aldegonde. Undoubtedly she could understand the difficulties of women with this illness. She died from the very same cancer in 685. Many healings have been accomplished through her intercession. Her liturgical feast is kept on 30 January.



St Aldegonde originated from a Frankish royal family. One night she had a mystical vision of countless wealth. At first she thought the promise referred to material goods but soon she recognized that it was about spiritual affluence. God ordered her not to be afraid of anything in the world. “Do not look for any other bridegroom than the Son of God”, she heard. Then she saw the baby Jesus bringing her a white robe and a palm of victory. He promised her she would be among all the saints in the future. She also noticed the Devil grieving due to her being chosen by God. An angel encouraged her to stay faithful to the vow of virginity and keep herself away from matters of the world.

Unaware of her divine election, her family urged her to marry. St Aldegonde decided to escape. When she reached the banks of a river it turned out that there was no boat or a bridge there. Asking herself “What to do? Where to go?” the girl reminded herself about St Peter going on water. St Aldegonde begged the Lord for help, made the sign of the cross and entered the flowing river. Lifted by angels from the right and the left she managed to get to the other bank, where she thanked God. She then lived in a hermitage.

After some time St Aldegonde and her family were reconciled. She entered the monastery in Maubage, France,

where she experienced numerous angelic visits. Spiritual friends encouraged her to persevere in reaching the Heavenly Kingdom. St Aldegonde was always very humble during her angelic visions. Once she even tried to bow in front of an angel but he disappeared immediately to let her know that both humans and angels were just servants of God. The saint was also blessed with many other graces among which there were conversations with the Holy Spirit.

However, jealous people opposed St Aldegonde. When her soul was tormented by slanders said about her, an angel appeared to her and comforted her. He told her that if backbiters did not repent, they would go to hell.

On another occasion she saw a demon. She asked about the reason for his obstinacy against the human race and his profit from the many souls being condemned in hell. He answered that he hated people because they took places in heaven, which he and his evil companions were thrown out of.

God told her the day of her death. When an angel came to remind her about it, St Aldegonde asked him why she could not have gone to heaven earlier. The angel replied: “You must know that the holy angels begged God for the grace of being on earth to make your virtues perfect.”

Jakub Szymański

CANCER HEALING PRAYERS

Father, You have written in Your Word “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the Devil; for God was with him.” Acts 10:38. God please send an anointed servant to lay hands on me and let me recover in Jesus Mighty Name, Amen. Father, I curse the root cause of this disease and declare that your healing virtue flows through me in Jesus Powerful Name, Amen.

Dear Lord, We will not get tired Lord. We pray this day for all those who will be going for chemotherapy. Loving God touch them, remove the pain and heal them in Jesus Mighty Name, Amen. Father, those who are in a state of despair, God heal their souls and grant them hope. Touch parents, touch children, touch brothers and sisters, touch spouses and friends of all those affected. Thank you Lord for You hear us and you answer in Jesus Mighty Name, Amen.

Touched by Amazing Grace

(Part 3)



In the last issue Susie describe her life changing experiences in Assisi and Rome and her conversion to the Catholic Church, this was closely followed by her resignation from a high flying managerial role to follow St Francis in the way of poverty and humility, walking in the footprints of Christ.

It is 4.30 am and I awaken to a chill summer dawn in Ballintubber, Co. Mayo Ireland and my heart is full of joy and gratitude to God. It is the 24th of June, the feast of the Birth of John the Baptist, a special day for me. Six years ago I was in chapel kneeling

before the Blessed Sacrament on the altar with some friars and priests and a few guests and to promise to surrender myself completely to Jesus Christ, entrusting to Our Lady, the Queen of the Angels “my entire life every gift of nature and grace, my body and soul, all that I owned and possessed”. I vowed perpetual chastity in mind and body and poverty of spirit. I asked that through Mary’s powerful intercession I might grow in obedience to Her Son’s holy will; to love Jesus totally, and asked that by love I might make Him known in the world. It felt just like a marriage! I think that day I was the happiest woman in the world when I signed those promises... It hadn’t always been like that though, I had tried to hold back from that total surrender to God even for a while after I became a Catholic, but the Lord was patient with me.

chaplaincy with a very spiritual friar who gently remarked on the look of power that came over my face driving the fast sleek car. He challenged me by remarking how I enjoyed my “toys”, which was fine if I thought that was what God wanted. It irritated me! I knew in my heart that I was holding things back, was not really surrendering all to God. I retorted defensively that there was no way I could do vows and the poverty, chastity and obedience thing like him. There was silence in the car for the next ten minutes. “Good”! I thought. Then he said quietly, “you know I think you made simple vows, promises to God when you were six years old”. I nearly crashed the car, shocked at this revelation. The only one who knew about this was Jesus when I made Him those promises at the age of six. How on earth did the friar know about this? It just came to him in prayer he said, but added, “of course you know God has a long memory!” So that was it, no more trying to compromise, subtly bargaining with God. I was called to a life of prayer, and solitude, a life consecrated to God.



■ Icon written (painted) by the hand of Susie Smith, Ballintubber

Total surrender

I remember the fateful conversation so well, I was driving to the prison

An obvious step

The obvious step seemed to be to formally enter religious life, an order. So I visited some lovely nuns at Hollington and Arundel, England who confirmed my vocation and invited me for a live in, but this was delayed as a television company was about to make a documentary there. In the interim period an Irish nun visited the Franciscans in Kent, and talked of her monastery and its hermitages, and I was hooked! My spiritual director, a very wise OFM friar advised me categorically not to join the group in Ireland. “But... But... But! I protested and foolishly disobeyed him... I had already made private vows of consecration to God, this would be a way of formally living them out. For some time I had been drawn into Celtic prayers and spirituality and this small group seemed to have it all.

So my lovely house went up for rent, my books were given to the friars together with other furniture and fittings they could make use of. More black sacks of designer clothes, shoes and bags were hauled out of the house than I can remember, and hordes of “friends” descended on the house to grab the things they always had their eyes on. That part made me sad, not because I begrudged giving things away at all, it actually gave me a sense of liberation, but I saw glimpses of greed and avarice and that was very ugly. One of hardest thing to learn to deal with in those difficult last weeks in England was my hair, which had gone from top stylist cut, colour and highlights, to a horrid two tone, and finally to a very short grey cut - suddenly I looked nun like! My “friends” really thought I had lost the plot.



Entrust yourself to My will

I thought of Jesus words to St Faustina: “My child, make the resolution never to rely on people. Entrust yourself completely to My will saying, not as I want, but according to your will, O God, let it be done unto me” (1488). But I was beginning to have doubts about this group of nuns I was proposing to join as they were insisting I took my car over to Ireland, as it would be very useful for them. “But” I said to the friars, “don't they realise it is a flash fast car, to me symbolic of the life I want to leave behind! “Perhaps I was just getting cold feet, I thought. But that

problem was taken care of, two days before I left England, I crashed the car. It was a write off! So nearly was I. I hit a patch of surface water at speed, the car skidded and careered up an embankment. To my horror I saw a large steel post right in front of the car, coming straight at me, I knew it would kill me. I remember saying, “Oh my God!” There was a bright flash of light and the car was suddenly dropped back on the road, how I do not know, but my Guardian Angel does!

I spent my last night in England in the guest room in the friary. That night I had a strange dream. I was standing in a large church, its nave had high white walls, with an arched wooden roof. The ancient building was full of people, the Mass was ended and we were moving to the exits. I saw on ▶

- ▶ my right an arched chapel which contained an unusual carved wooden statue of Mary and the Child Jesus, sitting on what looked like large black roots. The floor of the chapel was covered in lush green moss... Then I awoke, but the dream was so vivid I remembered it clearly and noted it in my journal.

I let go... I was free

The next morning, after blessings and farewells from my Franciscan Brothers, I set off with what was left of my “worldly goods” in an old car I bought from a friend at the last minute for the ferry to Ireland. But I kept something from my glamorous days of high fashion especially for that trip, the most exquisite pair of designer stiletto shoes! And as the boat ploughed through the rough waves of the Irish Sea that grey October day, I flung those shoes with great gusto into the sea. I was finally free of that life... or so I hoped!

St Faustina’s diary helped me

The reality of life in that monastery soon struck home. The old banger I arrived in was a big disappointment. I prayed a bit too much, preferred the chapel to the TV room. In short I was a challenge to their comfortable life style. I stayed for a year, reading St Faustina’s diary and the difficulties and jealousy she encountered in the convent made my life more bearable. I was by this time quite knowledgeable in iconography, having developed a passion for icons in the UK. In Kent my paintings were much in demand, but though I was told to bring my art materials with me, I never had the opportunity to use them. By the end of the year I had



■ Icon written (painted) by the hand of Susie Smith, Ballintubber

given up hope of ever being allowed to create a beautiful icon for the Lord. My lot was to wrap parcels, clean and take out the trash, but I accepted it, “all for Jesus” as St Therese said, I would often say to myself. But the place did not feel right, there was no love in that community, but I learnt how religious life should not be lived!

After much prayer I discerned that to return to England was not what the Lord wanted for me. It really was now a case of trusting God and putting out into the deep. A beautiful Poor Clare nun in Galway who was praying for me said; “You clearly have a vocation,

but it seems as if God is asking something new and different from you, almost as if He is asking you to walk on water.” Clearly I was out of the boat on my own, with just the Lord and my Guardian Angel for help. Yet I was not afraid, “Jesus, I trust in you”! St Michael would defend me from all harm in this country where I felt destined to live.

I begged Padre Pio

One day I needed to go to Dublin for an appointment, I went to Mass in

the Pro Cathedral, I noticed a shrine to St Padre Pio. I was pretty desperate to find a home to move to that could be a hermitage for me to get out of that monastery. For the first time ever I begged Padre Pio for his help and intercession. Within 24hrs I was driving into a lovely village, where there was an ideal cottage that caught my eye, so I made some inquiries and within a few hours everything miraculously fell into place. The cottage was free, clean and affordable! Thank you St Pio, my heart sang! On the day I moved in, I was given an icon of St Pio for my new hermitage.

The following year of solitude in that village gave me an opportunity to just focus on the Lord, the Mass was celebrated every day in the Church next door and my heart was filled with gratitude. I had so missed not having the Mass each day in the monastery, for the Lord, in the Blessed Eucharist is my strength and my life. My days were filled with prayer, I could live very simply and start to focus on working on icons again. It was a blessed time, again it became clear in prayer that my mission was indeed like St Francis. I was to help others to pray, and to become a witness to the joy of a life lived in Christ, even though life was not always easy for the new "blow-in" to Ireland. It was at this time that a friar visiting me from England gave me the Angelic Chaplet beads and from that time I started to say the angelic chaplet, each day events in my life really started to happen, the angels were clearly guiding me...

An old Abbey

I meet a nurse whose brother was building a grotto to Our Lady at the bottom of Croagh Patrick I accepted the invitation to go over to Co Mayo

to see and pray with them. The mountains, lush green fields with their stone walls filled my heart with joy and a sense of liberation as I travelled West, although I did not understand why. One day I went for a drive and ended up parked outside an old Abbey. I walked down the steps, through the door and saw an arched chapel with a carved wooden statue of Mary and the Child Jesus, sitting on black bog oak which looked like large black roots. The floor of the Chapel was covered in lush green moss! The nave had high white walls, with a high arched wooden roof. The dream had become a reality. I had truly been lead here by the Lord!

An icon of God

The Friars in England and SA confirmed this and soon God's plan fell into place, Our Lady found me a house beside the abbey, with ample studio space for my work with icons, even a little hermitage for retreats became available. Everything just miraculously fell into place. But not long after I settled in to my new spiritual home I became aware of the immensity of the work I was called to do; to help reawaken faith, to facilitate each person to become an icon of God, for we are all created in image of God, called to fullness of life in Christ. Little did I realise what it would involve... how much spiritual hunger there is today...and how much people today need hope, faith and the love of Christ in their lives. Then people started arriving... The work was just beginning.

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The Knights of St Michael the Archangel



- Monthly Eucharistic adoration and Reconciliation
- Daily Bible reading
- Fast each Friday on bread and water (or a good deed if fast is impossible)
- Pray the chaplet of St Michael and pray to St Michael after every Mass

Interested in becoming a Knight of St Michael? if so please read further details and information.

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in My Name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover. Mark 16:15-18

History

The Knighthood of St Michael the Archangel is a Catholic religious movement formed in 1994 with the initiative of the Congregation of Saint Michael the Archangel (CSMA) in Poland. The Patron of the Knighthood is Saint Michael the Archangel, the biblical warrior, whose name in Hebrew means "Who is like God". The apparitions of St Michael the Archangel in Monte Sant'Angelo, Gargano, Italy (in 490 a.d.) inspired devotions to this Prince of the Heavenly Hosts (Rev 12,7-9) whom we revere as the Defender of the Church.

The Knighthood is governed by its Rules. These Rules were approved

by the Superior General of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel in August 1994. The headquarters of the Knighthood is located at the General House of the Michaelites (CSMA) in Warsaw, Poland. From 2004, Fr Peter Prusakiewicz has been the General Animator of the Knighthood. Each country has their own appointed National Animator (*for details of these duties see the section setting out the organisation of the Knighthood*).

All the members of the Knighthood are remembered and recommended to Saint Michael's protection in every liturgy that is celebrated in the Sanctuary of Monte San Angelo in Gargano, Italy.

Several annual Masses are celebrated for the living members and for their needs and the deceased members of the Knighthood.

Name and Aim of the Knights of St Michael

1. The official name of this apostolic movement is **The Knights of Saint Michael the Archangel**. The Patron Saint of the Knighthood is Saint Michael the Archangel.
2. Knights are confirmed Catholics, who are open to the Holy Spirit and give themselves to Christ, unite with Him, and help the Church by keeping away demons from Her.

3. The main task of the Knights is to proclaim the victory of Jesus Christ over Satan. The Knights are sent on a mission to expiate God for the sins of humankind and to obtain the conversion of sinners. They aim to achieve this by reciting the prayer of St Michael the Archangel to defend us in the day of battle (*See the back of the magazine*). This simple prayer of exorcism is said every day to keep away evil spirits from oneself, the Church and the whole world, particularly from those that are tempted and possessed by Satan. It is referred to in these set of Rules as the prayer of simple exorcism.

Knights' Participation in Spiritual Goods

4. All Knights belong to the spiritual family of Michaelites and participate in their spiritual benefits such as:

- Masses celebrated by Michaelite Fathers on the first Tuesday of the month;
- Daily prayers of the members of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel;
- Daily prayers to the Queen of Heaven

5. Knights gain many merits for eternal life by uniting more closely with Christ, and through Him, with God the Father in the Holy Spirit, working and doing everything for the sake of His Divine love, being open to the Holy Spirit, being inspired by St Michael the Archangel and guardian angels, accepting their help and driving away evil spirits from people by saying the prayer of simple exorcism.

6. Prayers will be said for deceased Knights. The General Animator celebrates Gregorian Masses each November for all deceased Knights. The National Animator celebrates Mass for a deceased Knight just after he / she receives information about their death.

Organisation of the Knights

7. The Knights of St Michael the Archangel is a movement overseen by the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel.

8. The Head Office of the Knights of St Michael the Archangel is the General House of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel (Michaelites, CSMA): Ul. Pilsudskiego 250; 05-261 Marki; Warsaw; Poland.

9. At a parish level a group of the Knighthood is called a “**host**”. The leader of the host is called an “**Animator**” and is selected from all the members of that host. New knights should belong to an existing host of Knights. If there is no host in their parish they should belong to the one that is nearest to them. When appropriate a Knight should try to establish a new host of the Knights of St Michael in their parish.

10. The Superior General appoints a General Animator from among the priests of the Congregation. His term lasts three years and is renewable. The duties of the General Animator's are: appointing National Animators; managing the Knighthood of St Michael

the Archangel according to the ‘*Rules*’; admitting new members; visiting the existing groups and establishing new ones; celebrating the annual Animators’ Congresses; organising Recollection Days, retreats, meetings and writing letters to the hosts. The General Animator reports annually on the Knighthood’s activities to the Superior General.

11. The General Animator organises the Knighthood Secretariat Office and is responsible for running the Book of Candidates, the Book of Knights, the Book of Supportive Members, the Book of Donations and Expenditures and the Book of Deceased Knights and Supportive Members.

12. The National Animator officially asks the Parish Priest of a parish to provide spiritual care of the host or to appoint another priest to do so – they become the local Spiritual Director of the host. The Spiritual Director takes care of the spiritual life of the Knights and the apostolic activity of the local host such as conferences, seminars and devotions concerned with the Knights.

13. The term of office of a local Animator lasts three years (but can be renewed). The General Animator ▶



► approves the local Animator on the advice of the National Animator.

14. The local Animator attends the “Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament” and runs the monthly meetings of their host. S/he starts apostolic initiatives with the Knights of their host. S/he liaises with Head Office and their host, distributes the magazine “*The Angels. Messengers from a loving God*” and other materials concerning the Queen of Angels, St Michael and guardian angels.

15. The local Animator prepares a written annual report on their host’s activities, which is presented at an annual Animators’ Congress. S/he runs or appoints one of the Knights to run the Chaplet. S/he informs Head Office about the death of a Knight of their host and sends a short life story of the deceased person. S/he also asks the host to pray the Rosary and receive Holy Communion for the intention of the deceased member.

16. Animators and Knights co-operate with other ecclesiastical movements for the good of the Church and their parish.

17. If a person would like to be a supportive member only, members of a local group can vote for them to attend meetings through a secret ballot. Their opinion is sent to the National Animator by the local Animator.

Responsibilities and Formation of a Knight of St Michael

18. The main duty of Knights is the continuous effort to be in a state of grace and in friendship with God so that they can exclaim about Satan: *he has no power over me* (John 14: 30)

19. All Knights respect the Holy Father, bishops and priests and all Church teachings. They should defend them if required. An attitude of

humility and obedience towards God and the Church should be an obvious feature of every Knight.

20. All Knights should pray for the growth of the Michaelite family.

21. All Knights receive and accept basic formation in their parishes. All Knight’s should seek to further their formation and complement it via:

- regularly evaluating the formation that they receive in their parishes; and being more responsible for the Church;
- supporting the Church through the charism of the Knighthood;
- reading the Bible every day,
- appreciating the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation;
- subscribing to the magazine “*The Angels, Messengers from a loving God*”, and other publications, as well as reading books on the spirituality of the angels;
- attending Recollection Days, annual retreats and other special occasions;
- taking an active part in the life of the local host / group;
- undertaking apostolic initiatives suggested by the Parish Priest of the parish.

22. Not every Knight can attend Mass daily due to work and home duties. However, if they can, Knights should say the prayer of St Michael after every Mass; pray the Chaplet of St Michael; and hold a monthly prayer meeting in their local parish centre preferably on the first Tuesday of the month with the permission of the parish priest. It is important to explain to the parish priest what the Knighthood is about if he is unaware of it. Knights are obliged to promote devotions to St Michael and draw in new members to the Knighthood. The Knights actively support the apostolate of the Congregation of St Michael in their work with the

youth, fostering vocations and aiding missionary causes.

23. Members of the Knighthood are required to curtail bad habits such as drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes etc.

24. Each Friday, Knights are required to fast, eating only bread and drinking water if dietary requirements permit for health reasons. If one cannot fast for some reason, they should attempt to undertake an act of charity towards others.

25. If work and home duties permit, each Friday, Knights are expected to join in the celebration of Mass (receiving Holy Communion) and joining their sufferings with Christ’s Passion to recompense God for their sins and the sins of humankind and to ask for conversion.

26. Each Friday Knights recite three simple prayers of exorcism: for the Church; for their homeland; for the whole world.

27. Each day, Knights say the prayer of simple exorcism at any time and for any intention.

28. Knights should attend a monthly **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**. If they desire, they can attend the Eucharistic adoration each week.

29. To help one another, Knights say a prayer for each other every day and the prayer of simple exorcism each week.

30. Knights try to spread devotion to St Michael the Archangel and guardian angels by studying the Bible, reading the quarterly “*The Angels—Messengers from a loving God*” magazine and other religious books and publications.

31. Knights say the prayer of the simple exorcism for those who are tempted or commit sin.

32. Knights renew their promises at their monthly meetings. It is advisable to renew the promises as often as possible.

33. Knights prepare themselves for the feast of St Michael the Archangel on



29th September by a nine-day novena said individually or with other members of the hosts. If the Parish Priest of a given parish agrees, Knights celebrate the feast by dedicating a Mass, reciting the chaplet, singing matins to St Michael the Archangel and taking part in a procession.

Admission to the Knighthood of St Michael, Archangel

34. Any Catholic man or woman who desires to become a Knight is required to complete an application form and get acquainted with the 'Rules of the Knighthood'. Once familiar with the

'Rules of the Knighthood', the applicant writes a letter of request, expressing their will to fulfill the duties required to be a Knight.

35. Generally, those who belong to other apostolic movements are not admitted to the Knights of St Michael the Archangel because it would be difficult for them to fulfill all duties required by other religious groups they belong to. However, if one is determined and eager to be a member of the Knights, the National Animator can decide whether they should be admitted or not.

36. During a trial period a candidate should attend the Adoration of the Eucharist monthly in their parish or the nearest venue where the Knights

meet. The candidate should subscribe to the magazine "*The Angels—Messengers from a loving God*" and try to distribute at least ten copies of the magazine among people.

37. Admittance of candidates takes place on an agreed date with the General Animator, they must beforehand attend a Recollection Day. After making the promise, the Knight receives a membership card and is written into the Book of Knights. In particular cases, the admittance ceremony may take place in the national headquarters of the Knights of St Michael the Archangel or in a candidate's own parish. The National Animator would decide where the admission ceremony would take place.

38. After a trial period the candidate writes an application letter to the National Animator. The National Animator then sets the date and place of the admittance ceremony, in consultation with the applicant.

Changes in the Rules /Statutes

39. All Knights have a right to suggest amendments to the Rules/ *Statutes*, which in written form should be delivered to the Animator of the local host.

40. During the annual Animators' Congress, the animator presents suggestions or amendments and delivers them to the General Animator in writing. Any amendments must be approved by the Superior General of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel.

The Rules of the Knights of St Michael the Archangel have been approved by the Superior General on 8th July, 2003

Father **Piotr Prusakiewicz** CSMA
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Novena to St Michael the Archangel

The feast of St Michael the Archangel is on 29th September. May we prepare for that event with a nine-day novena to the Prince of Heavenly Hosts. Do not hesitate to ask him for help and blessings for you and your family



First day

Most glorious Archangel, St Michael, who full of faith, humility, gratitude and love, far from adhering to the suggestions of the rebellious Lucifer or of being intimidated by the sight of his numerous followers, rose at once against him, and animating the remainder of the heavenly court to defend the cause of God, gained a complete victory over him. Obtain for me, I beg of you, the grace to discover all the snares, and resist all the attacks of these angels of darkness, so that triumphing after your example over them, I may merit to shine one day on that seat of glory from which they were precipitated never to rise again.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Second day

Most glorious archangel, St Michael, who, appointed by God the guardian of all the Hebrew people as his instrument, consoled them in

their afflictions, enlightened them in their doubts, provided for all their wants, even so far as to divide the seas, to rain down manna from the clouds, and to draw water from the rocks, I implore of you to enlighten, console, defend, and assist my soul in all its necessities, that overcoming all the obstacles which are met at every step in the perilous desert of this world, I may arrive safely in that kingdom of peace and delight, of which the land promised to Abraham was but a shadow.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Third day

Most glorious archangel, St Michael, who, constituted the head and defender of the Catholic Church, rendered her always triumphant over the blindness of the Gentiles by the preaching of the Apostles; the cruelty of tyrants, by the firmness of her martyrs; the malice of heretics, by the wisdom of her doctors; the evil customs of the world, by the purity

of her virgins, the sanctity of her Pontificate and the penitence of her confessors; defend her continually from the assaults of her enemies, deliver her from the scandal of her unworthy sons, so that showing herself always peaceful and glorious, we shall continue to hold most firmly our belief in her dogmas, and persevere until death in the observance of her precepts.

Glory be to the father, etc.

Fourth day

Most glorious archangel, St Michael, who stands beside our altars to bear to the throne of the Eternal Majesty our prayers and our sacrifices, assist me, I implore of you, in all the exercises of Christian piety, that I may perform them with constancy, recollection, and faith, so that they may merit to be presented by your hands to the Most High, and to be accepted by him as incense of grateful sweetness.

Glory be to the father, etc.



Fifth day

Most glorious archangel, St Michael, at whose feet the most sublime dignity of this earth bows down in humiliation, look with an eye of mercy on my miserable soul overruled by so many passions, stained by so many sins, and obtain for me grace to overcome the former and detest the latter, that having once risen to a new life I may never again fall into so unhappy a state.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Sixth day

Most glorious archangel, St Michael, who, being the terror of the devils, is destined by the Divine goodness to defend us from their assaults in the last combat, console me, I implore of you, in that dreadful moment with your sweet presence, help me with your invincible power to overcome all my enemies, that saved through your

means from sin and hell, I may praise your power and mercy for all eternity.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Seventh day

Most glorious archangel, St Michael, who with more than paternal eagerness descends compassionately into the suffering Kingdom of Purgatory to free the souls of the elect, and transport them with you into eternal happiness, obtain for me that by leading a holy and fervent life I may merit to be exempt from those fearful pains; but if for unknown faults or not having made sufficient atonement in this life I shall be condemned to suffer there for some time, plead then my cause before our Lord, and inspire all my friends to offer suffrages for me, that as soon as possible I may fly to heaven to shine with that most holy light which was promised to Abraham and all his descendants.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Eighth day

Most glorious archangel, St Michael, who art destined to sound the trumpet announcing the General Judgment, and to precede the Son of Man with His Cross in the great valley, obtain that the Lord may anticipate it for me by a judgment of goodness and mercy in this life, chastising me beforehand for my sins, that my body may rise with the just to a blessed and glorious immortality, and my spirit be consoled at the sight of the Lord Jesus, who shall form the joy and consolation of all the elect.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Ninth day

Most glorious archangel, St Michael, who, constituted the governor of all mankind, are in a special manner the guardian of the Catholic Church and of her visible head, bring back into the bosom of this elect Spouse of Jesus Christ all the wandering sheep, non-believers, Jews, schismatics and sinners, that all, united in one common sheepfold, may together sing for all eternity the sovereign mercy. Preserve the Church in the way of sanctity, and defend from all enemies the infallible interpreter of her will, her vicar on earth, the Roman Pontiff, that always, obedient to the voice of that universal pastor, none may stray from the path of salvation, but all, increasing every day in justice, both subjects and superiors, peoples and leaders, may form on earth that society of peaceful and indissoluble concord which is the image, the prelude, and the pledge of that perfect and eternal society which all the blessed in heaven compose with Jesus Christ.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Saint Sister Faustina's Diary is the book of Divine Mercy which contains within its pages many references to spiritual beings. There are twenty two texts referring to angels and to be more precise, there are eighty sentences with the noun "angel" or the adjective "angelic" in the Diary.



Saint Faustina and her Guardian Angel (Part 1)

Although the texts can be considered to be very short, nevertheless, they are still sufficient enough for theological analysis. There are nine references to her Guardian Angel under the numbers: 20, 314, 412, 419, 470, 490, 683, 820 and 1174. It would be natural after reading these references to question: Who is an angel? What would an angel look like if one could see it? What was the role of Saint Sister Faustina's Guardian Angel in her life?

I saw my Guardian Angel

Let us begin with the very first sentence concerning angels. Sister Faustina wrote: "I saw my Guardian Angel" (Diary 20). She described the reality revealed to her by God with the words "I saw." The general meaning of the verb "to see" is "to perceive with one's eyes". However, in the Bible the verb is deeply

connected with supernatural phenomena revealed by God's grace. God appeared Himself to the Chosen People. He was visible under many figures. In the New Testament He is revealed in Jesus Christ: "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). In the language of the Bible the verb "to see" means "to be enlightened, to witness and testify". St John saw an empty tomb, he believed and testified that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. His testimony was the confession of faith at the same time. Credibility of his testimony is based on his personal experience of what he saw. That is why it is very convincing (John 1,35:37).

Faith

Readers of the Diary have no direct possibility to participate in Sister Faustina's experience, they have to accept her testimony on the basis of faith. Only faith helped Father Professor Ignacy Rozycki who was appointed by Cardinal Karol Wojtyla (later Blessed

John Paul II) as an expert in theology for the process of beatification of Sister Faustina. He went from a deep distrust to an irrefutable conviction or even scientific certainty of the nun's heroic sanctity. After scientific research he stated that her revelations were of a supernatural origin.

Sister Faustina wrote that she saw her Guardian Angel. It means that the world of the spiritual being exists, which the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church both confirm: "As purely spiritual creatures angels have intelligence and will: they are personal and immortal creatures, surpassing in perfection all visible creatures, as the splendour of their glory bears witness" (CCC 330).

Protector and shepherd

St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), called the Angelic Doctor and the master of thought, devoted much space to the angels in his memorable Summa

Theologica. He explains angelic spiritual nature: “God produces the creature by His intellect and will. Hence the perfection of the universe requires that there should be intellectual creatures. Now intelligence cannot be the action of a body, nor of any corporeal faculty; for everybody is limited to “here” and “now.” Hence the perfection of the universe requires the existence of an incorporeal creature” (STh, q. 50, art.1).

In the invisible world the number of angels is “thousands upon thousands, and then a thousand times ten thousand” (Rev 5:11), among which there are Guardian Angels. According to the Catechism “from its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession. Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life” (CCC 336). St Thomas explains the decision of the Divine Providence: “Man, while in this state of life, is, as it were, on a road by which he should journey towards heaven. On this road Man is threatened by many dangers both from within and from without, according to Psalm 141:4: “In this way wherein I walked, they have hidden a snare for me.” And therefore as guardians are appointed for men who have to pass by an unsafe road, so an angel guardian is assigned to each man as long as he is a wayfarer. However, when he arrives at the end of life he no longer has a Guardian Angel; but in the kingdom he will have an angel to reign with him, in hell a demon to punish him” (STh, q. 113, art. 4).

World of spiritual beings

One evening Sister Faustina looked at the sky. It was beautiful, full of shining stars and the moon. Her soul was instantly overwhelmed with ineffable

fire of love and longing for God: “I fell on my face, humbling myself in the dust. I glorified Him for all His Works” (Diary 470). The universe created by God made her pray humbly whereas St Thomas was amazed and contemplated the Truth. If we are amazed by the material world, should not we be much more amazed by the world of spiritual beings united with God in eternal love?

In her Diary Sister Faustina reminds us of not being alone in the world. Angels are present in our everyday life as they were present at the beginning of the Church. We can be sure that we “benefit from the mysterious and powerful help of angels” (CCC 334).

Father **Karol Dabrowski** CSMA

**“God was happy on His own;
He did not need the world, angels or people;
He created them because of His Divine Mercy.”**

Blessed Father Michael Sopocko, confessor of St Faustina



The Power of Prayers to the Holy Angels

I am Sister Goretti from the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel. I would like to tell you two stories of obvious angelic intervention. Wherever you are, remember – you are not alone! Angels are always with you.

GUARDIAN ANGEL AT THE AIRPORT

I have known Elisabethette for twenty years. On one July evening the 23-year-old, who was studying International Law in Odessa, was supposed to arrive on the evening plane to Yaounde, the capital city of Cameroon. At 6 o'clock her parents learned from a message left on the answering machine that Elisabethette had encountered a problem in Dubai, where she was to change planes. Her name did not appear on the list of passengers, with the result that she could not fly. She had no money to buy another ticket and she did not know what to do.

Her brother, working in France, rang the agency seeking information



on how to help her, and being left behind at the airport in such a dangerous country. The hours flew by, with no news and no phone call from Elisabethette.

Her parents had asked for prayers and I sat in the chapel around 8pm praying to St Michael and my guardian angel to help and care for her. It reminded me of a poem by Fr. Twardowski. I asked him not to stand by me like a painted doll, but that he should fly to her, be with her, care for her and put her on her way with people who could help her. Then about midnight came a short phone call. She would fly the next evening. These following words are her own:

“In Dubai someone had sold my seat on the plane and so my name did not appear on the list. What now? Around me were only Arab men, looking at my helplessness with looks of irony and pity. Requests or even begging for help went unaided. Holding the rosary which hung around my neck I prayed: ‘Five times I was mugged in the Ukraine and I am still alive because of You. Are You not going to leave me now? Please, do something for me.’ When I turned I saw a woman in a service window some distance away. I approached and began to present my problem. She said that at the moment there is nothing, there is no place available.

Maybe there will be one in the evening. I had spent all my spare money in Vilnius for my baggage fee.

Hungry and tired, and without hope, I waited all day long, praying all the time. In the evening I went to the window of the kindly lady. She said: 'I have a daughter of your age who is travelling by plane like you right now. My God, maybe she will also need help?' And she bought the ticket for me and handed it to me."

Elisabette slipped to the ground, too tired and too happy to cope. At that point a student from California came up and offered to help her. She listened to Elisabette's situation, took her to the bar and bought her some food. Then she gave her 50 dollars for her further travel expenses, forgetting herself that she had her own flight and that her plane had already flown. But she was able to afford to buy a new ticket for herself, for 700 dollars, and continued helping Elisabette until her departure.

All this happened while I was sitting in the chapel before the Lord



and asking Him for help. It has to be considered that this all came about through the intercession of St Michael and the angels.

THE ARCHANGEL IN THE TRAIN

During my vacation in my homeland, I had travelled back by the afternoon train from Gdynia to Warsaw. It was around 10pm, when the train stopped at the Western Railway Station. Fear overcame me when I saw that I was alone, not only in the compartment but in the whole carriage. I thought I would probably die, as I had to get through the underground pass of the station. I immediately began to call on the protection of St Michael and my guardian angel. And then a young and very tall soldier got out from the last compartment. He looked at me and walked to the same door as me. To my surprise, he praised God and said, "Sister, I will help you to carry your bag."

Scared but also very happy I let him carry my bag. He gave me a hand when I was descending the steps of the train and we walked in silence to the underground pass. It was totally empty but suddenly opposite us a group of five or six aggressive guys appeared. The soldier began to talk to me as though he was my brother. Hooligans passed us swearing and the soldier brought me to the main hall of the station. Then he said, "Sister, my bus is already leaving", and jumped over the barrier into the departing bus. I thanked in my heart St Michael and my guardian angel that he took the soldier's uniform.

Sister **Goretti** CSSMA
Poland

Divine Mercy Day of Prayer through the intercession of Our Lady of Walsingham



Saturday October 27th
From 9.30am to 4.30pm
Westminster Cathedral,
Victoria St,
London SW1P 1QW. UK

Lead by
Mgr. Keith Barltrop
and
Fr. Andrzej Gowkielewicz MIC

Angels in Genesis (Part 1)

The scene was the beautiful, ancient city of Rome. My daily view of the dome of St. Peter's Basilica was framed by the umbrella pines of the seminary grounds of the Pontifical North American College. In the midst of this magnificence, I was suffering the deepest psychological trial of my life.

The circumstances are unimportant, but I had completely lost a sense of focus and direction in my life. It was more than a "vocation crisis" (Should I leave the seminary?); rather, it was a fundamental angst that caused me to wonder about the value of life itself.

John was a student priest from the Archdiocese of New York. Before that January evening, when we went out for a pizza, I had said scarcely more than "Hello" to him. Interestingly enough, after that evening, I shared hardly more than a greeting with him. But that brief encounter changed my life. The changes did not come immediately, nor easily, but they began with that evening's exchange.

A few months after my simple dinner with John, it dawned on me that in my time of need, he had been sent to me by God.

The content of his message is now vague; there was little emotion at the meal and no memorable quotes as such, but my conversation with him turned my life around. I now say with the assurance of faith that John was a divine messenger; that John was an angel.

If one's religion is biblically based, then one must take the idea of angels seriously. Historically, few fields of theological study have been victims of the abuse and speculation that has plagued angelology. The study itself invites fundamental problems involving

epistemology, dualistic cosmology, theological method, biblical interpretation, the tension between immanence and transcendence, subjective experience versus objective reality, and personal faith confronted with communal verification. Admitting that these (and many other) theological problems cannot be addressed in this brief reflection, I would like to suggest that angels, who functioned to reveal the Divine in biblical stories, sometimes function in our own stories, often in a human form. My intention is to broaden rather than narrow the arena in which the angel of God, the messenger of the Almighty, might enter our lives.

The Hebrew word for angel is MALAK (mal'ak) which most scholars agree means (divine) "messenger". Therefore, the theological question might be said to shift from the inquiry "Are there such things as angels?" "How do angels function in God's plan of salvation?" The question predates the Bible itself. Primitive people were acutely aware that the world could not account for itself. Many of their life experiences were not self-explanatory, i.e. some experiences and events in life were simply mysteries. The ancient's response to these experiences was to understand the world in a wider sphere, namely, the sacred. For primitive cultures, and certainly for biblical peoples, there existed a stratum of reality beyond

lived experience. The whole history of the Israelite people is a sacred history, a chronology of events that depict how the sacred is manifested in the secular. In their lived experience, the Israelites were aware of how the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob met them "face to face" on the plane of human history and claimed them, time and again, for Himself in a covenantal relationship.

Biblical stories, especially those in the Book of Genesis involving angels, recount how God, in moments of great joy or in times of distress, in times of great strength or in moments of failure, made the divine presence felt. In such instances, for the Israelites, the normally vague "sacred" became quite clear.

The investigation into angels is often coloured by preconceived notions and false presuppositions that one brings to Tradition, to Scriptures, and to the experience of faith for verification. In this reflection, I hope to move out of my own faith experience rooted in a community of faith and to converse with Scripture, Tradition and theology. Let be it said from the start that angels (divine messengers) were and continue to be perceived only by people of faith. The concept of Divine intervention and revelation is completely foreign to a sophisticated culture that is biased toward technology and comprehended in terms of science, logic and reason. People of



faith see things differently than do those who do not believe; a poet sees the world differently than does a mechanic; an artist differently than a mason; and so do those who believe in miracles and dreams than those who confine their interest to the material and to the present.

Biblical evidence

Neither the Bible in general nor the book of Genesis, in particular, paints a clear picture of what an angel is supposed to be. As well, in the Bible, there is no developed

doctrine concerning angels. There is no requirement of a belief in angels and no defence of their existence per se. The Bible does though, recount the comings and goings of the messengers of God and the focus is on their function and not on their nature. But angels are an intricate ingredient of Biblical faith and the repeated appearance of the mal'ak in the history of Israel evidences both God's interest in human history and the Israelite's developing notion of God.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, there is a development of angelology. Sometimes the angel is an ordinary

messenger. In some instances, the angel is sent by God. At other times the angel's appearance is theophanic, a representation of God himself. The first two concepts were rather primitive, the third, the theophanic representation, was a later development. An example of the theophanic presence is found in Genesis, chapter eighteen. Three angels come to visit Abraham to tell him of the impending destruction of the cities of the plain. The theophanic representation by an angel often served a very specific theological purpose. The use of this image allowed the Israelites to avoid use of the divine name. For the most part, the angels in Genesis are "sent" by God, rather than being a theophanic representation.

The people of biblical times were genuinely unsophisticated and could more readily accept the supernatural breaking into the sphere of the natural in everyday life. The Hebrew mind viewed all of life in the context of the sacred. Therefore, the Hebrew mentality had little trouble in accepting Divine messengers as a way of making immanent the transcendent God. Speaking to an angel is a way of speaking (though mediated) to God Himself. Angels are an expression of the Hebrew conviction of God's presence in their history and their designation as being under the special guardianship of Yahweh. In the religious experience of Israel, God's messengers, i.e. angels, were concrete means for God to make Himself present in their lives.

In the Bible in general, and in Genesis, in particular, angels almost never make themselves present in specifically cultic or religious circumstances. Angels encounter humans in the ordinary events of life. The Hebrew Scriptures recount time and again instances in which angels are encountered in places where one

would be least likely to have a religious experience.

Angels arrive in concrete circumstances and their true nature is not recognised until later. Angels remain for a specific amount of time (only that needed to carry out their task) and they only reveal about God what is necessary for their specific duty or message. Angels are introduced when the story moves from the purely historical to the spiritually significant. In Genesis such instances are found in a variety of places: The angel appears to Hagar at a sanctuary near Kadesh (ch. 16); three angels appear to Abraham at Mamre (ch. 18); the angel encounters Hagar at Beer-Sheba (ch.21); the Divine intervention at the testing of Abraham at Moriah (ch. 22); and Jacob meets the angel of God at Bethel (ch. 31).

What is clear is the Hebrew conviction that God was involved in their lives in an intimate way. What is not quite clear is exactly what or who these messengers were. Are they angels as depicted in art? Are they pure spirits? Or are angels spirits that are disguised as humans?

Nature of angels

One traditional way of understanding angels is that they are created beings on a plane somewhat above the human. A question which must be asked is whether angels are “separated spiritual substances.” In biblical stories where angels encounter humans, there are a number of themes that must be noted. Not only is the angel’s entrance usually not cultic, as has already been noted, it is also not ecstatic, ethereal, or frightening. Each angel, though not having a story of its own, fits well in each story in which there is an angelic appearance.

Also, note that the angel has only a presence and the function of the angel is much more significant than the duration of the angel’s stay. With God, there is always a context; God and history belong together.

The only context for the angel is its message or duty in the particular story. The angel arrives and delivers a life-changing message to a person so that particular person is no longer imprisoned by the past. The angel touches the human in the person’s concrete, lived, experience, opens new possibilities, introduces new beginnings, and then departs. A key understanding of angels is their departure, not their arrival. If angels really were the traditional “separated spiritual substances” (especially with halo, wings and white tunic), then their nature would be recognised immediately. Time and again in the Old Testament, the spiritual nature of angels is not perceived at their arrival but during their mission or upon their departure. There are a number of examples in Genesis in which angels are recognised only during or after their visitation. Such instances are found when the angels strike the Sodomites with blindness (ch. 19); Hagar opened her eyes and she saw a well of water... (ch. 21); and, Jacob lifted up his eyes (and then recognised that he had wrestled with an angel, ch.33).

Historical

Some authors believe that the idea of angels was imported from Persia and Mesopotamia during the Jewish exile (sixth century B.C.E.). The idea of God had become so transcendent that the concept of intermediate divinities was adopted as an appropriate means for the divine to make

contact with the human world. Other authors believe that the idea of angels existed in the Hebrew milieu for many years before the Exile. The idea of angels has, in fact, outlived many religions. Among ancient peoples, the messenger was seen as being under the protection of the gods.

The task of the messenger was so important (sacred), it was almost as if the delivery of a message was a divine work. The Israelite conviction that humans are visited by the Divine is almost as ancient as the idea of religion itself.

In Israelite faith there is a development of the idea of Divine messengers from the Patriarchs to the prophets. Most of the angelic messages seem to be pre-prophetic (the periods of the Patriarchs and Judges). There is a further development in the New Testament. Here angels are accepted as valid but they usually make announcements of cosmic proportion rather than causing a significant difference in the life of an individual. The Christian tradition further developed a tradition concerning angels that diverted its attention from biblical evidence concerning angels. Claus Westermann in his book *God’s Angels Need No Wings*, observes that in the development of Jewish-Christian thought, there were times when there was too much emphasis on angels. At such times speculation about and teaching concerning angels was plentiful. According to Westermann these were not times of fullness but of want. At such times unreal worlds (and unreal beings) were created. For Westermann the Babylonian Exile and the Middle-Ages would be such times as these.

Father **Patrick Manning** Ph.D.
Chair Division of Theology
Walsh University, Ohio



ANGELIC MISSION

Dear Readers, thank you for all the donations received via the Global Children's Foundation since the last issue of The Angel magazine, I feel very humbled.

Thank you from Belarus

As I have mentioned previously I have been living in Gatowo since October 2011, and have seen at first hand some of the hardships the children face. My dream is to help the young and disadvantage children by building a pastoral centre where they can play games, play football, dance, listen and learn music, read books and receive assistance with their education. This is becoming more and more of a reality with your kind donations via the Global Children's Foundation.

The photos show that work has already begun on building the centre, with many local people helping to make this dream a reality. However, money is still required to finish the building and to furnish it.

I would like the centre to be a warm, secure and loving place that pulsates with life and happiness and will give the young, who aimlessly wonder the streets day and night, a place to go. There they will find peace, joy and friendship. Every child deserves that.

A project for young alcoholics will also be offered to help them find the way to inner peace and freedom from their addiction.

It would be wonderful for others, more fortunate, to help give these children a good chance in life. No gift is too small to help make a difference.

There are three easy ways to pay, please make all donations via the Global Children's Foundation,

Donate by Post

Please make your cheques payable to Global Children's Foundation and post to

**Global Childrens Foundation
- Belarus Project
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Dunstable, Beds LU6 9DG.
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to make a one off or monthly donation.

I am very grateful for your generosity and support. Every Tuesday (the day of St Michael the Archangel) I celebrate a Mass for all the donors of this project.

I would also like to thank Father Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA, the chief editor of The Angels magazine, who is the patron of this work.

With my gift of prayer and a grateful heart. God bless you.

Father **Christopher Poświata** CSMA

Faith & Miracles

Faith is deeply connected with miracles. Miracles are deeply connected with faith. Sometimes just one miracle is enough for man to notice God and start a loving relationship with Him.

We often do not recognize Divine intervention in our lives. We usually link miracles with supernatural phenomenon whereas the greatest miracles often occur in everyday life. It may take time for us to be aware of them. On the twentieth anniversary of their marriage, a woman said to me: "Father, I live in the world of the miracle because my husband is a miracle for me. Now I see it clearly that he is the greatest gift I received from God. Do you know what it means to live in the world of miracle for twenty years?" Faith allowed her to see God's grace in her life.

Those who believe

Jesus says: "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In My Name they will drive out demons." (Mark 16:17) Christ does not only refer to exorcisms. The sentence also makes reference to liberation from addictions and other forms of enslavement. No one is able to break a chain of slavery without the help of God's grace which is the crucial factor in regaining freedom. It may happen as a result of the prayers of the enslaved as well as of those who love him. Each time a person is free, it is a sign of Divine intervention.

Jesus says: "They will speak new tongues." (Mark 16:17) It refers to situations when communication

between people is impossible due to conflict. Let me give you an example: a young lady quarreled with her parents then fell in love with a boy. Two weeks' later her attitude towards her parents seemed to change completely. Her father said: "You speak a new language to us." She smiled and replied: "Yes, I speak in a new language to everyone. This is a miracle and I thank God for that."

God's grace

Jesus says: "They will pick up snakes with their hands" (Mark 16:17). Christ tells us about people who may harm us. However, thanks to God's grace Christians may live in

such an environment and stay faithful to the Ten Commandments. Another example, once all the employees of a large warehouse were arrested due to them stealing from their employers. One of them was released. His colleagues all testified that he had never participated in these crimes. He was the only person of clear conscience. Despite strong pressure from his workmates he did not yield and that was a miracle.

Listen to your heart

Jesus says: "And when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all" (Mark 16: 18). The power of God's grace is so great that it



reveals all the evil traps in time. Sometimes we listen to a warning voice in our heart at the very last minute. The president of a company was about to sign some important documents when the light went out. Electricians repaired it, but in the meantime the president was wondering why it had happened when he lifted a pen to sign the document. He realized it was a sign to think and called a friend to consult him about the decision. It turned out that the last version of the contract had been changed. His signature would have led the company to disaster. The president exposed saboteurs and then thanked God for the miracle. He did not drink the poison.

Suffering

Jesus says: “They will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well” (Mark 16:18). Bodily illnesses may be cured by God’s grace as a result of the prayers of other people. However, the sick do not always recover even if they pray a lot. Suffering is an opportunity to meet God, to experience His presence and grace even if it does not result in recovery. Christians may assist those who suffer both bodily and spiritually. They may bring consolation and peace in difficult times and make hardships easier to bear. To have just one person bringing comfort to us is a miracle and thanks to whom we may be closer to God in our suffering.

Do you see miracles around you?

Father **Edward Staniek** CSMA



SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Divine Mercy reveals Satan’s ambushes

The first notes about angels appeared in Blessed Markiewicz’s diary on 3rd September, 1866 during his final year of study at the seminary. Since then, the blessed priest emphasised how he was being supported by angels, who were sent to him by God.

He knew that angels were the people’s loving and invincible friends and defenders. Father Markiewicz wrote about angels during particularly difficult periods in his life: “Give me the grace of accepting the cross with love. St Michael intercede for me, my guardian angel pray for me.” He also asked them to help him to make better choices which would make Christ proud, as well as to support his burning wish of serving God: “Help me Heavenly Father by the power of

the Holiest Blood of Your Son and by the power of love and glory You receive from the glorious spirits in heaven. Glorious spirits intercede for me.”

Divine Mercy

In a commentary on the Gospel of St Luke concerning angelic joy, Father Markiewicz explained that angels enjoyed seeing the very first and the most important attribute of God, Divine

► Mercy. The founder of St Michael's Congregation realised that human life was a spiritual battle during which angels supported us. He thought that each Christian was obliged to fight in that 'bloodless battle'. God allows evil spirits to test people so that we can become stronger in the combat against the forces of darkness.

Christ is man's ally in the battle whereas Satan, the world and the body



constitute his enemies: "For it is not against human enemies that we have to struggle, but against principalities and the ruling forces who are masters of the darkness in this world, the spirits of evil in the heavens" (Eph 6:12).

The enemy aims to seize the grace from God that people were given: "The Devil is on the prowl like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). It means that the Devil looks for a chance to enter into people's souls. If he manages to do it, he 'devours' divine grace and erases God from our hearts.

As a result, we become miserable slaves of sin. Father Markiewicz wrote, "A sin must be great if God punishes angels with eternal hell for just one sin only." He taught his pupils: "Satan wants to deprive you of everything. He takes away your parents and the sweetness of home. He also takes away your health. He poisons your hearts and souls, makes you unhappy on this earth and tries to make you eternally miserable." The blessed priest knew what he was talking about for he had also experienced spiritual battle in his heart: "I feel attacks on humility, purity, prudence and faithfulness."

Father Markiewicz admitted: "After baptism I became unblemished but Satan has trampled on me so many times... I feel trampled on by Satan thousands of times." There is no peacetime in the battle with the Devil, who was banished from people's souls and looks for a way to enter in again. Moreover, he rallies his companions and leads souls to a far greater fall. This battle lasts till the end of our lives, "There is no holy order or hidden place where temptation and adversity does not exist."

Shock for angels

Satan is 'a shocker': "It was the first shock for other angels who were scandalized by his disobedience and his call for a rebellion against God." Shock is one of the methods used by evil spirits; it is their favourite manner of gaining people to serve Satan. When the Devil wins their hearts, he makes them his tools. He compared the Devil to a dog on a chain: it can bark but it can only bite those who approach." Or another comparison: "some bears in Mauritania hunt for monkeys in a very peculiar manner. If the monkey sees the bear, it takes

shelter in a tree. The bear lies down pretending he is dead. The monkey comes down and suddenly the bear catches it. Satan also manipulates us so that we cannot see the temptation; but once we succumb to it, the Devil 'eats' us." Like St Francis of Assisi, Father Markiewicz realised that clergymen and laymen are tempted in different ways. In the beginning Satan holds the laymen by a single thread; later he uses string and eventually a rope. Therefore, enslaved man is led to sin.

Pride and ego

Another devilish method of enslavement is his use of pride, by which he attempts to poison people: "Satan sends his apostles and servants to cities and countries, houses and people, and even to the Holy Sacraments. He orders them to persuade souls to live for fame, praise from others, riches, sensual pleasure, by putting on airs and also worshipping one's ego instead of God."

His next method is the attempt to make people stop believing in God's Divine Mercy and to torment them with exaggerated scruples. According to St Bernard and St Alfonso, God punished Lucifer because the latter hoped that he would not have to take responsibility for the rebellion. The Devil misused God's Divine Mercy, and Father Markiewicz warned us against such an attitude: "After a good confession Satan gives a soul scruples concerning the validity of the confession, thereby weakening hope and faith, a discouragement in prayers and the risk of failure in fulfilling good resolutions. As a result, a soul stops trusting in itself, other people and even God."

Father Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA

Let us take evil seriously

An interview with Father Professor **Aleksander Posacki**, demonologist, by Monika Walczak



What kind of spiritual threats do you notice in our modern culture?

The very crucial threat is one's opening up of mortal sins by violating the first three Commandments. These sins are idolatry, blasphemy and sacrilege¹. They block a person from God's grace and it opens them to demonic activity. Living without grace leads to despair, everyday duties and difficulties seem too hard to handle. It is often connected with depression and mental illnesses. It may be a result of spiritual errors or wrong decisions. The above-mentioned sins open man to demons. Exorcists confirm that evil is usually not taken seriously. People seem careless about the fact that it is Satan and his army that stands for evil. Ignorance does not make evil less dangerous.

How do you distinguish between genuine good and seeming good, which in fact is evil?

We need to discern spiritually and what is genuine good. It is not subjective but refers to the Commandments and the teaching of the Church, the Gospels and the Decalogue. One who violates basic Commandments or commits a sin is of doubtful character. Firstly, violation of the first three commandments is infidelity towards

God. Secondly, sin also affects man who is loved by God. Any act against human dignity is evil. We need to judge our behaviour on the basis of the Decalogue.

Why is it easier for Man to choose evil than good?

It depends on Man's character as well as the attractiveness of temptation. Apart from that, evil bases itself on Man's egoism. Choosing evil is like a short cut in satisfying one's corporeal and spiritual wishes, passions and ambitions. Choosing good requires effort and sacrifice. One has to deny one's inferior nature but is given spiritual gifts instead. It makes Man happy.

Does Man choose evil by Satan's persuasion?

Yes, because Satan is responsible for temptations. He knows the weak points of our human nature and makes use of it when he offers an attractive sin to us. Yes, man is often tempted to evil. Jesus taught us to ask for protection against evil in the prayer Our Father.

What are the consequences of a fascination for evil?

Like I said, evil is attractive. It involves our ambition as well as our sexuality. When called, Satan comes

immediately but he never gives anything for free. The cost of this friendship is quite high: sins, possessions, and mental illnesses can result from an opening to evil. People need to be warned against evil, any relationship with Satan is always extremely dangerous.

How can we oppose evil? Does it make any sense?

Each objection has sense. Individual opposition is very important because individuals make groups and groups make societies. And it makes a difference. Besides, objection should have two aspects: we shall reject evil, warn people against it and also present the Divine reality of love, fascination with good, with Christ. The Apostles started evangelization from a fascination with Christ. Nowadays, there is too much ugliness in the world; there is the cult of atrocities, various monsters and other peculiarities. There is less beauty, love, joy and peace, which only Christ may give us.

¹ Idolatry is the worship of idols; blasphemy is a contemptuous or profane act, utterance, or writing concerning God or a sacred entity or the act of claiming for oneself the attributes and rights of God; sacrilege is the desecration, profanation, misuse, or theft of something sacred.

God sends His angel when needed

“When Israel was a child, I loved him. It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.” (Hosea 11, 1:4)

Poverty, grief and mourning

It seems that childhood experiences affect our whole life. Doctor David Henry could not forget three things from his earliest years: poverty, grief and mourning. He was born in a small mountain village cut off from the rest of the world in South Virginia, USA. Although his father worked hard for fifteen hours a day, he was not able to maintain his wife and two children. Treatment for his daughter consumed almost all of his wages. She died at the age of fifteen. Each member of the family suffered but no one talked about it. David left home when his sister was alive. He worked and studied in a nearby town. He was genuinely talented, graduated from a medical university and became a prominent surgeon.

Henry started to work in a hospital in Lexington. He married and a year later his wife was expecting a baby. It was 1964. One winter night during a terrible blizzard Henry managed to drive his wife to a hospital. Unfortunately, the obstetrician had an accident. Henry was forced to deliver the baby. It turned out that there were

twins. His newly born son was beautiful and healthy but his daughter had Down's syndrome. Henry, the doctor, immediately made up his mind. That decision changed his family's life completely. To save his wife Norah from sorrow, he asked Caroline Gill, the nurse, to take the baby girl to the care home for the disabled in Louisville and she was never to say a word about her. Norah Henry was informed that the baby girl had died during the delivery. She was so grief-stricken that she could find no consolation. It affected her marriage.

However, Caroline could not simply abandon the infant. She knew that her genuine life started from the very moment she turned back from the care home. The nurse decided to raise little Phoebe. They moved to Pittsburg, where Caroline found a house and a good job. She was employed by Dorothea March, a professor in a university. She was to take care of her 85-year father, who also used to be a brilliant scientist but now he suffered from memory lapses. Caroline and Phoebe stayed at the March's house. The nurse realized the job was a real gift from heaven. Soon she met a good and cheerful man. When they married, Phoebe had great father.

Do Material Things Matter?

It was 1970. The loss of her daughter made Norah helpless and grieving. Her sadness was like a dark stone burdening their family. Henry tried to console her but in vain. Seemingly he was a man who had gained everything – education, a great job, a great wife and beloved son – but somehow he was never proud of his achievements. What did he do wrong? He just wished to save Norah and their son Paul from the same pain he had experienced as a boy. He knew exactly what it meant to have a sick sister. Henry wanted to make Paul's life as smooth as silk. And now what? They all lived in a luxury house but they are like strangers to one another just because he ordered Caroline Gill to take his daughter away. From that very moment he lived like as if he were in a prison among neat rows of polished medical instruments and stainless white cloth covering the examination desk in his office. Henry realized that his clean, orderly world was built on lies.



Love and courage

Patient, gentle and helpful Caroline became a lioness when it came to Phoebe's education. Together with other parents she established an association which helped children with Down's syndrome. Members of the Education Council refused to finance any education for those children out of governmental money. During a hearing, Mr. Stone, a lawyer of the association, said: "All children deserve to have access to education. It is best for their physical and intellectual development, no matter whether they are healthy or handicapped. We are fighting for equal treatment."

Caroline was supposed to speak after Mr. Stone. She was in despair for she realized that those men would never notice any humanity in Phoebe. They would always see only her difference; her slow speech and difficulty in mastering any new skills. How could she show them her beautiful daughter building a brick tower on a carpet, with soft hair behind her ears and an expression of absolute concentration on her face? How could she show them Phoebe dancing in delight with music from a small record player bought specially

for her? or Phoebe touching her mother's knee when she was sad and asking "Are you okay, mum?" or simply "I love you, mum"? or Phoebe ridding piggyback on her foster father Al and hugging everyone who she met...?

Eventually Caroline stood up. Despite trembling, she put her hands on the table and waited. She could not believe how she had changed. She was a very different person than before. The men of the Education Council stopped talking until there was at last silence. Caroline said, "We are not talking about numbers. We are talking about children. I have a 6-year-old daughter. It is true that mastering new skills takes her more time but she can do everything that healthy children do. She can walk, speak, crawl, use the bathroom, and dress up. Every day I look at my little girl, who wants to learn new things and is friendly to each new person she meets. And now I see people who have obviously forgotten that we live in a country where each child is guaranteed to access to education regardless of their abilities."

No one spoke for a moment. One could hear only the rattling windows moved by gusts of wind. Grants were found for the education of disabled

children. Phoebe could go to school. She learned how to weave and make photocopies, which opened her way for contact with other people. What was more important, she gained self-esteem.

Suffering and happiness

When Phoebe was twenty Caroline decided to meet Henry. She informed him about his daughter's development for years but she never revealed their address. Her husband sent letters to Henry from various towns. When they met, Caroline handed photos of Phoebe to her biological father and said: "This is your daughter, doctor. She is loved, safe and taken care of. You missed lots of suffering but lots of happiness, too." The sense of loss and grief were so overwhelming that Henry had to lean on the wall.

Five years later, after the doctor's death, Caroline went to Lexington to tell the whole story to Norah and Paul Henry. The mother and son visited Phoebe in Pittsburg but she wanted to stay with her foster parents. Norah respected her choice. Paul found a job in Pittsburg to be closer to his sister.

There is a saying "God sends His angel when needed." Phoebe received an angel, her foster mother.

Holy angels, but for you the world would be plunged in the darkness of self-interest, unnecessary worries, unable to undertake efforts and sacrifice for true love. Teach us to see what we should do in each situation. Amen.

Father **Henry Skoczylas** CSMA

(Taken from *The Memory of a Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards)

POWERS (Part 6)



The Church has always invoked and paid a religious honour to the holy angels. St Thomas Aquinas believed that the angels were not equal in power and intellect. Indeed, based on the readings of St. Paul's letter to the Colossians and to the Ephesians (Eph 1:21 and Col 1:16).

The "Powers" (lat. potestas (f), pl. potestates), or "Authorities", from the Greek exousias (Ephesians 3:10) appear to collaborate in power and authority with the Principalities

(Rulers). The Powers are the angelic representatives of all lawful authority, ecclesiastical and civil. They are from the second order of angels composed of the Choirs of the Dominations, Powers and Virtues. The Dominations, which is the choir of angels at the pre-eminence of the order of angels, are given the duty of appointing tasks which are to be done by the Virtues and Powers. Powers are warrior angels against evil spirits defending the cosmos and humans.

They are known as potentates. These spirits hold one of the most dangerous tasks and are responsible for maintaining the order between heaven and earth. They are the major line of defence and battle during heavenly warfare. Powers maintain order around planet earth and protect it from being overthrown by Satan and oversee the distribution of power among humankind, hence their name.

The Choir of Powers direct the lower choirs on how to order creation (Mark 13:25) – "and the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken."

The Powers are also tasked with guarding the celestial byways between the two realms. They are the bearers of conscience and the keepers of history and as created warrior angels they are completely loyal to God.

Their power is of a more intensive character than that of the Virtues, and the Devil must give way before them.

Paul used the term rule and authority in Ephesians 1:21, and rulers and authorities in Ephesians 3:10. However, he may have been referring to the rulers and authorities of humanity, instead of referring to angels.

Powers serve priests

According to the writings of some Early Fathers the Powers guard the priests more carefully in their ministries. Priests under the protection of the Powers have great influence over souls, and their work is very fruitful. Powers are assigned to priests who are confessors of very devout souls. These angels lead the priests to a better self-knowledge and instil in them a desire for perfection. www.catholictradition.org/Angels/angels

Noreen Bavister, UK

Brief introduction to the Nine Choirs of Angels

1. Seraphim

The Seraphim is said to be the highest order of angels who guard God's throne. They are often depicted as 'burning angels' to represent them on fire with love for God. In the Bible Isaiah saw them as six winged beings. These heavenly creatures praise God.

2. Cherubim

The word Cherubim is said to mean 'fullness of knowledge'. The Cherubim have the honour of observing and keeping the records of God's creative powers. Cherubims are said to have four wings and four faces. The Cherubims also act as heavenly counselors and are the seekers of the eternal truth.

3. Thrones

Throne Angels represent the divine majesty and are associated with the power of judgement. They carry out God's justice according to spiritual and universal laws. The Thrones also act as angels who are friends of all the planets. It is the Thrones who will drive forward God's chariot, often they are portrayed as angels who carry the scales of justice.

4. Dominions

The Dominions are angels of leadership and are said to ensure that God's will is carried out by other angels. They help balance the force of creation and of the material and spiritual worlds. The Dominions represent the superiority of wisdom over intellect and govern the natural world and the elements.

5. Virtues

Virtues are known as angels who watch over the heavenly bodies and nature. The Virtues are often associated with miracles performed on earth. Shining

bright and often depicted with swords, shields or sceptres, these wonderful angels will assist you in your darkest hour.

6. Powers

Powers are warrior angels who maintain order around planet earth and protect it from being overthrown by Satan, defending the cosmos and human souls. They fight against evil spirits who attempt to wreak chaos through human beings.

7. Principalities

The Principalities are a realm of angels who keep a watchful eye of the nations of planet earth and its leaders. They are protectors of religion, giving strength in times of hardship.

8. Archangels

The Archangels are the most frequently mentioned throughout the Bible. They are the leaders of the angelic armies and are Holy messengers of God. There are only three archangels acknowledged by the Catholic Faith, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. They also command God's armies and act as guardian angels to leaders of world movements. They may be of this or other hierarchies like St Michael the Archangel.

9. Angels

These include guardian angels who are assigned by God to every human being at the moment of conception. Angels are closest to the material world and human beings. They deliver our prayers to God and return with God's answers. Guardian angels have the capacity to access all other angels at any time, their role is to watch over us during our lives. They are also the most caring and social of beings who assist those who ask for help.

PILGRIMAGE

27th May – 3rd June 2013

8th Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to Poland

Lead by

Father Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA

- The Divine Mercy Shrine in Krakow
- Shrine of Black Madonna Czestochowa
- Shrine of Our Lady Kalwaria Zebrzydowska
- Shrine of Saint Michael the Archangel
- Wadowice – Birth place of Pope John Paul II
- Salt mine in Wieliczka and Auschwitz

For more information contact

Noreen +44 (0)7795-318-605

RETREATS

2013

Wales

15 – 17 Feb 2013

Divine Mercy the Greatest Attribute of God – (New)

Franciscan Friary
Monastery Road
Pantasaph, Holywell
Flintshire, CH8 8PE

Contact:

Phone: +44(0)1352-717-071

Email: pantasaph@gmail.com

www.pantasaph.org.uk

11-13 October 2013

St Michael the Archangel and his Angels – (New)

Franciscan Friary
Monastery Road
Pantasaph, Holywell
Flintshire, CH8 8PE

Phone office:

+44(0)1352-700-153

Email: pantasaph@gmail.com

www.pantasaph.org.uk

England

4th October 2012

3.00pm – 9.30pm

Holy Mass at 6.00pm

**The Holy Angels & Divine Mercy
(New advanced talks)**

St Josephs Hall

The London Oratory,
Brompton Road, Knightsbridge,
London SW7 2RP

Phone: +44 (0)7588-406-290

Contact:

Elizabeth Forrester

www.bromptonoratory.com

The nearest Tube Stations are South
Kensington and Knightsbridge

6th October 2012

Holy Mass 10.00am & 5.30pm

The Holy Angels & Divine Mercy

St Patrick's RC Church

Hector Street, Plumstead,

London, SE18 1QT

Contact:

Fr. Michael Branch

Phone: +44(0) 208-854-0960

Email: mb0203@hotmail.co.uk

7th October 2012

Holy Mass at 10.00am

The Holy Angels & Divine Mercy

Elmore Abbey

Church Lane, Speen,

Newbury, Berkshire RG14 1SA

Contact:

Pauline Mason

Phone: +44 (0)163-5230-883

Phone: +44 (0)776-7078-642

7th October 2012

2.30pm – 4.30pm

Talk 1 Divine Mercy

& Talk 2 The Holy Angels

Our Lady and St Anne RC Church

2 South View Avenue

Caversham

Reading, Berkshire RG4 5AB

Contact:

Maria Gomez

Email: Maria.V.Gomez@gsk.com

Florence +44(0)118-9475 -215

11th October 2012, 7.30pm

Holy Angels and Divine Mercy

NEW advance talk No 2

Our Lady's Raby St,

Moss Side

Manchester M16 7JQ

Contact:

Monica - Phone: 01625-428-951

Email: monicameah@hotmail.com

Lydia - Phone: 01625-615-937

12th October 2012, 11.00am

Holy Angels and Divine Mercy

NEW advanced talk 2

St Alban's Church Hall, Chester Rd

Macclesfield, Cheshire

SK11 8DJ.

Contact:

Monica - Phone: 01625-428-951

Email: monicameah@hotmail.com

Lydia - Phone: 01625-615-937

Wales

12-14 October 2012

Divine Mercy Retreat

- Secrets of St Faustina - (New)

Franciscan Friary Monastery Road

Pantasaph, Holywell

Flintshire, CH8 8PE

Contact: Br. Keith Windsor OFM Cap

Phone office: +44(0)1352-711-053

Phone: +44(0)1352-717-071

Email: pantasaph@gmail.com

www.pantasaph.org.uk

Scotland

9-11 November 2012

Divine Mercy Retreat

Secrets of St Faustina (New)

Craig Lodge Family house of Prayer,

Dalmally, Argyll.

PA33 1AR, Scotland

Phone: +44(0)1838-200-216

Email: mail@craiglodge.org

wwwcraiglodge.org

13th November 2012

Holy Mass 7.00pm

Talks on Spiritual life of St Faustina

& Pope John Paul II

St Finniains RC Church

Ford Road, Crieff

Perthshire

PH7 3HN

Contact: Cannon Drysdale

Phone: +44(0)1764-653-269

Email:

st_fillians_crieff@btinternet.com

15th November 2012

Holy Mass 7.00pm

Talks on Divine Mercy

& Holy Angels

St Brides RC Church

Rie-Achan Road, Pitlochry

Perthshire

PH16 5AL

Contact: Fr. Tobias Okoro

Phone: +44(0)1796-472-174

Email: stbrides630@btinternet.com

16 – 18 November 2012

Angels – Messengers

from a loving God

Craig Lodge Family House of Prayer,

Dalmally, Argyll,

PA33 1AR, Scotland

Phone: +44(0)1838-200-216

Email:

Craig Office (mail@craiglodge.org)

www.craiglodge.org

England

30th November 2012

Holy Mass 7.30pm

Talk 1 Good & Bad Angels

- The dangers of New Age

Talk 2 Divine Mercy

The Holy Spirit Catholic Church

18 Cemetery Road

Heckmondwike, Near Leeds

West Yorkshire

WF16 9EB

Contact: Father John Abberton

Phone: +44 (0)1924-402-579

Email: holy.spirit@sky.com

1st December 2012

11.00am – 4.00pm

Talks on The Divine Mercy

and Pope John Paul II

St Edwards RC Church

2 The Grove

Kettering

Northants NN15 7QQ

Phone: +44(0) 1536-512-497

Email: cannon.john@

stedwardsskettering.org.uk

3rd December 2012, 11.00am

Talk on Divine Mercy

and The Holy Angels

St Patrick, Our Lady

& St Thomas Church

Langley Moor, near High Street

County Durham

DH7 8JJ

Phone:

Halina Holman 0191-378-3114

Email: Halina.holman@tesco.net

3rd December 2012

Holy Mass 6.30pm

Advanced talk on The Holy Angels

The Missionaries of Charity

(Bl Mother Thersa)

3 Durham Street

Newcastle Upton Tyne

NE4 6XP

Phone:

Halina Holman 0191-378-3114

Email: Halina.holman@tesco.net

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Phone: +61-413-314-718

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Email: info@thehollyshop.co.uk

Veritas Shop,
20 Shipquay Street
Derry BT48 6DW.
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Deputy Editor and Chief Coordinator: **Noreen Bavister**

Chaplet of St Michael

L. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A. *Amen*

Say the following prayer on the medal:

O God, come to my assistance.

O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

1. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Seraphim, may the Lord make us worthy to burn with the fire of perfect charity. Amen.

(1 Our Father on the first large bead, 3 Hail Mary on the next three small beads)

2. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Cherubim, may the Lord vouchsafe to grant us grace to leave the ways

of wickedness, to run in the paths of Christian perfection. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Mary)

3. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Thrones, may the Lord infuse into our hearts a true and sincere spirit of humility. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Mary)

4. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Dominions, may the Lord give us grace to govern our senses and subdue our unruly passions. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Mary)

5. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Powers, may the Lord vouchsafe to protect our souls against the snares and temptations of the devil. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Mary)

6. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Virtues, may the Lord deliver us from evil and suffer us not to fall into temptation. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Mary)

7. By the intercession of St Michael and the Celestial Choir of Principalities, may God fill our souls with a true spirit of obedience. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Mary)

8. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Archangels, may the Lord give us perseverance in faith and in all good works, in order that we gain the glory of Paradise. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Mary)

9. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Angels, may the Lord grant us to be protected by them in this mortal life and conducted hereafter to eternal glory. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Mary)

Recite on the next four beads:

1 Our Father

in honour of St Michael

1 Our Father

in honour of St Gabriel

1 Our Father

in honour of St Raphael

1 Our Father

in honour of our Guardian Angel

O glorious prince, St Michael, chief and commander of the heavenly hosts, guardian of souls, vanquisher of rebel spirits, servant in the house of the Divine King, and our admirable conductor, who shines with excellence and superhuman virtue, vouchsafe to deliver us from evil, who turn to you with confidence, and enable us by your gracious protection to serve God more and more faithfully every day. Amen.



Prayer of Pope Leo XIII

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Divine Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.