

# Under the protection of St Michael the Archangel

## Foreword

*You alone are the Holy One...*

Our Good God, who is holy, magnanimously invites us to have a share in His holiness in the act of calling His creatures to existence. The Creator, as the source of all holiness, plants a longing for Himself in the depths of the hearts of His creatures, endowing them with a desire for His own perfection. Those who answer this subtle call in the affirmative, the Father makes His witnesses. The holiness of God is then shared by human beings.

Saints amaze, attract and inspire us. We are keen to read their life stories, discover how they came to faith, examine the stages whereby they matured in the faith, marvel at the miracle of Divine grace as it transformed the complicated circumstances of their lives and are amazed by their boundless trust in the truth of the Gospel. In the lives of the saints, we attempt to uncover the mysteries behind their constant faith in God, we want to draw on their wisdom and ability to make right choices, as we try to discover our own road to heaven. In the saints, we also find allies and protectors. Their holiness becomes for us a source of strength in our own faith, enriching and deepening our hope and perseverance in love.

Saint Michael the Archangel occupies a singular place among those God has chosen as our intercessors. Christian tradition ascribes to him one of the most important missions in the work of re-establishing God's rightful place in the world and the salvation of mankind. The exceptional vocation of the Great Archangel is described in the invocations of the litany: Divine Messenger, Herald of Divine Glory, Guardian and Patron of the Church, Vanquisher of Satan, Terror of the Evil Spirits, Fortress of the People of God, Protector of Righteous Souls and Shield in Temptation.

Saint Michael the Archangel reveals himself today as a gift of the Merciful Father for the salvation of the whole of mankind. While evil gathers strength, lost and directionless human beings, indifferent to eternal values, retreat into egoism and live for the day, and while false prophets offer a world without God, the Creator once again shows His boundless love for His children, sending them the protection of the Great Archangel. His uncompromising stand for God holds back and disables the powers of evil, restoring order to creation, is a source of strength and enthusiasm for the faithful, enabling them to shape the world according to the Will of the Creator.

His love of and awareness of the significance of his mission to the whole of humanity has caused St Michael the Archangel, in the form of the copy of the figure from the miraculous grotto in Monte Sant' Angelo in Italy, using the Michaelites as his agents, to set out on a journey to meet people. Poland, where he has hitherto visited over 800 parishes, has been particularly marked out in his mission. By means of his presence in particular places in our country, he stands close to each person and intercedes for them: grounding them in the faith, making them aware of the good, supports them in prioritising right values in their lives, convinces the doubtful, strengthens the weak, brings unity to married couples and families, extricates souls mired in sin, restoring the purity of their hearts, frees people from captivity. Over 375,000 people, convinced of the effectiveness of heavenly intervention and the constant protection of the archangel, have been invested with the scapular of St Michael. The number of those with a devotion to the archangel, as well as Knights of St Michael the Archangel, is constantly growing.

The book which we now present for your attention answers the need for

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reliable knowledge about the person of St Michael the Archangel among the faithful, and also serves as a useful resource for use in preparing homilies and catechesis on the subject.

I would like to express my most heartfelt thanks to the author – Professor Zdzisław Kijas, OFM Conv – for his efforts in selecting and analysing the material and presenting the doctrines of the Church on St Michael the Archangel and the world of the angels systematically and doing so in a new and very interesting and readable fashion.

We entrust our service to Our Good God, following the example of our founder, Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz. May the archangel of God Himself delight, enthuse and inspire and assist us in our battle in the cause of honouring God and saving souls.

With gratitude and very best wishes –

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