



Messengers from a loving God

The Angels



"I have a particular devotion to my Guardian Angel. I have prayed to him since my childhood. My Guardian Angel knows what I do. My faith in his presence and care is deep. St Michael the Archangel, St Gabriel and St Raphael are those angels I often call for in my prayers".

Blessed John Paul II



It is a pleasure to welcome you to the sixth quarterly edition of "The Angels. Messengers from a Loving God" magazine. Thank you for all your letters, emails and a positive feedback. We are glad to hear that it gives you knowledge, spiritual input and an inspiration for living a holy life.

In our magazine we write not only about the dutiful obedient angels but also the fallen ones. We should consider our lives as a spiritual battle between the opposing forces of good and evil for which we must be equipped. 'Be ready for the fight' – said St Paul to the Ephesians. And, as someone so wittily said, "Life's troubled waters are better navigated by a battleship rather than a cruise liner". This is why St Michael the Archangel, our patron, protector and helper, is often depicted in paintings as a knight. His sword, shield, amour and helmet are symbolic of his spiritual weapons.

But how strong are our moral weapons of love, truth and hope? Maybe we all too often cast off the armour of God's love by living in sin? Maybe our sword of truth in the spoken word is broken and we cannot defend our faith or the innocents anymore? Maybe our helmet of hope has been shattered and we no longer believe that Christ has conquered the world?

We give up so easily, are fearful and lack hope and faith in victory. If you transform your mental attitude anything is possible with God. For instance do you remember that scene from the film

Braveheart? During the battle of Stirling the main character, William Wallace, sees the lack of hope in his fellow soldiers. He encourages them to carry on fighting and because of that they win in a spectacular way. Similarly, high hurdle competitors visualize themselves beyond the hurdle because focusing on it would cause self doubt, instill fear in their minds and lead to failure.

The first rule of the spiritual fight is to have faith in victory. Many people take up this battle but they have lost even before they have begun. We are winners, we are not made to fight but to win. A psalmist says "Thanks to my God, I can jump over the wall". We are the winners because Jesus has already won.

I kindly ask you to let others know about our magazine and distribute it all over the world. We look forward to any questions and feedback. I would be interested to hear by letter or email any testimonies on how the angels have helped you in your life. Please contact the office or the co-coordinators whose details are found on page 31.

May the Angels guide you on your way. God bless you.

Father Piotr Prusakiewicz CSMA

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The Angels
Messengers from a Loving God
A Catholic Quarterly Magazine on Holy Angels

Publisher: The Congregation of Saint Michael the Archangel – Poland

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Printed in Poland

An Incredible Event in Creation

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, robed with the sun, standing on the moon, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky: there was a huge red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail swept a third of the stars from the sky and hurled them to the ground, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was at the point of giving birth, so that it could eat the child as soon as it was born. The woman was delivered of a boy, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had prepared a place for her to be looked after for twelve hundred and sixty days.

Ap 12, 1-6

We can understand the whole truth of the above biblical text when we realise that the woman is the centre of creation. She is the source from which man is born. She is the fertile soil in which God continually creates new human beings. This is why the universe has an unusual respect for the woman. She is surrounded by the sun, stars form a crown on her head and the moon is at her feet.

Is the entire universe proud of man only? If there were no people, there would be no one to sing God's praises in the name of physical creation. Every child's birth is a new act of creation of someone who will

praise God especially in his body; it is the continuing increase of the human family. Every conception and birth of a child is an incredible event in creation, so all the universe bows over the woman.

There is another dimension to this text. Angels are not born. The number of evil spirits does not increase. They have strictly determined numbers. The growing world of God's children is composed exclusively of people. This is why the devil stands irritated over the woman.

All the spiritual power of evil stands annoyed over a woman who gives birth.

And this powerful dragon, represented in the above text from the Apocalypse as a creature who destroys, has seven heads (that is, incredible intelligence), has ten horns (that is, has



▶ great power). This dragon even destroys the universe – he throws down the stars that surround the woman in homage; this dragon is a symbol of the evil spirits who are man’s enemy. Luckily, God intervenes and protects the newborn child. He also protects the woman. He leads her to safety. Evil does not destroy her and every time her child is taken before God’s throne, it is taken to the exact place from which that intelligent spirit fell and from where all his army was cast off.

The universe created by God is built from many floors. God in his infinite mercy calls to fill those floors all the way to the top and to occupy those places from which he cast off great spirits.

So it comes as no surprise that the devil will go to great lengths to destroy every conceived human being. All the power of evil fiercely attacks the weakest human, an unborn baby. The devil lurks around and wants to destroy him but God is on man’s side. And so Man will increase in number until they fill all the top floors of God’s house to humiliate that extremely intelligent spirit. Weak beings like us will take their place there. We will attain an even higher dignity, that of children of God. This dignity does not belong to angels; they are only God’s servants.

We have to defend woman and child with great faith, courage and wisdom. All the powers of evil, represented by the apocalyptic dragon, grind their teeth and are irritated by them. And especially because in the woman and thanks to the woman someone will be created to occupy the next empty spot left by the one who fell from heaven.

Father **Edward Staniek**

St Michael protects and defends the Church

Visit to the Shrine of St Michael

Address of Pope John Paul II on May 24, 1987 at Monte Gargano

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

1 ♦ I am delighted to find myself in your midst, in the shadow of this Sanctuary of St. Michael the Archangel which for fifteen centuries has been the destination of pilgrimages and a reference point for those who seek God and wish to follow Christ, through whom “all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities” (Col 1:16).

2 ♦ I have come here, as did so many of my predecessors on the Chair of Peter, to enjoy for a moment the atmosphere unique to this sanctuary, an atmosphere of silence, prayer and penance; I have come to venerate and invoke St Michael the Archangel, that he may protect and defend the Holy Church at a time when it is difficult to give authentic Christian witness without compromise and accommodation.

From the time that Pope Gelasius I assented, in 493, to the dedication of the grotto of the apparitions of St. Michael as a place of worship and paid his first visit here, granting the indulgence of the “Angelic Pardons”, a series of Roman Pontiffs have followed in his footsteps to honour this sacred place. Among them were Agapitus I, Leo IX, Urban II, Innocent II, Celestine III, Urban VI, Gregory IX, St Peter Celestine and Benedict IX. Numerous saints also came here to draw strength and consolation. I recall St Bernard, St William of Vercelli (the founder of the Abbey of Montevergine), St Thomas Aquinas, St Catherine of Siena; one of these visits which has rightly remained famous and still vivid was that made by St Francis of Assisi, who came here to prepare for Lent in 1221. Tradition holds that, considering himself unworthy to enter the sacred grotto, he stopped at the entrance and carved a sign of the cross on a stone.

This lively and uninterrupted flow of illustrious and humble pilgrims—which



from the early Middle Ages to our day has made this sanctuary a place of prayer and reaffirmation of the Christian faith—shows how much the figure of the Archangel Michael, the protagonist in many pages of the Old and New Testaments, is felt and invoked by the people and how much need the Church has of his heavenly protection: of him, who is presented in the Bible as the great warrior against the Dragon, the leader of the demons. We read in the Book of Revelation: “Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him” (Rev 12:7-9). With this dramatic description, the sacred author presents us with the fall of the first angel, who was seduced by the ambition to become “like God”. Whence the reaction of the Archangel Michael, whose Hebrew name “Who is like God?”, affirms the uniqueness of God and his inviolability.

3 As fragmentary as it is, the evidence of Revelation concerning the personality and the role of St Michael is very eloquent. He is the Archangel (cf. Jude 1:9) who affirms the inalienable rights of God. He is one of the princes of heaven (cf. Dan 12:1)—charged with guarding the Chosen People—from whom the Saviour will come. Now the new People of God is the Church. That is the reason she considers him her protector and support in all her struggles for the defence and expansion of the kingdom of God on earth. It is true that “the powers of death shall not prevail”, as the Lord assured us in (Mt 16:18), but this does not mean that we are exempt from trials and battles against the snares of the evil one.

In this struggle the Archangel Michael stands alongside the Church to defend her against all the iniquities of the age, to help believers to resist the devil, who “prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

This battle against the devil which characterizes the Archangel Michael is still going on, because the devil is still alive and at work in the world. In fact, the evil that is present in it, the disorder we see in society, the infidelity of man, the interior fragmentation of which he is a victim, are not merely the consequences of original sin, but also the effect of the dark and infesting activity of Satan, of this saboteur of man’s moral equilibrium. St Paul does not hesitate to call him “the god of this world” (2 Cor 4:4), inasmuch as he shows himself to be an astute enchanter, capable of insinuating himself into our actions so as to introduce deviations that are as destructive as they are apparently conformed to our instinctive aspirations. It is for this reason that the Apostle of the Gentiles warns Christians of the snares of the

devil and his innumerable followers, when he exhorts the inhabitants of Ephesus to put on “the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph 6:11-12).

We are reminded of this struggle by the figure of St Michael the Archangel, to which the Church in both the East and the West, has unceasingly directed a special devotion. As is well known, the first sanctuary dedicated to him arose in Constantinople through the work of Constantine: it is the celebrated *Michaelion*, which was followed in that new capital: of the Empire by numerous other churches dedicated to the Archangel. In the West, from the fifth century the devotion of St Michael spread to many cities such as Rome, Milan, Piacenza, Genoa, Venice; among the many sites, the most famous is certainly this one on Monte Gargano.

On the bronze door molded in Constantinople in 1076, the Archangel is depicted in the act of vanquishing the infernal dragon. This is the symbol with which art represents him to us and the liturgy leads us to invoke him. Everyone recalls the prayer that used to be recited years ago at the end of the Holy Mass, “Saint Michael Archangel defend us in the hour of conflict”; in a few moments I shall repeat it in the name of the whole Church.

Before making that prayer, I impart to all of you present and to your families and loved ones my blessing, which I also, extend to those who suffer in body and spirit.”

Taken from the website:
www.opusangelorum.org
on 18th April, 2011

My Personal Experience of the Divine Mercy

This article is being re-run in thanksgiving for the life of Bl. John Paul II

My name is Lisa. I am 21 years old, and I come from Manchester in England. I was raised as a Roman Catholic, and I entered into my first sacraments with great joy and enthusiasm. However, by the time I reached the age of 12, most of what I had been taught about my Faith had disappeared from my mind.

Although I attended a Catholic school, it was a very harsh environment to enter into, and bullying was rife. Unfortunately, as I was a good pupil and not the loudest, I was an easy target. I felt utterly powerless as the bullying just became more and more personal, ever more vicious. In this powerlessness, I craved for some form of control in my life, but

my faith in Jesus was virtually non-existent, so I began to look for consolations elsewhere.

Aimless drifting

One day I looked over at the girl sitting next to me. I saw that she was reading a spell-book, and what was more, the page that she was reading instantly caught my eye as it read: “A Spell to Beat the Bullies and Make Yourself More Popular”. This is where I began my journey into the occult. A seemingly innocent magazine led me into very dangerous territory. After trying these spells out, I started to buy spell-books. In hindsight, it

is frightening how mainstream the occult has become today. I walked into one of the main UK bookstores, and I found a whole, massive section of the store devoted to New Age and the Occult. I was very attracted to the mystery of Wicca (Witchcraft), as I was seeking some form of control over my life. This seemed at the time to be the answer to some of my natural questions about the meaning of life and the existence of divinity. These books were tailored to attract teenagers who were feeling powerless.

This literature is dangerous – it taught me a multitude of falsehoods and prejudices about the Catholic faith. The most dangerous thing that it “taught” me is that Satan does not exist. That’s the first thing that Wiccans teach in their books – that Satan is a myth created by the scaremongering Catholics, and that he is actually still an angel of light – Lucifer! Once you do not acknowledge Satan to be real then he can whisper all kinds of lies into your ear and you will believe them because you no longer have a clear distinction between light and darkness, right and wrong. As I “progressed” along this path, the material I was reading became more and more sinister, closer and closer to outright Satanism!



■ Lisa Burns is in the middle



Photo: Grzegorz Cielizka

■ Funeral of Pope John Paul II

Thanks be to God, none of the spells or rituals that I cast ever seemed to work. Because of this, the fun and the novelty eventually wore off and I got bored. I stopped practicing witchcraft, but from then onwards there was an aimless drifting. I slipped into agnosticism, living the life that so many young people live today – “if it feels right and it is not harming anyone, then go ahead and do it”.

Hidden Presence of God

The last few months before my conversion seemed to be enveloped

in darkness. The last Christmas was the most depressed I have ever experienced! I recall lying awake on my bed at night, my heart crying out to God without me realizing it, asking “Do You exist? Jesus, are You real? Will I just die and then that’s the end of me?” I no longer believed that love existed, I saw only the badness in people, I trusted no-one and hated everyone. I was so bitter and emotionless. The only emotion I felt was anger. I was in “self-destruct mode” and I even began to be physically ill, losing weight as I became more and more hopeless. I felt so far from God, yet I know He was with me every step of the way.

Orphaned children

In the midst of all this darkness something absolutely wonderful began to happen. Pope John Paul II was dying. As I was already cynical and embittered at this point of time, I was very heartless towards him.

I can vividly recall the moment that I first heard that John Paul II had died. It was announced on television. He had died on the vigil of the Feast of the Divine Mercy, after praying the chaplet and after the vigil Mass. When I heard the news I stopped in my tracks. I felt numb. I do not understand why, even to this day, but I was shocked. I felt that my heart was touched.

The more I saw of John Paul II on the news coverage over the next few days, I became more and more intrigued by this charismatic man. In him I saw someone who was gentle, strong yet compassionate, kind, faithful and most of all – full of LOVE. I did not realize at the time, but what I saw in him was a reflection of Christ – he was another Christ to me. Nothing he could have said about Jesus could have converted me. It was not his words that changed me – it was the love that he allowed to work through him ... he was an instrument of God’s mercy.

Follow Me!

Something was changing within me, I could feel hope re-entering into my heart, yet I still did not believe in Jesus. I watched Pope’s funeral in awe trying desperately to hold back tears, which were welling up within me. The moment came for Cardinal ▶

► Ratzinger's homily. I listened to his every word, as though transfixed. He began with the words "Follow Me!" and kept repeating them throughout the homily ... it was as though the words were addressed personally to me! Then came the one sentence that I will never forget: "We can be sure that our beloved Pope is standing today at the window of the Father's House, that he sees us and blesses us. Yes, bless us, Holy Father."

He then entrusted the Pope's soul to Our Blessed Lady, and my heart simply could not take any more – it broke. My heart broke, I felt as though God shot an arrow right into my heart, and I saw the truth so clearly! I grabbed hold of some rosary beads and clutched the crucifix in my hand, sobbing and kissing the image of Christ, as it dawned on me that I loved Jesus and that I missed Him, and it was He that I had been looking for all this time – and he had been right there all the time!

The next morning I went to confession for the first time in years. I cried and cried as I confessed how stupid I had been to reject the Truth – Christ Himself. The priest told me that I had received a special grace from heaven. I went into that confessional box, feeling full of sorrow. I emerged from it feeling as though a great burden had been lifted off my shoulders. I stood in the church, in a daze. I looked at the tabernacle and felt as though a voice said: "You have come home, Lisa."

The next day, I attended Mass for the first time in perhaps years. The Gospel reading that day was about the Good Shepherd who goes in search of His sheep. I was full of joy! The darkness that had enveloped me before John Paul II died had now vanished. On the contrary, I felt as though I was living in a land of great light!

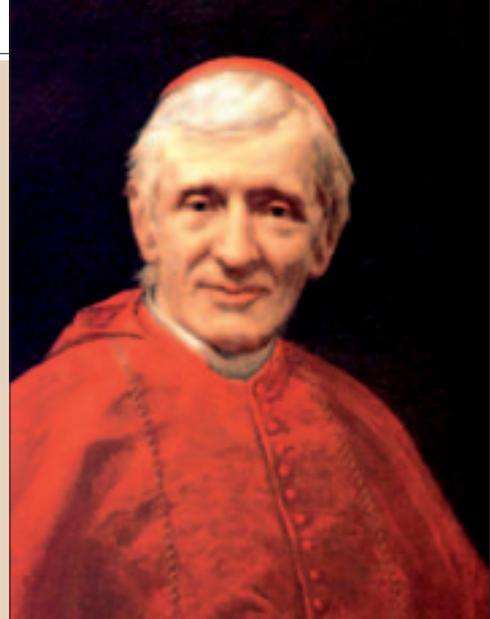
In the Womb of Divine Mercy

For the next few months, I felt like a child being taught by its father how to walk. I felt on fire with the Holy Spirit, I thirsted to know more about Jesus, I built a relationship with Our Blessed Mother. Jesus became more and more of a reality for me. I wanted everyone to know about the treasure that I had discovered. And I felt very close to John Paul II. What Jesus has done for me in His mercy is so wonderful, I am so grateful to Him. I am eternally grateful to John Paul II for allowing God to work through him so powerfully, for being open to His grace. I look upon him as my spiritual father. I feel that it is now my duty to tell others about the mercy of God, who desires so much to draw us to His compassionate heart burning with love for us.

Finally I would like to leave you with these words which were spoken by John Paul II in his last message to the world, which spoke to me so strongly at the time: "To humanity, which at times appears lost and dominated by the power of evil, of selfishness, of fear, the resurrected Lord offers as a gift His forgiving love, reconciles and reopens the spirit of hope. It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much need the world has to understand and receive Divine Mercy! Oh Lord, who with Your death and resurrection reveal the love of the father, we believe in you and with confidence we repeat today, 'Jesus, I trust in You, have mercy on us and the entire world.'"

(Pope John Paul II wrote Sunday's general Audience message on the vigil of the feast of the Divine Mercy, Saturday, April 2, the day he died.)

Lisa Burns



John Henry Newman the famous English preacher of the Victorian Era was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on 19th September, 2010. Not only did he have a great devotion to the Virgin Mary but also was a supporter of the devotion towards saints and angels. Newman touched on angelic study in his work *Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*, which he wrote in the quiet village of Littlemore near Oxford, England. The subject of angels was also presented in his sermons and *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*.

In the world of angels

John Henry Newman was born on 21st February, 1801, in London. He was brought up in a loving Anglican family, which read the Bible every day. As a sensitive child he appreciated the atmosphere of warmth and mutual respect in his family. However, at the age of 15 he experienced a spiritual crisis and as a result he abandoned religious practices.

The doctrine of angels by blessed John Henry Newman

Walter Mayers, his mentor, revived Newman's faith. From that time the invisible world seemed closer to him than the material one. He called angels his companions and supporters and was in doubt over the reality of visible objects. He wrote in *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*, which was compared to St Augustine's *Confessions*: 'I thought that life was a dream and I was an angel, and the whole world a delusion, and that my angel-friends hid from me, confusing me for fun and deceiving me with pretences of the material world.' Judging by that expression we can say that Newman was a man of spirit, who had contact with supernatural beings. Which one of us would dare to compare oneself to an angel?

After having read *Saints Unknown to the World* Newman made a hypothesis that pure angelic spirits lived among people. He believed that an invisible world with God and His perfect creatures existed, which he depicted in a sermon *The Invisible World*: 'Apart from the universe there is another world, much more abundant in miracles. This world is surrounding us although we cannot see it. Thousands of beings are around us: they approach and leave, they watch over us, act if needed and wait on us,

and we cannot see them. This world can be seen via faith, not via eye.'

According to Newman, angels act among us in the Church whereas the dead just rest after hardships. Angels are sent by God to serve those who are to possess God's Divine Kingdom: 'There is not a miserable Christian living in faith and love who did not have his angel.' Our world is just a veil under which there is God and angels.

At the end of time the veil will be uncovered and people will see Christ and angels just like the shepherds did during the Nativity.

The Cardinal respected angels, who surpass human beings intellectually, but he also realised that man can outdo angels with God's graces: 'I adore You, Lord, for creating man good and giving him natural unity. Thank You that You filled him with



■ Littlemore near Oxford

- Your grace so that he can be like an angel on earth.'

Devotee of God's messengers

John Henry graduated from Trinity College in Oxford. In a contest he won a prestigious post in Oriel College. However, in order to lecture at the university, one had to take holy orders. Newman became an Anglican pastor and worked in St Clement's Church; later he was appointed a rector in St Virgin Mary's Church.

He studied works of the holy fathers of the Church in Oxford, which inspired him to make an angelic doctrine: 'I thought angels to be reasons of movement, light and life, and all those elements of rules of the universe that we called causes and effects and laws of nature as well.'

When praying for the dead Newman asked St Michael the Archangel to lead them to God and other angels to welcome them on their way to heavenly Jerusalem. He wrote in *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*: 'Each gust of wind and a ray of light and warmth, each beautiful scenery is like a hem of angelic robes, robes of those who see God's face.'

Newman believed that evil spirits and some other supernatural beings existed too. They lived between heaven and hell; they were 'partly fallen, whimsical, strange, noble or cunning, good or bad depending on a case.' They could influence governments' decisions. The Cardinal inferred the idea from the Revelation to John, where there were angels of seven churches, and from the Book of Daniel, where the prophet spoke of the prince of Persia. On the basis of the teachings of St Gregory of Nazianzus, St Justin,

St Irenaeus, St Ambrose, Tertullian and Origen, Newman claimed that each nation had their own guardian angel and that some of the angels had fallen before the Flood due to their love towards women.

Angel of Birmingham

In 1832 John Henry went on a journey to Rome, Malta and Sicily, where he suffered from a serious illness. At that time he wrote a poem about a guardian angel and discovered that he had a mission to fulfil in his country. The task concerned a reform in the Anglican Church which had drifted towards religious liberalism. In 1833 Newman returned to England where he established the Oxford Movement. The main aim of the organisation was to introduce Catholic teachings and revive Christian spirits in certain rigid structures of the church. Members of the Movement wished to rediscover the beauty and value of the ancient Church.

However, they found little enthusiasm among people. Newman, ironically called 'a papist', was ostracized from the university and society. He devoted himself to studying works of the holy fathers of the ancient Church at his house in Littlemore. The study made him sure that the Roman Catholic Church held the deposit of faith given by Christ to the apostles. John Henry's conversion took place on 9th October, 1845 and although now being a Catholic, he remained in touch with his brothers from the Anglican Church. After having returned from Rome, where he studied theology, Newman established an oratory in Birmingham in 1848. There he spent the last years of his life



■ Angel of Birmingham

and wrote his most well-known work *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*, in which he protected the Roman Catholic Church as well as his own good name.

For his merits for the Church he was appointed Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879. It was an unprecedented situation for Newman when he was promoted to such a high rank omitting particular grades in church hierarchy. He died with a reputation for holiness on 11th August, 1890 in Birmingham.

Justyna Majewska

The Seven Greats

We know from the Bible that there are seven special Angels. Three of them we know by name. These revealed names say more about the tasks given to angels by God rather than about the nature of these spiritual beings. The angel names point to God as the root or source and describe the way He acts: Michael – Who is like God? Gabriel - God is Strength, Raphael – God heals.

The holy Bible does not give us an account of how many Angels there are. We only know that they are innumerable. Jesus mentioned before Pilate about the twelve legions of Angels which His Father could send for His defense (Mth 26, 53); there were 6000 soldiers in a Roman Legion. In the book of Daniel we read that 'A thousand thousand waited on him, then a thousand times ten thousand stood before him' (Dn 7,10). The book of Revelation says a multitude of angels gathered around the throne. (Rev 5, 11).

Dionysius Areopagite said in his comments that these dizzying numbers cannot be taken literally, they just reveal the truth that the number of angels is beyond the human capacity of counting.

In this innumerable host of spiritual beings who serve God, some of them play a special role. In the book of Tobit the Angel Raphael mentions the seven angels who have entry to God's throne, who 'stand ever ready to enter the presence of the glory of the Lord' (Tb 12, 15). Also the Prophet Zechariah writes: 'these seven are the eyes of the Lord; they cover the whole world' (Zach 4, 10). In the book of Revelation we can read about 'the seven spirits' before God's throne (Rev 1, 4; 5, 6). We also know that seven trumpets will

be given to the seven angels to announce the next coming (Rev 8,2). While the number of seven can only have a symbolic meaning, the 'seven' has been seen as the holy number. The use in the Bible does not necessarily mean the exact number; usually it means closeness to an inexplicable fulfillment.

On the other hand, we have no reason to reject the possibility that there are seven special angels among the host of these angelic beings who have a special mission to accomplish, a kind of 'the seven, the great'. We call them Archangels which highlights their differences compared to other angels, although we will not see the word Archangel mentioned in plural throughout the whole Bible. It appears in the singular form only twice in the Scriptures and only in the New Testament. In the letter to the Thessalonians the announcement appears: 'At the trumpet of God, the voice of the Archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven' (1 Th 4, 16). In the letter of Jude, the Archangel Michael fought against the devil.

Some people consider that the prefix 'arch' (from Latin, which means 'the main', 'the superior') points to the one existing archangel, the superior of all the angel beings.

The Jewish philosopher Philo of Alexandria from the 1st century, used the word 'archangel' three times. In his commentary of Jacob's dream and to the vision of God at the top of the ladder reaching up to heaven (Gen 27, 12:13), he wrote: 'The vision showed the angel of the Lord standing at the top of the ladder: we need to treat him as one standing on high like a chariot driver or the helmsman of a ship, one who is above all things seen and unseen' (De somnis 1, 57). In Philo's meaning the archangel is God himself or rather the Logos. In the New Testament Michael is the archangel but Christian tradition says that he is not the only archangel. This title is suitable to the seven angels who 'stand ready to enter the presence of the glory of the Lord'.

Now we briefly present the characters of the three known archangels.

Michael

Who is like God

The Holy Scriptures mentions five times this powerful spiritual being (three times in a Book of Daniel, once in the Letter of Jude, ►



once in a Book of Revelation). The Book of Daniel describes him like a great prince (Hebrew: sar – Dn 10, 1. 13. 21), who is the guardian of the chosen people. Jude in the New Testament pointed to the mysterious dispute (about the body of Moses), which took place between Michael and the devil, but the most famous text about Michael comes from the Book of Revelation: Michael and his angels defeated Satan – the dragon and his angels (Rev 12). When we take the fact that Michael has his angels as a premise we can bring forth a proposal that he is a commander of the heavenly army, and so he is an equal to the character seen by Joshua – the angel with a drawn sword (Jos 5, 13). The importance of Michael the Archangel is emphasized in Jewish apocryphal books. These books show Michael as the one who fulfills God's plans for the World, someone who keeps the keys of heaven, the angel of God's court and divine punishment, but also as the angel of Divine Mercy.

Raphael God heals

Raphael is a main character in the Book of Tobit, which is not recognized by Protestants but is present in the Catholic and Orthodox canon of writings. He took on himself the human figure and became a travel companion of young Tobit and called himself Azarias, son of Ananias.

His name Raphael means 'God heals'. Raphael frees Sarah from the influences of the demon of Asmodeus, who killed her husbands one after another. Raphael also heals Tobit senior from his blindness, using the liver of a fish. He made all his work incognito and only when he had accomplished his mission, he spoke against members of the entire family: 'I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand ever ready to enter the presence of the glory of the Lord' (Tb 12, 15). And when they got frightened and bowed down before him, he comforted them: 'Bless

God for ever. [...] When I was with you, my presence was not by any decision of mine, but by the will of God; it is He whom you must bless throughout your days, he that you must praise. [...] I am about to return to him above who sent me' (Tb 12, 17:22).

In this way God's Messenger or God's Angel shows his nature and his habitual residence, which is near to God, where he is ever ready for any call from Him. By his words he reveals some mysteries of the unseen world.

Apart from the book of Tobit there is no other place in the Bible which mentions Raphael, although some people think that the Angel of God who, according to people who believe, comes down and stirs the water in the pool at Bethesda (J 5, 1:4) and might be identified with Raphael. This would explain the belief that anyone who would wash himself in the pool while the water was stirred would gain relief from his disease.

We know about some different missions of Raphael from Apocrypha. For example, according to the Ethiopic Book of Enoch, Raphael bound rebel angel Azazel and imprisoned him under the desert Dudael (En 10, 5:7).

Although the apocrypha are, in a certain sense, human imagination, they also show how religious views have developed over time.

Gabriel God is Strength

Apart from Michael and Raphael we know by name the Angel Gabriel. He is a messenger who in the Old Testament had revealed the mysteries to Daniel. 'I was still speaking,

still at prayer [...], when Gabriel, the being I had seen originally in a vision, flew suddenly down to me at the hour of the evening sacrifice. He said to me, Daniel [...]’ (Dn 9, 20. 22). Further words of the Angel were the harbinger of salvation, which will be done through the anointed ruler in a time of ‘70 weeks’ years (490 years). In the New Testament Gabriel appeared to Zechariah during the time of the evening sacrifice of incense, not in a vision but inside of the temple of Jerusalem surrounded by the crowd of people praying. Zechariah doubted that he will get the son he was promised. He and his wife were old and besides she was barren. And at least on this occasion Gabriel introduced himself as Raphael had to Tobit ‘I am Gabriel who stands in God’s presence, and I have been sent to speak to you and bring you this good news’ (Lk 1, 19). But Zechariah was punished for his doubt: he could not speak until the good news was fulfilled.

Gabriel is known the most of all as the Messenger who brought the good news about the birth of Jesus to Mary. Gabriel’s words which had been said on that occasion to Mary were included in the prayer commonly known as Hail Mary!

According to apocrypha – the Book of Enoch, Gabriel was sent by God to induce war between the descendants of sinful angels – giants: ‘To Gabriel the Lord also said, Go to the biters, to the reprobates, to the children of fornication; and destroy the children of fornication, the offspring of the Watchers, from among men; bring them forth, and excite them one against another. Let them perish by mutual slaughter; for length of days shall not be theirs. They shall all entreat you, but their fathers shall not obtain their wishes respecting them;

for they shall hope for eternal life, and that they may live, each of them, five hundred years’ (En 10, 13:14).

Gabriel is also described as one of the holy angels ‘who *presides* over Ikisat, ⁽³¹⁾ over paradise, and over the cherubim’ (En 20,7).

It is worth mentioning that Gabriel (Jibril) is present in a tradition of Islam, as the angel who dictated the verses of the Koran to Muhammad.

Other Angels

And what about the other four archangels and their missions?

We can only find in the Bible the names of these three angels. The other names, given to four other angels, do not come from God’s revelation but from peoples’ imagination.

Why have we not been given the names of the other archangels? It seems we do not need to know them. This secrecy makes us aware of a truth that we should consider when we speak about the angels. We should remember that we know only a little about the angels acts and missions.

The angels’ mission is usually concealed and very discreet. We can compare the angels with the Secret Service. They are like the Special Branch where the heavenly commandos’ missions remain unknown because they have been not revealed in the Bible. However the angels are always in action, fulfilling God’s plan for the world and mankind.

And finally, as St Francis Xavier advises, “Pray often to angels, request their advice and help in all your ways, both eternal and temporal, ask them to cooperate with you.”

Roman Zajac

PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL FOR PROTECTION OF THE CHURCH AND HER MEMBERS

O glorious St. Michael, guardian and defender of the Church of Jesus Christ, come to the assistance of this Church, against which the powers of hell are unchained, guard with especial care her august head, that for him and for us the hour of triumph may speedily arrive. O glorious Archangel St. Michael, watch over us during life, defend us against the assaults of the devil, assist us especially at the hour of death; obtain for us a favorable judgment, and the happiness of beholding God face to face for endless ages. Amen.

GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER

My good Angel, Thou comest from heaven; God has sent thee to take care of me. Oh, shelter me under thy wings. Lighten my path and my direct steps. Do not leave me, stay quite near me and defend me against the spirit of evil. But above all come to my help in the last struggle of my life. Deliver my soul so that with thee it may praise, love and contemplate the goodness of God forever and ever. Amen

Holy and fallen Angels in the Diary

The angels are divided into two groups, one group supporting us and the other group in open rebellion against Christ's followers.

The fallen angels are already in hell, but they want us to share their destiny. That is why we are often tempted. But when we pray to the Divine Mercy we want hell to be empty. We ask God that no one will cross the threshold of this land of eternal death, eternal unhappiness.

My guardian angel

It is very likely that after death many people go to heaven via purgatory. There is a story in the diary of St Faustina when her guardian angel took her to purgatory.

Diary No 20: *"I saw my guardian angel who ordered me to follow him. In a moment I was in a mystical place full of fire in which there was a great crowd of suffering souls. They were praying fervently but to no avail for themselves, only we can come to their aid. The flames which were burning them did not touch me at all. My guardian angel did not leave me for an instant. I asked these souls what their greatest suffering was, they answered me in one voice that the greatest torment was a longing for God. I saw Our Lady visit the souls in purgatory, the souls call her The Star of the Sea, she brings them refreshment. I wanted to talk with them*

more but my guardian angel beckoned me to leave. We went out of the prison of suffering. I heard an interior voice which said, 'My mercy does not want this but justice demands.' Since that moment I am in closer communion with the suffering souls."

Through St Faustina's guardian angel we are asked by Jesus to pray more for the holy souls and to pray for those who have passed away. Praying for the dying and deceased is an important part of the devotion to the Divine Mercy. When we recite the chaplet we pray not only for those alive but also the holy souls in purgatory.

Each time when we receive a plenary indulgence we help the holy souls in purgatory, this can be offered for ourselves or the holy souls in purgatory. It is better to offer it for one person for whom we care about. If this person is in Heaven the plenary indulgence will go to the Treasury of the Church and will be distributed to other holy souls.

Tremendous mystery

If you look in the gospel you will not find a place where Jesus showed his mercy to Satan. We find in the diary that God is so merciful to human beings, but there is no mercy for the fallen angels. We do not know the reason why, it is a mystery.

St Faustina was aware of this tremendous mystery, that God is so merciful to us, but not with the fallen angels.

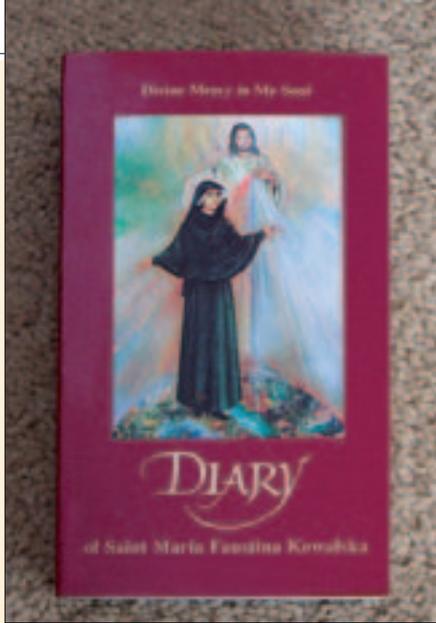
Diary No 1332: She wrote: *"The second day as I was meditating on the sins of the angels and their immediate punishment. I asked Jesus why the angels had been punished as soon as they had sinned I heard a voice, 'Because of their profound knowledge of God. No person on earth, even though they be a great saint has such knowledge of God as an angel has.' Nevertheless to me, who am so miserable, You have shown Your mercy, Oh God at this time and time again you carry me in the bosom of Your mercy."*

Dairy No 1339: *"O merciful God, You do not despise us, but lavish Your graces on us continuously. You make us fit to enter your kingdom, and in your goodness You grant that human beings may fill the places vacated by the ungrateful angel. O God of great mercy who turned Your sacred gaze away from the rebellious angels and turned upon contrite man, praise and glory be to Your unfathomable mercy. Oh God who does not despise the lowly heart."*

The fallen angels did not repent and did not receive extra time from God to do so. They were very close to God but committed sin even though they had all the graces and awareness to prevent this happening. This is why they are in hell and want us to share their destiny.

A perfect soul

Diary No 1489: St Faustina said to Jesus, *"You did not give the fallen angels*



This passage reminds us that we should defend ourselves and be aware that temptations are part of our daily life. We are tempted if we do God's work, Satan hates us. However we should not be worried if we are in the hands of God. He is our defender. We have St Michael and should not be afraid. God is always at our side.

If it is said Satan is an opposite of God, it is not true. The fallen angel is not God's opposite, like it maybe said in the New Age movement, God is the creator and Satan is a fallen angel. The angels are creatures; omnipotent God has no opposite. Satan and all other demons like all angels are powerful and their intellect far surpasses our own. We need to fear Satan, but if we are in the state of grace we need not to be afraid because God is at our side

We know from the Catechism of the Catholic Church when God permits the activity of Satan it is a great mystery and we cannot prevent God from fulfilling His will for man. St Paul in the letter to the Romans said, 'In everything God works for good with those who love Him. We are in the hands of God.' Through temptation our will can be strengthened to follow Jesus more faithfully and we can grow in holiness. Do not be surprised when you have temptation.

When we are on a retreat or pilgrimage we may feel we are in heaven. But when we go back home to our families or work and to our normal daily life, things may become difficult and we may at times face many problems. Do not be afraid. We are in God's hands.

The rays of the Divine Mercy

Diary No 1565: St Faustina wrote, "When I entered the chapel for

a moment, the Lord said to me, 'My daughter, help me to save a certain dying sinner. Say the chaplet that I taught you for him.' When I began to say the chaplet, I saw the man dying in the midst of terrible torment and struggle. His guardian angel was defending him, but he was powerless against the enormity of the soul's misery. A multitude of devils was waiting for the soul. But while I was saying the chaplet, I saw Jesus as he depicted in the image. The rays which issued from Jesus' heart enveloped the sick man, and the powers of darkness fled in panic. The sick man peacefully breathed his last. When I came to myself, I understood how very important the chaplet was for the dying. It appeases the anger of God.'

The moment when someone is dying there is a struggle, a big spiritual fight. The guardian angel is there to help and support a person to have a contrite heart and to turn to God's mercy. The power of the chaplet is so strong that it is able to defeat people who are dying.

Usually when I think of my time when I was the chaplain to The Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw, I found it very striking that their daily chaplet always had the same intention - for the conversions of sinners and for the dying. I understood what it was to have a devotion of The Divine Mercy. The purpose of this devotion is not just for our comfort, but for the salvation of souls; bringing all people to heaven and leaving hell empty.

Humble souls

Diary No 1220: On the sixth day of the Novena Jesus asks us to bring to him in prayer little children and those with humble hearts, "Today bring to me the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children, immerse them in My

time to repent or prolong their a time of mercy. Oh my Lord, You have given me saintly priests to show me the sure way."

We are asked by Jesus to be in touch with the good angels. They help us with our spiritual battles. St Faustina wrote, **Diary No 606:** "I start the day with a battle and finish the day with a battle." That is why we need special protectors and supporters, they are the good angels.

St Faustina's guardian angel defended her when she was praying and attacked by the fallen angel. **Diary No 412:** "I fell asleep as soon as I lay down, it was about eleven o'clock Satan shook my bed. I awoke instantly, and I started to pray the rosary peacefully to my guardian angel. I then saw the souls who were doing penance in purgatory. They appeared like shadows, and among them I saw many demons. One of these tried to vex me; taking the form of a cat, he kept throwing himself onto my bed and on my feet and he was quite heavy. I kept praying the rosary all the while and towards dawn these beings vanished, and I was able to get some sleep. When I entered the chapel in the morning I heard a voice in my soul, 'You are united to Me, fear nothing. But know, my child, that Satan hates you; he hates every soul, but he burns with a particular hatred for you because you have snatched so many souls from his dominion.'

► *mercy. These souls most closely resemble My Heart. They strengthen Me during My bitter passion. I saw them as early Angels who keep vigil at My altar. I pour out upon them whole torrents of grace. Only the humble soul is able to receive My grace. I favour humble souls with My confidence.*"

We know from previous apparitions of angels who often looked like little children. If we are humble and meek we also can imitate the angels and be like little children in front of God.

Pray for priests

Diary No 1240: *"The Lord Jesus greatly protects His representatives on earth. How closely He has visited with them and He orders me to give priority to their opinion over His. I have come to know the great intimacy which exists between Jesus and the priest. ... Oh Jesus, through a special grace, I have come to know very clearly to what extent You have shared Your power and mystery with them, more than with the Angels. I rejoice in this for it is all for my good."*

So much depends on the prayer of priests, it is our main duty to pray and intercede for people. St Frances of Assisi said every priest and religious sister was tempted twice more than ordinary people. Satan hates priests because of the power of the sacrament which are distributed through the hands of a priest. St Faustina had visions of priests who were tempted. She was asked by Jesus to pray for them, and because of her prayer these people did not give into temptation. St Faustina's prayers were answered, pray for priests.

John Paul II

On a solemn feast day of the holy person or an Archangel they are

present with us in a special way. We receive many graces on their feast day. We believe more graces will be given to us for example at the beatification of John Paul II on 1st May 2011.

St Faustina saw St Michael on two occasions, once on 29th September on the Feast of St Michael, and another time. Saints or Angels are present in a special way on their feast days to people who come to honour them. For example, Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, the descent of the Holy Spirit, and God is present in a special way

Reverence for St Michael

Diary No 667: *"I have great reverence for St Michael the Archangel, he had no example to follow doing the will of God, and yet he fulfilled God's will faithfully."* St Michael the Archangel was obedient and is an example for us to follow, it is not enough to say, 'Lord, Lord. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.' We have to put into practice the Lord's prayer.

The Holy Angels and the Divine Mercy teach us to follow holy people like St Faustina and St Padre Pio. Even our friends can inspire us and we can be influenced by them. The devotion to the Divine Mercy and The Holy Angels teaches us to find holy people and to follow Jesus. People can see that we can be real witnesses helping them on their way to heaven.

Talk given by

Father **Peter Prusakiewicz** (CSMA)

during the retreat in Pantasaph

5th March 2011



■ St Faustina



■ St Therese of Lisieux

Jesus asked St. Faustina to have an image painted of himself, with two rays coming from his heart. The pale ray stands for the cleansing water which makes souls righteous, while the red ray stands for the blood of Jesus which is our life. He said: "These two rays issued forth from the very depths of my tender mercy when my agonised heart was opened by a lance on the Cross." The words, "Jesus, I trust in you" were to be inscribed at the foot of the image, indicating the fundamental attitude which God looks for in us.

God looks at us with mercy

The messages about Divine Mercy were given by Our Lord to a simple Polish nun, St. Faustina Kowalska, in the 1930s. On the eve of the most terrible war humanity has yet known, Jesus made known to her the depths of his unfathomable mercy for all of mankind, and urged everyone to place all their trust in that mercy and to perform deeds of mercy towards others.

Our Lord also asked for a Feast of Mercy to be instituted throughout the Church on the first Sunday after Easter. He promised her, “On that day the very depths of my tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy.”

Finally, Jesus gave St. Faustina a powerful prayer that he wanted everyone to say: the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, promising great graces to those who would recite it. It can be said on ordinary Rosary beads, beginning with the Our Father, Hail Mary and Apostles Creed. On the five large beads the following prayer is said: “Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.” On the ten small beads: “For the sake of his sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.” The Chaplet concludes with the following prayer said three times: “Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal one, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

At first, as often happens in the history of the Church, St. Faustina’s

message was treated with some scepticism and was not spread as she had been instructed. It was not until Pope John Paul II’s time that St. Faustina was canonised and her message officially recognised by the Church. The Feast of Divine Mercy was promulgated by the Vatican in the year 2000.

Divine Mercy provides an easy way for Catholics to share their faith, both at a spiritual and practical level. Spiritually, we can give a solid foundation to evangelisation through the Divine Mercy prayers. Our Lord specifically gave one prayer to St. Faustina with the instruction that it was to be said for those who have lost hope in God’s mercy: surely that applies to many people we know, and many around us whom we have no idea how to share the Gospel with. This prayer is: “O blood and water which gushed forth from the heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in you.” Jesus promised that he would give special grace to the person we pray for when we use these words, provided we pray with complete trust in him.

On a practical level, many people use simple Divine Mercy prayer cards to give out to people they meet

in everyday life or to leave in public places. Rather than lament, for example, the disgraceful cards we see littering public phone boxes, why not leave some Divine Mercy cards in them? More generally, we can recommend the Divine Mercy prayers to those we talk to who are in obvious need of spiritual help.

When the Relics of St. Thérèse visited our country we saw them being venerated by many who would not call themselves practising or orthodox Christians. Think how much good that visit did to spread the Good News. Divine Mercy is similar: a simple way of attracting those who have left the practice of their faith, or who do not feel themselves to be within the Christian fold, to the unfathomable mercy of God which knows no limits. The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few: Divine Mercy is a simple way of us all becoming workers in the Lord’s harvest, as we are called to be.

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The visible and the invisible

An interview with Wanda Stróżyk 'Fiat Auto-Poland' automobile works in Bielsko-Biała, Poland.

Does your work not require a down-to-earth attitude instead of looking into the sky in search of angels?

Wanda: No, I do not look for angels somewhere up in the sky but rather next to me in the human world. I do not divide the world into a visible part and an invisible one. Rather, I somehow feel the spiritual world that cannot be seen by our eyes. I look at my husband and children and I know that the angels keep them company. And, yes, angels are also down-to-earth and take part in our everyday issues.

When did you start being in touch with angels?

Wanda: Since my early childhood I have believed in my guardian angel and often said the well-known prayer. Having lost my father, who died when I was 11, I have relied on The Holy Mother of God and my guardian angel's care. Throughout my life I have experienced many supernatural and miraculous events. I sensed that both my guardian angel and my late father had taken care of me. Once I was attacked in a park; I survived thanks to angelic help.

Some people end their friendship with angels in their childhood...

Wanda: This may be true and is such a pity, because angels are there to help us in adulthood too. The older

I became, the more aware I was of angelic existence. In a book I read, I learned that we could send our guardian angels to different locations, which is something Padre Pio advised people to do. I often used this piece of advice, particularly when my husband and I worked on shifts and our teenagers were left at home for a very short while. The teenagers often met with their friends somewhere around the housing estate where we lived. Once I was worried when they were late and prayed: 'My guardian angel, go to my son Paweł and bring him back, please.' And within 30 minutes my boy returned. So, Padre Pio was right in his advice. I also asked my angel for help in home issues and he never refused.

And what about your job? Is it possible to meet angels in the automobile industry?

Wanda: Of course. Angels are everywhere. God sometimes sends me 'visible' angels; these are good and smart people. When I was chosen to be the president of an organization in 1998, I realised that I needed angelic help. I often gained such help from people who appeared suddenly and offered good advice. God sent me those 'angels'. Sometimes, people think that I make good and proper decisions because of my feminine intuition but I know that angels suggested and helped me to find beneficial

resolutions for all parties. They also protect me from making bad decisions.

What about the presence of St Michael in your life?

Wanda: I discovered his presence in many circumstances in my everyday life and work. When someone hurts me in some way, I often ask him to support me, to prevent me from seeking retribution and prevent me from losing control of my emotions. Thanks to him, my heart is free from hatred and aversion. I also pray to St Michael for the grace to obey God's commandments as well as to resist everything that denies the Gospels. I visited St Michael in Monte San Angelo in 2004; the pilgrimage made me a stronger person.

What would you say to a person who does not believe in God and angels?

Wanda: I would not try to persuade them to believe. I think I would tell them about particular events I have experienced in my life, where I have gained Divine and angelic help. Having done this several times, those who have heard my testimony, seemed to be comforted.

Thank you for the interview. Be a 'visible angel', who brings peace and hope to others.

Father Piotr Prusakiewicz CSMA



Talismans and amulets



New Age items such as Atlantis rings, Ankhs, Eye of Horus, African masks, oriental figures, pyramid shapes, bracelets, rings and crystals ... can be objects carrying special powers. Most people I talk to are surprised that these things are covered with unreadable signs or inscriptions, which are worn just for fun or fashion, may cause mental and spiritual problems such as depression, etc.

I have heard the testimony of a priest who prayed for a person involved in occult practices. Although the latter broke all connections with the occult, the prayers for liberation seemed ineffective for a few months. Eventually, an experienced monk asked the person whether he had strange objects in his house. He had. He became free after he had got rid of the African masks.

Why are talismans so dangerous for us?

According to exorcists, talismans are carriers of spiritual messages. Belief in their powers is a superstition, which equates with worshipping of deities instead of the Living God and

is in direct opposition to the Roman Catholic faith. I would like to tell you how we can become involved in the occult while being completely unaware of its destructive consequences.

What do talismans promise?

The answer is simple: if you wear them or have them in your house, you will gain happiness, health, safety, affluence, a good husband or wife, success in business, etc. If we are not able to get those values by ourselves, we direct our needs towards someone or something much more powerful than we are to help us. We wear talismans to encourage these mysterious supernatural powers to act according to our

will and wishes. The question is: why would the more powerful force deign to serve the weak? Do we not know that in real life it is the weak who serve the strong? This is the core of the lie concerning talismans.

Most signs and inscriptions on talismans are symbols of esprit de corps. By wearing them we declare that we belong to a spiritual world we know almost nothing about. We think that we will make these spiritual powers serve us whereas in fact we are opening ourselves up to evil. It is as though we open the gate, which was closed by God for our own good, so that the devil couldn't get through to our life. We should remember that evil spirits cannot act against our will; but if we are unaware, we can be inviting the devil into our hearts, families and homes.

If one knew the truth, who would decide to serve the evil one? However, there is always some temptation, perhaps the allurements of some pleasure which makes us blind to this danger.

Talismans are usually produced during occult rituals. Some of them are fake, but both categories can be devastating if we believe in their powers.



Robert Tekieli

Why St Joseph is the terror of demons

Although detailed accounts of St. Joseph's life remains scarce, we learn from Scriptures and Sacred Tradition about his unshakeable faith, his assiduous perseverance, his admirable purity and his exceptional humility. The Church, in her wisdom, left the faithful with a legacy of a series of beautiful invocations in his honor called the Litany of St. Joseph. The vivid appellations found therein draw us closer to the saint and remind us of his many virtues. We find a particularly intriguing invocation full of meaning and truth, "Terror of Demons". Now, one wonders why?



A noble vocation

Given the grandeur of his vocation – the protection, sustenance and care of the Blessed Mother and Our Lord Jesus Christ as head of the Holy Family - we can expect that God also endowed him with an equally proportional grace to carry out such a lofty mission in life. And certainly we can picture him as a sublime icon of manliness and a pillar of strength that would sow terrible fear among the powers of darkness given the noble task under his watch.

Commitment to purity

In the writings of the venerable Mary of Agreda detailed in the City of God, we read that St. Joseph was a native of Nazareth, was of comely figure and agreeable countenance, very modest and incomparably genteel in

appearance. He was related to the Blessed Virgin in the third degree, made a vow of perpetual chastity at age twelve, renewed and kept it in marriage much to the delight and joy of the Most Holy Virgin who vowed the same. He was thirty-three years old at that time.

It is beautiful to note here that when the holy priest Simeon gathered all the young men of Jerusalem from the house of David at the temple to choose who would be the rightful spouse of Our Lady, he was inspired by God to give each man a dry rod. After a period of prayer asking for the manifestation of the Divine Will, pure white lilies - the symbol of purity - blossomed from St. Joseph's staff and a white dove, most pure and brilliant, hovered over his head giving Simeon the sign that he was the chosen one.

Hence, St. Joseph is the epitome of a pure man: pure in thought, pure in heart; pure in body and soul – destined to be the most chaste spouse of Mary Most Holy conceived without sin. In face of such sublime purity and

holiness, it would not be farfetched to believe that the ugly, filthy infernal spirits would cower in petrified fear in his presence.

The success of Christ's mission depended on St Joseph

And in his hands lay the unenviable yet most exalted duty of protecting the Sacred Humanity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the pinnacle of all creation. God became Man to redeem mankind and to endow it with the most perfect and ultimate gift of Eternal Life through His Sacred Body and Blood. To fulfill His Divine mission, God the Father deigned to entrust His Son to the paternal care of St. Joseph. What a formidable and powerful man St. Joseph must have been!



We can certainly attribute this plan to God's Eternal Wisdom which has predestined us for Eternal Life through His Son. For this holy cause, He granted His Son to be born of a most pure Mother unblemished by the stain of Original Sin. And to ensure and preserve the integrity of that Immaculate Mother, He betrothed her to a beloved and most chaste spouse: Joseph.

Protector of the Church

And as the protector and guardian of Our Lord and Our Lady, St. Joseph is also invoked as the Patron of the Universal Church in apt recognition of his prowess and fortitude. The Catholic Church, born from the water that gushed forth from Jesus' side, and nurtured by the maternal love of Our Lady, sought comfort and protection from the snares and malice of Satan and his followers in the hands of St. Joseph,

indeed, the terror of demons!. In recognition of this special place, Holy Mother Church honors him with the highest veneration called protodulia, higher than any given to angels and saints except for Mary who receives a special veneration called hyperdulia.

Patron of a Good Death

While Our Lady enjoyed the most singular privilege of perfect beauty of complexion and form even when she reached the age of seventy by virtue of her sinless body, God denied this favor to St. Joseph. Thus, he suffered bodily deterioration, pain and suffering with advancing age. Ultimately, he ceased from working and accepted his fate with resignation. Henceforth, he gave himself up entirely to the contemplation of the mysteries of which he was the depositary, and to the heroic practice of virtues.

Sacred Tradition tells us that Our Lord and Our Lady assisted him in his dying moments and his death was surpassed in holiness by no other saint – save by Jesus and Mary. By virtue of this, St. Joseph came to be known as the Patron of the Dying. Through the ages, the Catholic faithful lovingly prayed to him for the grace of a good and holy death. St. Joseph died at the age of sixty years.

The following are consoling revelations and signal graces obtained through St. Joseph's intercession, again citing Mary of Agreda's City of God:

1. "Those who invoke him shall obtain from God, by his intercession, the gift of chastity and shall not be conquered by the temptation of the senses;
2. They shall receive particular graces to deliver them from sin;
3. They shall obtain a true devotion to the Blessed Virgin;
4. They shall have a good and happy death, and in that all-decisive moment be defended against the assaults of Satan;
5. They shall be delivered when expedient for them, from bodily sufferings and shall find help in their afflictions;
6. If married, they shall be blessed with offspring;
7. The demons shall have extreme dread of the glorious name of St. Joseph."

With so many graces to be obtained through his powerful intercession, let us not tarry nor hesitate in asking humbly for the protection and aid of dear St. Joseph, Terror of demons!

Taken from:
www.americaneedsfatima.org
 on 17th March, 2011

America's oldest church (Part I)

The oldest operational church in the United States is not found on the U.S. coast either east or west, but instead, like a spear thrust deep into the heart, is found near the centre of the land.

The chapel of San Miguel Mission, in Santa Fe, New Mexico is located just three blocks from the famous Santa Fe Plaza and is open every day. Mass is celebrated each Sunday by the De La Salle Christian Brothers who have owned the chapel since 1859 when Archbishop Jean Baptist Lamy purchased the chapel for them to use in the education and refinement of the young boys of Santa Fe.

A visit to Santa Fe is not complete if you have not stopped in to pray in this sacred and humble sanctuary. Unfortunately, many people who



have visited Santa Fe are disappointed later to learn they had come so close to the oldest church in America, but missed visiting it because of the many other beautiful attractions also located in this place known as the “City of Holy Faith.”

San Miguel Mission, was built by 700 Catholic Tlaxcalan (pronounced Tas-cal-en) Indians who ventured north in 1598 from modern day Mexico with 250 Spaniards into what is now Santa Fe. They went to establish settlements and to give a peaceful Christian witness to the indigenous peoples of the area. Once their church and homes were built they would teach their crafts, skills and farming expertise to the local people as they had done in other Spanish settlements to the south.

The history of the Tlaxcalan, quickly reveals why these people—the sacrificial victims of the Aztec—claim Saint Michael, the guardian angel of Jesus, as their own patron saint.

Flower Wars

The Tlaxcalan get their name from a Nahuatl word meaning “place of born bread.” Their nation was established in east central Mexico after

A.D. 1350. In time, the Tlaxcalans came up against the powerful Mexica (pronounced me-shee-ka) Indians who inhabited the Valley of Mexico to the west and whose power base was Tenochtitlan (modern-day Mexico City.) The Tlaxcalans and Mexica shared a common origin, spoke the same Nahuatl language and belonged to the same Aztec culture. By 1519, the Mexica’s Aztec Empire was the most powerful Mesoamerican kingdom of all time. The empire contained some 15 million people and covered some 80,000 square miles of territory.

Though surrounded by the Mexica, the much smaller Tlaxcalan people never fell into their control. When Spanish conquistadors reached the Tlaxcalan republic in 1519, they found it was an independent enclave of some 150,000 people and more than 200 settlements deep in the heart of the Mexica Empire. In “The History of the Tlaxcalans”, John P. Schmal explains that though Tlaxcala was “surrounded on all sides and economically blockaded, they had never yielded to the Mexica and had been subjected to almost continuous warfare and human sacrifice for many decades.”

He goes on to explain, “Some historians believe that Tenochtitlan could have easily overwhelmed Tlaxcala and





And so, when the Spanish settled five miles north from what is now Espanola on the left bank of the Rio Grande river; their allies, the band of Tlaxcalan Indians, chose instead a path eastward, following a small river to the abandoned Analco Indian Pueblo in what is now Santa Fe. In 1598 they built their “Hermita de San Miguel” over the remains of an ancient sacred kiva of the Analco Indians. Archaeologists confirmed in 1955 that the kiva originates from as early as 1200 A.D.

Robin Lyon explains in “The Spanish Missions of New Mexico” that, “Some Native Americans in New Mexico believed human souls arose from inside the earth. Because of this, they held religious ceremonies in underground rooms called kivas.”

In 1609, the Spanish moved their capital to Santa Fe and worshiped at San Miguel until their own church was built. For a while, those assembled crowded into a small space where they worshipped either standing or kneeling on mud floors. The motley group of worshipers included New Mexico’s newly appointed

Governor Don Pedro de Peralta and his soldiers. Also joining the Tlaxcalan in Santa Fe were explorers looking for the legendary cities of gold and a contingent of Jews seeking safety in new lands from the many cruel edicts launched against them in Spain and elsewhere in Europe. Along with the missionaries, they all went to work improving the humble church. An infirmary was added to the side of the chapel and was staffed by the Franciscan Friars. They provided for the medical needs of the growing settlement.

Buried bones

Archaeological digs commissioned in 1955 by the Christian Brothers, found hundreds of bones buried beneath the altar and exposed the original sanctuary steps and the kiva below. During this dig, the Christian Brothers say, “Many human remains were found, estimated at three hundred, most of whom are believed to be the devout Tlaxcalan Indians. The deceased, or their

the reason it did not is that it wanted a nearby source of victims for the human sacrifices. The clashes between the Tlaxcalans and Mexica were called the “Flower Wars.” The chief purpose of these “ceremonial battles” was to furnish captives to be used in their sacrificial rites.”

Embittered and overburdened by the Mexica, the Tlaxcalan Indians became quick allies of the Spanish conquistadors when they arrived. Though the Spanish and Tlaxcalan were far outnumbered, the Aztec Empire was brought to its knees because of disease. In 1520 small pox took the lives of between 5 and 8 million Aztecs and in 1545 and again in 1576 hemorrhagic fever caused by rodent hosts and drought conditions brought about the deaths of some 7 to 17 million more.

For their faithfulness in warfare, Spain granted the Tlaxcalan perpetual protection and freedom from all tributes, taxes and personal service for all time. In later years, as they were invited to journey to the northern frontiers with Franciscan missionaries and Spanish settlers, the Tlaxcala also insisted that they not be “compelled to settle with the Spaniards, but be allowed to settle apart from them in their own distinct districts or barrios.”



► families, often made arrangements in those days to be interred if possible under the floor of a Catholic church in the hope of being remembered in the prayers of the faithful who attended Mass there.”

We also learn from the historical documents that on August 10, 1680, the Tlaxcalan people were forced to take refuge in the church during the Pueblo Indian Revolt. Spurred on by a local medicine man, ironically named Pope, the generally peaceful, but pagan Pueblo Indians unexpectedly rose up and attacked the settlers.

“During the attack, the faithful Tlaxcalan Indians, living on the south bank of the Santa Fe River, took refuge as planned within the thick walls of the San Miguel Mission. Unable to penetrate the sanctuary, the undeterred Pueblo aggressors took up posts on the roof of the neighbouring ‘oldest house’ and shot flaming arrows through the small upper windows of the chapel into the vulnerable dry wooden beams of the inner mission roof. Screams of the men, women and children numbering 80 in all could be heard as far as the Palace of the Governors some three blocks away. The Spanish commander, Otermin, dispatched his troops from the safety of their own protective fortress in the hopes of dispersing the Pueblo attackers before it was too late. Yet, before these soldiers had a chance to save the despairing souls within, the flaming roof of San Miguel came crashing down on its own that fateful day.”

We are left to wonder whether some of the bones of those poor souls are mingled amongst those found beneath the altar.

Dede Laugesen

Story of the painting

In 2009 we celebrated the 35th anniversary of the creation of the famous picture of St Michael the Archangel by the world renowned painter Jan Henryk Rosen. The original hangs in the General Office of our Order (CSMA) in Marki near Warsaw.

For many years there had been an intention to commission a new, large painting of St Michael the Archangel to encourage spreading of the devotion to our patron. The then Father Superior of the Order, Wladyslaw Moroz, realised these plans by commissioning such a picture from Jan H. Rosen. When he asked what style of picture we wanted, the artist was told: *According to your concept, that is, as you imagine St. Michael the Archangel.* The artist studied various works about angels and especially about Archangel Michael. He used as basic reading the Holy Scriptures, writings of the Fathers of the Church and various other works; he also studied the rich iconography on this subject. After lengthy and detailed studies, a new and totally unknown concept in world iconography was born.

I want to tell you about a significant event that occurred during the execution of this work, as related to me by Archbishop Jerzy Ablewicz and Father Superior Wladyslaw Moroz. They had heard about this from the artist himself. While painting the picture, J.H.Rosen prayed a lot to St Michael the Archangel and attended

daily Mass, so that his painting would add to God’s glory and would honour St Michael. The painter reminisced that: *The closer I got to finish this work, the greater the difficulties and obstacles... Somebody was constantly interfering; I was alone in my workshop, but once someone pulled the paintbrush from my hand and threw it on the floor, another time the palette was pushed out of my hands...*

I stepped up my prayers to St Michael the Archangel, because someone clearly wanted to stop me from finishing this work. It came to a head when one day some force threw me against the wall, while there was nobody else in my workshop. Maybe the devil himself was hindering the completion of the painting.

Luckily, the work was finished and the picture was safely delivered to Poland in 1974. To finish this story, just a few words about the painter. Jan Henryk Rosen was born in Warsaw on 25th February 1891. He spent the first three years of his life in Paris, and the remainder in Lausanne. Between 1911 and 1914 he studied History of Art at the Universities of Monaco, Paris and Lausanne. He studied painting with his father Jan and mosaics

with Luc Olivier Merson in Paris. During World War I he served in the French army and in 1917 he transferred to the Polish Army being formed in France. In 1925 he resigned from the military and during that same year had his debut at the "Group of 12" art exhibition at the Society for the Encouragement of Fine Arts in Warsaw. Two years later he held solo exhibitions. His works are highly acclaimed. Among others, Archbishop Jozef Teodorowicz invited Rosen to decorate the interior of the Armenian Cathedral in Lwow. He started work in 1925 and during the next 4 years he created many wall paintings and stained glass. Commissions to decorate church interiors started to multiply in Poland and abroad. He also decorated the church in Krosienko Wyzny near Krosno and the chapel of the seminary in Przemysl. He was associate professor in figure drawing at the Lwow Polytechnic. He exhibited in art galleries in Poland and overseas. In December 1937 he was invited to Washington by the then Ambassador of Poland Jerzy Potocki to decorate the interior of the Embassy. He taught History of Religious Art at the Catholic University of Washington.

In 1957 this same University awarded him an honorary doctorate. He was also decorated with the Golden Wreath of the Polish Literary Academy, the Virtuti Militari Cross, the French Legion of Honour, the British Military Medal for Bravery in the Field and in 1977 he received from Pope Paul VI the Order of St George the Great. His artistic career absorbed him totally and he never established a family; he died on the 22nd August 1982 in Arlington, Virginia outside of Washington, D.C. and was buried nearby.

Father **Ryszard Cwynar** CSMA



Seraphim

The highest Choirs of Angels who dwell closest to the Throne of God are the Seraphim, the Cherubim and the Thrones. All these holy angels are pure spirits of contemplation. Their holiness is so intense that the human mind is incapable of comprehending their levels of adoration and participation in the Divinity

Isaiah's vision

It was during Isaiah's vision, that we are made aware of the Seraphim angels. Isaiah goes on to describe these attendants or guardians in detail as they appeared in his vision, around the heavenly throne in a double choir and the volume of their chorus, while locked in an eternal song of praise, glory and majesty for the Lord of Heaven. Isaiah also states that the foundation of the temple was shaken by the extreme vocal power of the Seraphim, as they relentlessly sang "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts: All the earth is filled with his glory." In this vision, mankind gets a glimpse of what the Seraphim looks like, with Isaiah describing them. "When I looked, I saw God resting upon his mighty throne, high and exalted. His long white flowing robes filled the entire sanctuary. And hovering above the Lord, were the Seraphim angels. Each of these beings had six wings, and with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with the remaining two they flew" (Isaiah 6:2). In this Old Testament passage, Isaiah is clearly referring to the great Temple of Jerusalem, which is also

called the First Temple, or Solomon's Temple, which was built around the time of 960 BC.

Celestial Hierarchy

Only God can say in what order of importance the angels take. The Seraphim are included in the ranks of the company of angels, in the Celestial Hierarchy spoken of in Hebrews 12:22. Their number is considerable. The title of Seraphim is applied to those angels assigned to God's altar and they are connected with the holiness of God. These beings also served as agents of purification for Isaiah as he began his prophetic ministry, they relate to sacrifice and cleansing and are associated with fire. They are sometimes referred to as "burning fires of love". The Hebrew word for Seraphim means a burning that is poisonous (serpent); a seraph or symbol creature (from their copper colour); fiery serpent. One placed a hot coal against Isaiah's lips with the words, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for"

(Isaiah 6:7). Similar to the other types of holy angels, the Seraphim are perfectly obedient to God.

We should often perform acts of love, and ask Jesus, the King of love through Mary, the Mother of holy love, never to let the sacred fire be extinguished in our souls.

The whole cosmos

The Seraphim's love and holiness is so great that it fills all creation in and through God. The intense love of the Seraphim protects the whole cosmos. It spills over and guards the entire world as it pours down through the lower eight Choirs of Angels. Each Seraphim reflects God in a special way, as do all angels. And yet, the Seraphim are angels of the purest and deepest created level of adoration.

All the angels honour Our Blessed Mother as their Queen. The first hierarchy of angels is so high and divinely intimate that no other creature other than Our Lady and St Michael the Archangel has access to these angels directly. Our Blessed Mother The Queen of Angels has direct access to



God through Jesus without the use of any angels. St Michael obtained his place through his great victory over the rebellious angels.

Those who are able to pray fervently to the level of a burning fire of love for God have their prayer transported by Seraphic angelic communication. Our Blessed Mother sends the Seraphim to gather our prayers and transport them into her holy Immaculate Heart, where her prayer requests are communicated directly to God, through her Son Jesus Christ.

Those who are entrusted by God with extraordinary unique missions for the world may be accompanied by angels of the Seraphic Choir, such as St Faustina. Before the outbreak of World War II St Faustina was accompanied by an invisible Seraphim because of her mission to spread the Divine Mercy Devotion. St Faustina was travelling through Poland with the Seraphim on a train and as she gazed out of the window, she became aware of angels who were poised above each church the train passed. No evil or harm can penetrate the Seraphim's coat of amour; they protect the mystery of those who love and do the Will of God.

Jesus said to St Faustina, "Speak to the world about My mercy, after it will come the Day of Justice. You will prepare the world for My final coming. Tell souls about this great mercy of Mine, because the awful day, the day of My justice, is near."

We should only worship God, not the angels. We may ask angels for help, protection, and guidance. They are delighted when we call on them for assistance (Colossians 2:18).

In the next issue Part 2 – The Cherubim

Prepared by **Noreen Bavister**, England

Brief introduction of Nine Choirs of Angels

1. Seraphim

These are the highest order or choir of angels. They are the angels who are attendants or guardians who contemplate before God's throne.

2. Cherubim

"Fullness of knowledge" are God's record keepers and observers of the primal creative power of God's Glory.

3. Thrones

Thrones are known as the chariots of God, charged with carrying out God's laws of justice. Thrones are the Angels of pure Humility, Peace and Submission with the power of judgment.

4. Dominions

Dominions are Angels of Leadership. They regulate the activities of all the other angels (except those in the First Hierarchy to assure the carrying out of God's will.

5. Principalities

They are protectors of religion, giving strength in times of hardship. They also watch over nations and their leaders.

6. Powers

Powers are Warrior Angels who preserve order against evil defending the cosmos and human souls. They are known as potentates. They fight

against evil spirits who attempt to wreak chaos through human beings.

7. Virtues

Virtues are known as the Spirits of Motion and control the elements of nature. They are sometimes referred to as "the shining ones." They govern all nature. They have control over seasons, stars, moon; even the sun is subject to their command. They can draw on God's force to work miracles on earth.

8. Archangels

Archangels are the most frequently mentioned throughout the Bible. They look after the larger affairs of mankind as they relate to God's will. They are holy messengers of God, carrying important decrees to humans. 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, who is a princely Seraph.

9. Guardian 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. Angels have the capacity to access all other Angels at any time. They are also the most caring and social of beings who assist those who ask for help.

Divine Mercy in the City of Cardiff

For quite a while now I have been working with the Missionaries of Charity (The Mother Teresa of Calcutta Nuns). Every Friday afternoon during Lent the Missionaries of Charity and co-workers have set up the Divine Mercy Image in the main street in the City of Cardiff and have continually sung the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for at least two hours. In these six weeks we have handed out to the public hundreds of Divine Mercy Chaplet cards, images and Rosaries etc.

We try to help and council many people, some have never heard of Jesus and we try to explain the great Mercy of God to them. Our Lord is asking us all to spread His Divine Mercy in these troubled times throughout the world. The response by the public and their need for God has been so very positive that we felt that Jesus wanted us to continue spreading His wonderful message of Mercy to all the souls that He has created. We will continue every first Friday of the month. Is Our Lord calling you to do the same thing in your town or city?

We have also, together with the Legion of Mary (university students) and parishioners enacted 'The Stations of the Cross' through the City streets and at Christmas performed in the main street 'The living Crib', the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus.

We have recently produced two booklets entitled, 'How to make

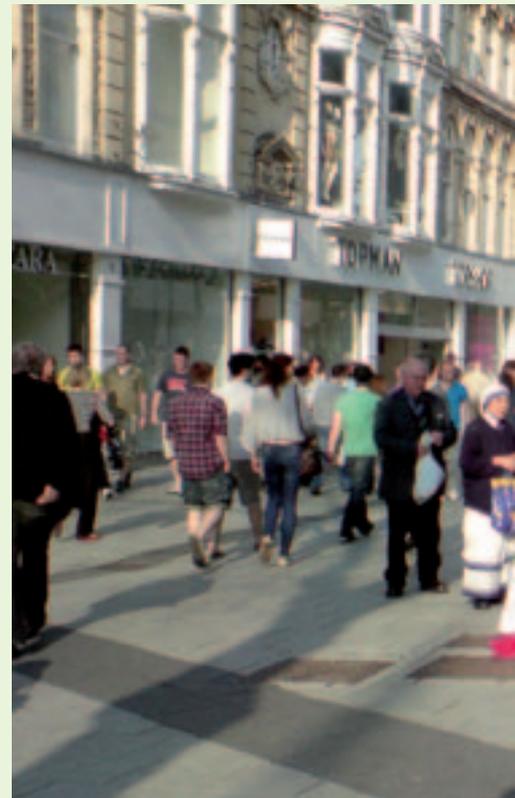


Confession' and 'Novena in preparation for consecration to Our Lady'. These booklets are given away for free. When was the last time that you may have seen a booklet on how to prepare for and to make a good confession?

In Cardiff we can now witness our faith and Divine Mercy in action by lay people and the Missionaries of Charity touching the lives of so many people with small acts of Mercy.

Jesus I trust in You

Last year I was diagnosed with bowel cancer and was miraculously cured because of the many prayers that were made by members of the



Divine Mercy Prayer Groups in Cardiff asking for the intercession of Saint Faustina and also for the many prayers and petitions made to Our Lady of Medjugorje for my complete cure. Jesus was with me every step of the way...Jesus I trust in You.

Three years ago I was privileged to go on a holy pilgrimage to the Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Cracow lead by Fr Peter Prusakiewicz (CSMA); this was my second pilgrimage to the Shrine and it had a big impact on me. I am now getting the call to make the pilgrimage again in thanksgiving for the miracles I have received from Our King of Divine Mercy and the intercession of St Faustina.

Souls will be saved

Thank you for the Angels Magazine. Believe me when I say that these Angels Magazines are made in

Heaven by Almighty God Himself. These amazing, inspirational writings will save many souls and serve to educate and feed all souls by introducing us all to our best friends, guardians, constant companions and Heavenly advocates who constantly intercede on our behalf before the Throne of God.

Humanity now finds itself at a crossroads and not since the beginning of time never has mankind been in more need of the protection of St Michael and all the Heavenly warriors... our Angel guardians and protectors. The battle for souls and evil events has reached biblical proportions. Our Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed us, but each and every one of us are called to play our own part in Our Lords redemptive plan by constantly praying for and believing in the Divine Mercy of God and asking for the protection of St Michael and all the Angels.

Laurence O`Leary, Gwent, Wales

I really enjoy The Angel Magazines and pass them onto my friends. There is not enough spoken about angels and I find this new Catholic magazine on the angels very informative. This magazine talks about real angels from Heaven and God and will help make people be aware of the seduction of New Age. Today it seems more and more people are suffering from 'Skotos', a spiritual blindness.

Margaret Rushton, Liverpool, UK

I am fortunate to be able to read the magazine on the angels and am interested in ordering them for a close friend of mine. The article in issue 3 about Alison struck me how similar her conversion journey was to mine. I also went on a pilgrimage and became a Catholic at the age of 33, then marrying seven months after and we both went to Medjugorje.

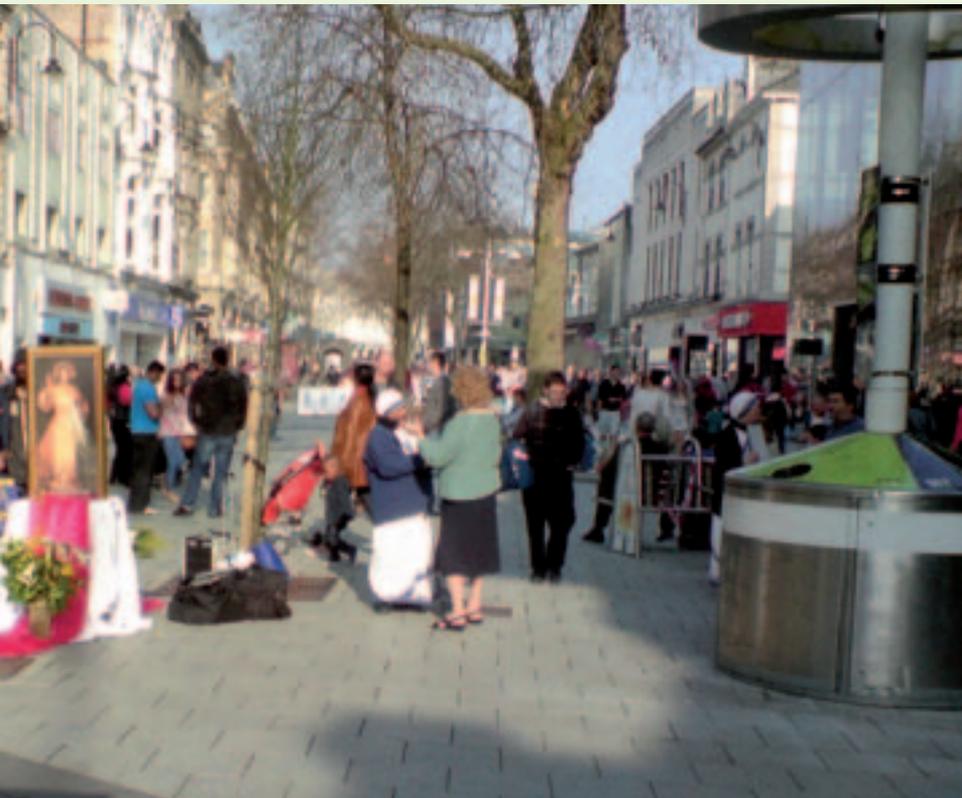
Alison Davidson, Upper Laxton, Northamptonshire, UK

I live in northern Finland and I discovered your magazine on a recent trip to Scotland when my good friend gave me a copy of the Issue No 4, 2010. I will subscribe and looking forward to receiving the next issue.

S. Archer, Finland

Thank you so much for sending The Angel Magazines to my mother and godmother. They were both thrilled with the uniqueness of the publication and the knowledge that there will be more magazines throughout the year. Actually my mother was in tears as she thanked me for the gift...so thank you for assisting in the special moment! God Bless Your Efforts!

Michele Magrini, USA



Guardian Angel saved me from blindness

It was summer vacation ... the year was 1955 ... I was eight years old. I awoke one morning with the golden sun shining brilliantly in the clear blue sky, and for some reason I got it into my head that I was going to go off for a walk and lie down on the grass and have a staring contest with the sun. I was just going to stare straight into the sun. Don't ask me why this idea came into my head ... it just did. And, we all know that this act can cause significant damage to the delicate retina of the eyes, with the possibility of causing blindness, something of which I was not aware back then.

Off I went, not telling anyone of my plan. I came to a small piece of grassy land on a ridge overlooking a small river. It was just behind a cemetery that adjoined our property in the small village of Sebringville.

I thought the place ideal for my purpose. So, I lay down on the bed of grass and began to stare directly into the sun overhead, when I felt fingers on the sides of my rib cage tickling me. It was as if someone ... a real person ... was tickling me. I was giggling from the sensation. I sat up and looked around, but no one else was there. I thought this very strange. But it did not deter me from lying back down on the grass once more and continuing with my plan to out-stare the sun. Shortly, I felt the fingers pressing alongside my ribs

and tickling me again, causing me to chuckle and sit up. No other person was present. I was completely alone.

I thought, "My plan is not working out at all well." So, I gave up on my little project and toddled off to enjoy the rest of my day. But, I never forgot that incident, even up to the present day. I am absolutely convinced now that it was my Guardian Angel intervening to subvert my dangerous plan of staring into the sun in order to protect me from potential blindness.

Today, at 63 years of age, I return to that cemetery to visit the graves of my parents, relatives and friends. Invariably, I take a short stroll to that grassy piece of land on the ridge overlooking that small river ... and as I gaze upon that spot, I gratefully reflect on how my unseen Guardian Angel protected me from physical harm that day so long ago.

Deacon **Douglas Oltsher**
Sacred Heart Parish, Ingersoll,
Ontario, Canada

Divine Mercy touched my soul

I truly believe that through the intercession of St Faustina and the readings about the Holy Angels in The Angels Magazine I have decided I want to become a Catholic.

Caring for people, I work with colleagues who I regard as 'angels'. On the same day, but at different times Rose and Pam delivered The Angels Magazine to me. I started to read it



and could not find enough to feed this overwhelming feeling of wanting to know more about the young Helena Kowalska once she became St Faustina. I felt a great warmth towards her knowing that she had suffered from tuberculosis and died at a young age .

I kept asking Rose questions; she presented me with the handbook of The Divine Mercy. I envied her deep faith and commitment but I knew that after receiving my first rosary beads from her that I was on a journey.

I sought advice from my parish priest and although I was too late to start the RCIA classes he suggested that I attend Mass. I have found a family in the Catholic Church. I know through listening to our priest, the testimonies and messages from the Angels Magazine, and the intercession of all devout Christians that I am not in control. Now each day will happen and in acceptance that I am guided by the Holy Spirit. I place my trust in Jesus, the Divine Mercy. My journey is forever.

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Retreats lead by Father Peter Prusakiewicz (CSMA)

Great Britain

8 – 10 July 2011
Life And Spirituality Of The Servant
Of God, John Paul II,
Pantasaph, Holywell, North Wales
Phone: +44 (0)1352 700153
www.pantasaph.org.uk.

5 – 7 November 2011
Divine Mercy Retreat
Craig Lodge Family House
of Prayer Dalmally,
Argyll, Scotland
Phone: +44 (0)1838 200216
Email: mail@craiglodge.org

8 November 2011
Divine Mercy Retreat
St James' Church in St Andrews, Fife.
Scotland. KY16 9AR
Phone: Fr Andrew Kingham
+44 (0) 1334 472856
Email: andrew.j.kingham@btinternet.com

12 – 14 November 2011
Retreat on the Holy Angels
Craig Lodge Family House
of Prayer Dalmally,
Argyll, Scotland
Phone: +44 (0)1838 200216
Email: mail@craiglodge.org

Ireland

11 August 2011
The Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly, Co Derry

12 August 2011
Salesian House, 45 St Teresa's Road,
Crumlin, Dublin 12

13 August 2011
Ardboyne Hotel, Navan, Co Meath

15 August 2011
The Castlecourt Hotel, Westport Co Mayo

For full itinerary details in Ireland
August 2011 please contact
holyangelsmagazine@gmail.com
or 00353-87-2522862

Canada

09 – 11 September 2011
Divine Mercy Retreat in London, Ontario
Phone: 519-471-3180
Email: michealites@dol.ca
2751 Sunningdale Road West, London,
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+1-800-511-1514
Email: dede@holyangelsmagazine.com
www.holyangelsmagazine.com

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.

July 29, 2011
125th Anniversary

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.