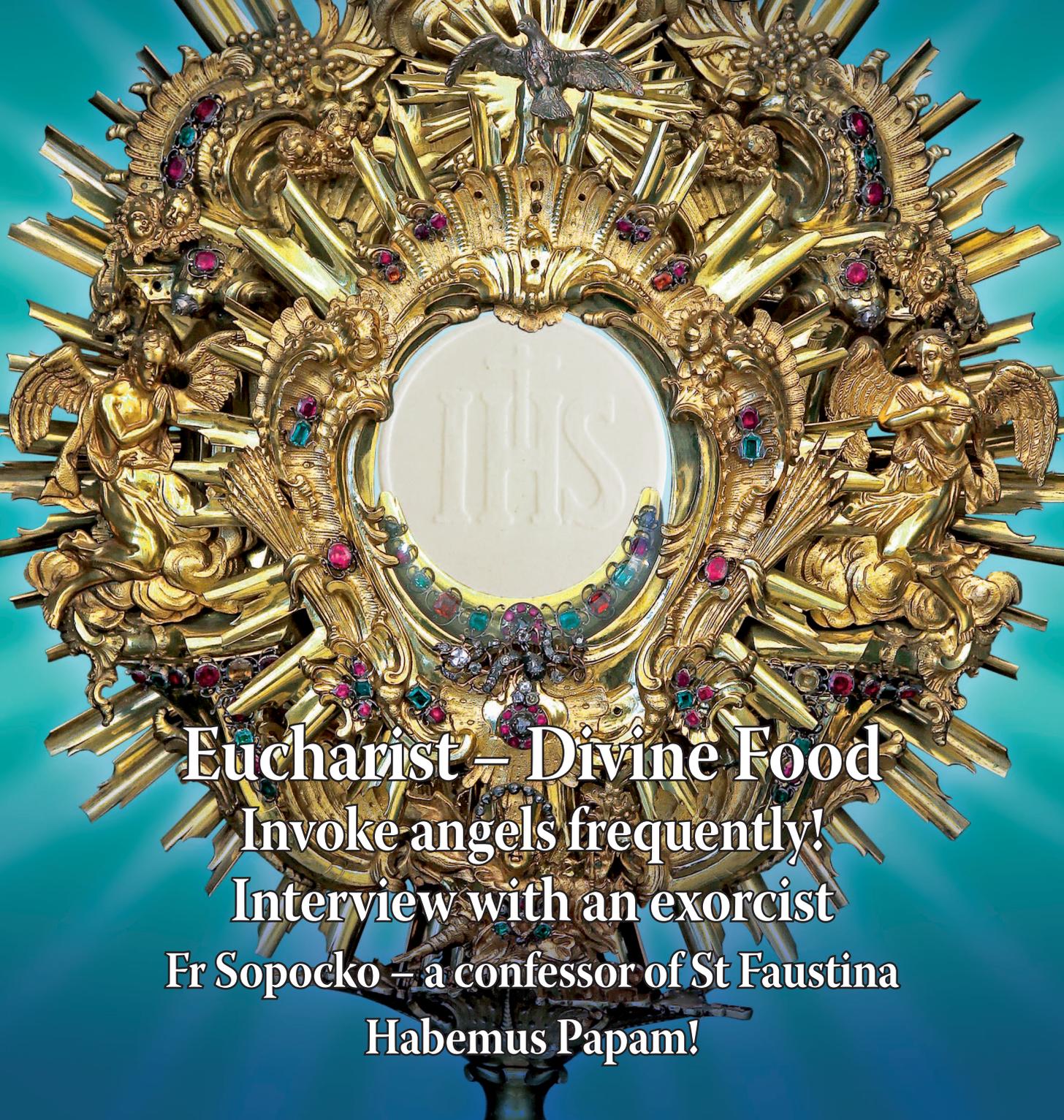




The Angels

Messengers from a loving God



Eucharist – Divine Food
Invoke angels frequently!
Interview with an exorcist
Fr Sopocko – a confessor of St Faustina
Habemus Papam!



Pope Leo XIII the Great ordered us to make friends with the angels. We should follow the many saints who had a great devotion to St Michael the Archangel. He was a great protector and defender to St Padre Pio, St Faustina and others who invoked him often each day in a special way in their daily spiritual battle. We are all tempted like the saints which is part of our spiritual life.

Angels are God's messengers and are pure spirit beings. God wanted the angels to serve us and are assigned to be our soul and bodyguard. Often VIPs are protected by several bodyguards so we too should have St Michael as our bodyguard working behind the scenes in anticipation of things that are about to happen, keeping us safe. We should pray each day to him and try to imitate him.

These days there is interest in angels all over the world. It is important to discern and have true knowledge about the angels. The good angels led by St Michael want us to obey God always, they can touch our lives at any time and want us in Heaven with them. The world is a battleground, we have free will and it is up to us to decide to be with God and His good angels or with the bad angels who are lost forever and want us to share their destiny and drag us into Hell with them. We should be aware of the many dangers including the New Age.

In the Diary of St Faustina angels are mentioned in 70 places – God created the angels for us on purpose. Our Congregation's main charism is proclaiming the Good News and explaining the truth about angels. Faith comes from hearing and we gain more knowledge about the angels who are around us all the time inspiring and ministering to us.

We should stand in awe before God in our here and now life and be faithful in the choices and decisions of life and try and be like St Michael with a love for Our Blessed Mother and a love for each human being.

I assure you of the constant daily prayer of the priests of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel for all our readers and their families. Please let others know about this magazine and help us to distribute it all over the world.

God bless you.

Fr **Peter Prusakiewicz** CSMA

The Angels

Messengers from a loving God

A Catholic Quarterly Magazine on Holy Angels

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Inseparable best friends

(part 2)

Angel as an interpreter

“Heavenly guests, the angels do not cease to visit me – he wrote in a letter 20th September 1912 – to give me a foretaste of the happiness which saints rapture in heaven. If the role of the ordinary guardian angel is great, then for sure the role of my guardian angel is even greater towards me since he has a duty of a teacher and translator of foreign languages.”

Father Agostino, his spiritual director, knowing that Padre Pio knew only Latin and Italian, arranged a test, writing to him a letter in French. After a few days he received an answer from Pietrelcina handwritten by Padre Pio in French. The fact that the guardian angel was the personal translator of Padre Pio to translate foreign languages was confirmed by Father Salvatore Pannullo during the process of canonisation.

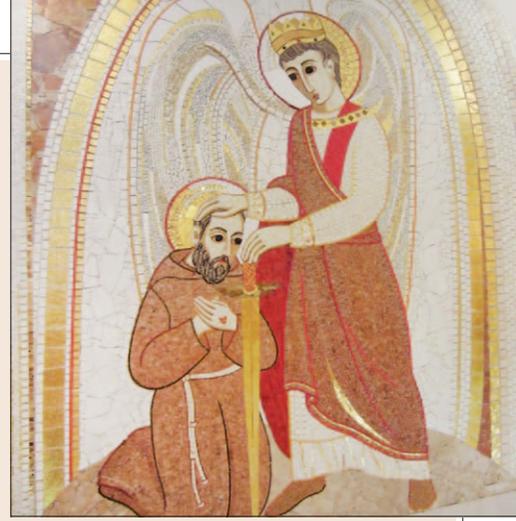
“I hereby declare under the Holy Oath that Padre Pio, after receiving my letter written in Greek gave me the exact contents of the letter. Questioned by me – how could he read and understand it without knowing the Greek alphabet? – he answered ‘You know! My guardian angel enlightened me all about it.’” The guardian angel was also a translator for foreign languages, dialects and slang during the confession of foreigners or Italians.

Tommaso Pandiscia flew with his daughter to St Giovanni Rotondo to ask Padre Pio to celebrate his daughter’s First Holy Communion, but the girl did not

know any Italian, just English. The day before the celebrations, Maria Pyle took the child for confession to Padre Pio.

“Padre Pio – Maria Pyle said – I am here to help you with translation because the girl does not speak Italian.” The stigmatic dismissed her. After the confession, curious Maria asked the girl “Did Padre Pio understand you?” – “Yes” – the child answered. – “Did you understand him?” – “Yes” – repeated the girl. – “But in what language did the confessor speak?” – “In English” – answered the girl – and she repeated the instructions which she had received from Padre Pio.

When asked how is it possible that he can hear confessions in several languages, Padre Pio answered – “My guardian angel translates everything to me!” Foreigners who turned and asked Padre Pio for help were amazed when they heard the answer in their own language. Father Pio explained that sometimes he did not understand the meaning of anything he said because he had only repeated the words that he had heard from his guardian angel.



■ Padre Pio and St Michael. Mosaic on the walls of the Sanctuary in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy

God's messenger

The bad spirits were destroying the letters sent to Padre Pio, making them impossible to read! He wrote to his spiritual director, “Father, I have opened your last letter in the presence of the parish priest and we found a blank page in the envelope, Satan erased everything. Often the contents of the letter would be made visible after the clear instructions of his guardian angel, and by the blessing and sprinkling of holy water over the letter.”

The guardian angel often helped Padre Pio to discover the trap when the bad spirit would appear in the form of the Superior of the Capuchin order who would give him a formal command to stop his correspondence with Father Agostino. “I would never suspect in the least – stated Father Pio – that it was the bad spirit’s trap if not for my little guardian angel’s discovery of this deception.” That was why whatever he intended to do, he first prayed to his guardian angel.

The Archangel Gabriel explained to Padre Pio why God allows him to experience Satanic attacks, interior tortures and demonic visions.

“It was late at night – Father Pio reported – that the bad spirits started ▶

▶ their attacks with loud noises. Then they appeared in horrible forms and tried to tempt me to be unfaithful. They punched me with fists and tried to jump on my back, to force me to the ground and to beat me severely. They were throwing cushions, chairs and books in the air and shouting, using horrible vulgar words at the same time to lead me to despair. I did not even have time to issue the complaint to my guardian angel because the apostatic spirits' attack was unexpected. After this attack I received enlightenment from my angel who said: "Thank Jesus that He treats you as a chosen soul so that you will walk close to Him by the narrow path to Mount Calvary. I can see that the soul to whom Jesus has given me to protect is accepting the right attitude and submitting to God's Holy Will. That really touches me emotionally. Do you think that I would be happy seeing you so tormented? For the love of God I really long for your goodness and prosperity, but I am happier to see you in that condition. Jesus permits those attacks in His goodness because He sees you as pleasing to Him and He wants you to become like Him in the depravation of the desert, isolation of Gethsemane and the cross. Fight against the enemy, reject and resist temptation and when your strength is exhausted, Jesus will help. Do not worry my heart's beloved, I am always close to you."

St Michael

During the preparation for the fight with the fallen angel, Padre Pio, when looking for strength to help with the conversion of sinners, unceasingly sought in prayer the intervention of the leader of the heavenly chorus of angels.



■ Tomb of Padre Pio, San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy

"With his aid – he was saying – I have achieved the most beautiful triumph." Padre Pio would suggest to people to call upon this powerful angel as an unfailing source of help against misunderstandings and quarrels in the family and effective help in the fight against temptations.

When one of the spiritual daughters found herself in a very difficult situation, instead of giving her the usual advice, Father Pio asked – "Wouldn't you have an advocate in your locality?" When the woman returned home she went to church to pray to the patron of the locality, whose feast was then being celebrated and the patron was St Michael the Archangel. During prayers her eyes fell upon the words

"O Praiseworthy, My Defender and Advocate, Holy St Michael." Then she understood her spiritual director. She started to pray and give thanks to the archangel, her problems were solved. In that community there was a great love for St Michael.

Padre Pio belonged to the Franciscan Family established by St Francis of Assisi, whose love for St Michael the Archangel was known by everybody. Every year the poor beggar practiced 40 days fast (from 14th August – 28th September), whose purpose was to give honour to St Michael. During this fast

on Mount La Verna, he received the stigmata. Many people believe that St Michael was the executer of the stigmatisation of the poor beggar from Assisi. When Father Pio received his stigmata in 1918, he was in the church canopy in front of the crucifix which was decorated with frescoes of St Michael. The stigmatisation of Padre Pio took place on 20th September, the first day of the Novena to St Michael the Archangel, before the liturgical feast on 29th September.

St Michael was also the patron of the province to which Padre Pio belonged in the monastery. San Giovanni Rotondo was situated 25 km from the Sanctuary on Mount Sant Angelo. One of the stones from the Grotto of St Michael was built into the wall of the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo. Padre Pio also wanted to place a mosaic illustrating St Michael the Archangel upon the spire of the house for the sick. The artist of the mosaic is Swiss, Auevelio Gozzato. Knowing the great love Padre Pio had for St Michael, the faithful funded a statue of St Michael piercing the serpent at the entrance of the hospital.

Father Giuseppe Del Ton, a close friend of Padre Pio wrote: "Padre Pio recited the prayer to St Michael composed by Pope Leo XIII, during whose pontificate Padre Pio came into the

world. November 11th 1956 when I was staying in Pompei, I dreamt about Padre Pio blessing me saying: “For the good of the Church and the happiness of the people of God, do something to renew the devotion to St Michael. Unite your strength to other intelligent people leading ascetic lives.”

In the following years Father Giuseppe was successful with other people in forming the Society of the Army of Saint Michael the Archangel, whose aim was to propagate devotion to St Michael by his blessing, example of life and encouragement to love St Michael the Archangel, whose greatness and affection he constantly experienced.

The Angel for people

Padre Pio considered that every human being is truly an angel if he can dissuade his fellow bretheren from evil and try to encourage them to do good. For him, every Christian who preached the Kingdom of Christ and looked to life everlasting was an angel. “Yes” – he wrote – “Jesus wants to have His heavenly court here on *earth* similar to that in the highest Heaven. He wants angel martyrs and angel apostles.”

On 14th April 1966 a centre for children blind from birth was opened in San Giovanni Rotondo. The initiator of this venture, Father Michele Placentino wrote on the building of the centre: “The Angels of Padre Pio.”

Father **Robert Krawiec** OFM^{Cap}
Translated from the Polish version
of “The Voice of Padre Pio”
magazine (1/2012)

Interested in becoming a Knight of St Michael?

- **Monthly Eucharistic adoration and Reconciliation**
- **Daily Bible reading**
- **Fast each Friday on bread and water (or a good deed if fast is impossible)**
- **Pray the Chaplet to St Michael**
- **Daily exorcism prayer to St Michael**
- **Nine day Novena to St Michael before the feast day on 29th September**

The Knights of St Michael the Archangel is a movement overseen by the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel. The main task of the knights is to proclaim the victory of Jesus Christ over Satan.

For further information on the rules (Statutes) if you are interested in becoming a Knight of St Michael please contact me by letter or email redakcja.kjb@gmail.com

Father **Piotr Prusakiewicz** CSMA
General Animator of the Knighthood
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Exorcist must be a man of faith

This is an updated and amended version of an interview with an English exorcist by Fr Dr Pawel Maciaszek originally published in Polish.

How do exorcists prepare for their exorcism duties in England?

It seems to depend on what is available at the time. When I was chosen to be an exorcist there was a short course available. For a short time much later on I had a priest assistant (I asked for another exorcist in our diocese). When he was appointed, there was nothing available in England. I went with him to Czestochowa, Poland. This was a conference on deliverance and exorcism, but since then I have heard that a priest who has been asked to be an exorcist, has been told to go to Rome to enrol in a course provided there. This is under the guidance of the Vatican.

How long are these courses?

Each course or conference lasted a week. I attended two conferences in Czestochowa, two conference/retreats on exorcism and deliverance in Alabama (at different times). In Alabama they had the same exorcist who offers the course in Rome. When I was first appointed exorcist of my diocese I went on a week long course in England. Since then I have taken part in two other conferences/courses in England and been one of the speakers. I have also done quite a bit of study.

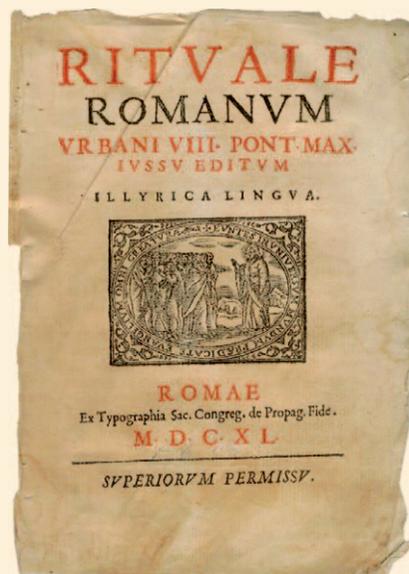
Do you feel well prepared for your role?

This is difficult to answer, because I am learning all the time. I think that the Catholic Church sometimes needs to listen to those in other denominations, especially evangelical Christians. This is because they believe in the Bible and their study of the Scriptures has often led them to discover aspects of deliverance that are not widely known in the Catholic Church. At the same time, I have found, over the years, that there is great wisdom in the Catholic Tradition. We have the lives and writings of the saints and great theologians and, especially, the Sacraments. Fr. Amorth has said that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is more powerful than the Rite of Exorcism.

How do you discern possession, and what type of possession is most frequent in England?

With difficulty. The Church in the instructions of the Rite of Exorcism gives us certain indications. One is the possession of knowledge that the individual would not normally have (occult knowledge). Another sign would be that a person would not be able to live a normal Christian life, without suffering great interference. Part of this discernment would be to ensure that the person is not suffering from severe mental disorder. Some symptoms of mental disorder may be present along with possession. The exorcist needs to have some basic knowledge of psychology and mental illness. In my opinion, we are not so well prepared in this area.

The most common type of possession in England is what would be called temporary possession. It is difficult to diagnose this kind of possession because there are other kinds of spiritual interference which look like possession. It is easy for an exorcist to make a mistake. In the instructions to the Rite of Exorcism it is said that formal exorcism should not be used unless the exorcist is certain of possession. Fr Amorth says that this is not practical. He often uses exorcism as a method of diagnosis. It is only when you use the formal Rite that you can know for sure whether someone is possessed or not.



■ The first page of the Rite of Exorcism in Latin



What is the difference between the rite in Latin and that translated into English?

Fr Amorth believes that the old rite is superior to the new form, and he believes it is better in Latin. Since Pope Benedict XVI removed the restrictions on the older Latin texts for the administration of the Sacraments – and therefore the restrictions on using the older form of the Rite of Exorcism, I have used it more than once. I have also used the newer rite in Latin and English. My impression is that Latin in both forms of the rite is much stronger, more direct. Also in the English translation and the newer rite there are important elements missing. These are the signs of the cross especially when invoking the Blessed Trinity. In the old Latin rite there is much more use of the sign of the cross. I believe that the old rite is better and in formal exorcisms I prefer to use this in Latin.

What part of the rite is most important?

Fr Jeremy Davis believes that the reading of Scripture is the most

important part of the rite. In my experience, people react to different things, but on the whole I would agree with Fr Jeremy and I would add that the use of the crucifix is very important along with the invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the litany of saints. Fr Amorth believes that the prayer in which the exorcist addresses the evil spirit is very weak. I have also found that extempore prayer can be very powerful. I believe that this is because the exorcist may express himself more clearly using his own prayers. I would especially recommend invocation of the Holy Spirit and, if the exorcist has the charism, praying in tongues. I have found this very powerful. These extra prayers are not a substitute for the prayers in the rite. Those prayers that are given to us, are powerful and should not be neglected. We have to remember that exorcism is not a sacrament but has the status of a sacramental, meaning that it is an exercise of religious faith. This is why the exorcist must be a man of faith. If he is not he will not succeed as an exorcist and people will suffer.

What do English Catholics know about exorcism?

Generally speaking they do not know much about it. There is great interest in it. This is because of the media, films and television and also Fr Jeremy Davis has written a booklet, “Exorcism” and it has been a best seller. People are sometimes interested for the wrong reason – because they see it as sensational. It is dangerous that they know so little. They should know about it. Some even do not believe in the Devil. They think it’s a fairy story. I should add that this may also be the case with some priests and bishops.

How many exorcists are in each diocese?

In most dioceses in UK there would be only one exorcist. In my diocese there were two for a short time. Now I am alone. I know of three other dioceses where there are two.

Is that enough?

This is not enough in England, because now we have a shortage of priests in Britain and most exorcists are also parish priests, which means that they do not have the time that they need to devote to the work of exorcism and deliverance. This is because to be a good exorcist you need to spend much time in prayer. You need to know the Scripture. You need to read about deliverance and exorcism because there is always something else to learn. Pope Benedict XVI asked the bishops to look more closely at the needs of their faithful and determine if sufficient resources are given to exorcists.

The first time I was at the retreat in America, I learnt that for the whole of the USA there were only 40 exorcists. This number has now increased. I was asked to go to France to help someone, a family. I have also helped someone in ▶

► Wales. I have also been asked for help from someone in Germany and I have ministered to families in Mexico and Greece. Recently I have been asked to help people in the Netherlands and Norway. Of course I cannot possibly answer all these calls, but all of this testifies to the unfortunate truth that there are not enough exorcists in the world. Pope Benedict was aware of this and tried to encourage Catholic bishops to deal with this problem. Sadly, many bishops have not yet followed his instructions.

I should say, at this point, that most of my work is not formal exorcism but deliverance. Many people are troubled by evil spirits (demons) but they are not possessed. They may be, as we say, “oppressed” or “obsessed”. They may be very deeply troubled and often there are certain manifestations of an evil presence in their homes or they may be physically troubled in some way, through strange illnesses or even some form of physical interference. Such cases are by far the majority and they are usually ignored by priests who tend to regard such people as emotionally disturbed. This is sad. I have often had to help people who have been troubled for years, having found no help or support in the local parish or diocese. In the work of deliverance, the exorcist often has the help of good, balanced lay people.

When do you know that there is urgent need for exorcism? And what is to be used for the exorcism, or deliverance? When is exorcism enough and when is a litany or Rosary enough? How do you discern this?

As I have said, some people need what we call deliverance. In some of those cases an evil spirit may even speak through the person’s mouth, but it’s not

easy to say that it is actual possession. When I meet someone who needs deliverance, I interview them. Then I will pray with them. If the prayers of deliverance appear to be working I will continue with that. I always use Holy Scripture and I always ask the help of the Blessed Virgin and of St Michael the Archangel. I will call on the help of God against specific evil spirits, as an example, the Spirit of Death and Hades (this name has been given by Evangelicals, and it does answer to that name) which is often present. It is sometimes important to have the name of the spirit. If the deliverance prayers are not working, I will then consider the rite of formal exorcism.

Is it enough to exorcise once like the sacrament of confession?

In most cases more than one exorcism is necessary. We always have to remember that a very important part of the struggle against evil is persistence. This is a very important part of the power of prayer. Also at the present time it does appear that the evil forces are very strong and to be assured of this we only need to look at the world.

Have you had any very interesting cases?

I would like to give this example because it brings up another important topic, praying for the dead. I was called to a large house in the countryside where different “spirits” had been seen, not only by members of the family, but by window cleaners and others who had worked on the property. The most worrying apparition was of two people, an Edwardian housemaid (from the description of her attire) and a young man (also dressed in Edwardian costume). They appeared to a house guest and the “woman” even pulled the guest from his bed.

The figures then turned and disappeared into the wall.

This sounds like a movie film but it really happened. What were these figures? Ghosts? Usually I assume that in such cases we are dealing with souls in Purgatory. I have a hermit friend who is also active in the ministry of deliverance. She believes that such figures are angels who take on the form of souls needing prayer. This is a plausible theory. In this particular case there were so many sightings and other things happening (the movement of items in the house for example) that I decided to celebrate the Holy Mass in the main room for all the departed souls of that place. There was also a rather depressing story from the time of the English Reformation involving one of the past owners of the building. After the Mass all these sightings ceased and there was a different atmosphere in the house. I had asked the help of a mystic (one accepted by others including a late bishop). After the Mass she mentioned the word “rape”. This, it would seem, had something to do with the two figures that appeared in the guest room. Not all “spirits” are demons. We need to pray more for the Holy Souls.

Another case. I was asked to go to a house in another parish at the request of the parish priest where the children said that they had seen figures in that house. The mother had blackouts. She was depressed. The family wanted her to go and see a specialist. I could not decide what the problem might be. So I went for a walk to look at the area, to see how old the houses were and at the same time I asked for guidance from Jesus.

When I went back to the house I told the couple that I thought it had something to do with spiritualism. I then discovered that some members of



the woman's family had been involved in spiritualism. I said prayers for the dead (because we did not know what these figures were) and I blessed the house with holy water and before I left, I asked the young woman if she was physically ill. She said she was. I prayed over her. I put my hand on her head and I prayed to dismiss the spirit of affliction, and she reacted. I then prayed in tongues and she flew onto the floor (off her seat). She became unconscious for a while (spirits can cause this to avoid being cast out).

I saw this woman five times over a period of time. She had been receiving instructions to be a Catholic and she was not yet baptised. It was my opinion that the deliverance would be completed by the reception of the sacraments. She is now completely cured.

“False” Cases. Sometimes people contact an exorcist when they actually need medical or psychiatric help. Once I visited a family where different members claimed to be seeing “spirits”. By

the end of that visit I concluded that a social worker was needed. The family did not disagree with my conclusions.

On other occasions I have been called to help people who were either physically ill or had some emotional disorder. Whilst it is true that demons can be present even in such cases there are many cases where, in my judgement, there has been no need for an exorcist or the ministry of deliverance. Sometimes people are upset when told that they are not possessed or that, in my opinion, there is no evil spirit at the root of their problems.

Some people have taken drugs. I have had to tell one young woman that, as far as I could tell, her problems had been caused by brain damage through the use of cannabis. I always try to be caring and understanding with such cases and I feel sad at seeing so many lives, especially young lives, damaged by drugs or other addictive things. I do believe in the healing power of prayer and the Sacraments and I always advise people to return to Confession

and the Eucharist. I recommend the Rosary which is both powerful against demons and can often help to bring peace and deep healing to damaged lives. I also recommend the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and have often used this in both deliverance and exorcism. The Cross of St Benedict (with the medal) is another powerful sacramental.

I will end this interview by repeating Pope Benedict's appeal for more exorcists. Those who have the ear of their bishop should ask him to consider this again. The ministries of deliverance and exorcism are very important aspects of the Church's pastoral care. I sometimes think that if we ignore such needs we will be placing ourselves under the same judgement as that applied to indifference to prisoners, the sick, the poor, the hungry and the homeless.

By the exorcist concerned
Polish version of the interview was published in a Roman-Catholic monthly magazine “Niedziela” No 30/2009, pp. 22-23

The angels in the life of the Church



THE YEAR OF FAITH, 11th October 2012 – 24th November 2013

334. In the meantime, the whole life of the Church benefits from the mysterious and powerful help of angels.

335. In her liturgy, the Church joins with the angels to adore the thrice-holy God. She invokes their assistance (in the Roman Canon's *Supplices te rogamus...* ["Almighty God, we pray that your angel..."]); in the funeral liturgy's *In Paradisum deducant te angeli...* ["May the angels lead you into Paradise..."]). Moreover, in the "Cherubic Hymn" of the Byzantine Liturgy, she celebrates

the memory of certain angels more particularly (St Michael, St Gabriel, St Raphael and the guardian angels).

336. From infancy to death human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession. "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life." Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God.

Taken from the Catechism
of the Catholic Church



At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the Good News of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the Good News!" Mark 1, 12:15



13th – 20th September 2013
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by the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel**

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Lanciano • Manoppello • Pulsano

The pilgrimage is lead by Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA

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Includes seven nights B&B

With continental breakfast (non Italian) and evening meals for three nights at hotel in Rome and four nights at hotel in Monte Sant Angelo.

Single Room supplement £12 / €15 / \$20

Further information:

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Phone: +44(0)7999-868-412, Email: catholicolyangels@hotmail.com



■ Christ served by the angels by Jaques Stella, c. 1650

Invoke angels frequently!

After receiving Baptism from John, Jesus entered that lonely place, led by the Holy Spirit himself who had settled upon him, consecrating him and revealing him as the Son of God. In the desert, a place of trial as the experience of the People of Israel shows, the dramatic reality of the *kenosis*, the self-emptying of Christ who had stripped himself of the form of God (cf. Phil 2: 6-7), appears most vividly. He who never sinned and cannot sin submits

to being tested and can therefore sympathise with our weaknesses (cf. Heb 4: 15). He lets himself be tempted by Satan, the enemy, who has been opposed to God's saving plan for humankind from the outset.

In the succinct account, angels, luminous and mysterious figures, appear almost fleetingly before this dark, tenebrous figure who dares to tempt the Lord. Angels, the Gospel says, "attended" to Jesus (Mk 1: 13); they are the antithesis

of Satan. "Angel" means "messenger". Throughout the Old Testament we find these figures who help and guide human beings on God's behalf. It suffices to remember the Book of Tobit, in which the figure of the Angel Raphael appears and assists the protagonist in every vicissitude. The reassuring presence of the angel of the Lord accompanies the People of Israel in all of their experiences, good and bad. On the threshold of the New Testament, Gabriel is dispatched to announce to Zechariah and to Mary the joyful events at the beginning of our salvation; and an angel (we are not told his name) warns Joseph, guiding him in that moment of uncertainty. A choir of angels brings the shepherds the Good News of the Saviour's birth; and it was also to be angels who announced the joyful news of his Resurrection to the women. At the end of time, angels will accompany Jesus when He comes in his glory (cf. Mt 25: 31). Angels minister to Jesus, who is certainly superior to them. This dignity of His is clearly, if discreetly, proclaimed here in the Gospel. Indeed, even in the situation of extreme poverty and humility, when He is tempted by Satan He remains the Son of God, the Messiah, the Lord.

Dear brothers and sisters, we would be removing an important part of the Gospel were we to leave out these beings sent by God, who announce and are a sign of His presence among us. Let us invoke them frequently, so that they may sustain us in our commitment to follow Jesus to the point of identifying with Him. Mary, Queen of Angels, pray for us!

Pope **Benedict XVI**, Angelus
St Peter's Square, 1st March, 2009
Taken from: www.vatican.va



My guardian angel inspired me

I have the same rosary beads on me at all times since my life was saved by a miracle.

One dark and dreary night I was on my way home, walking along in the darkness. On one side of me was a long wall lined with bushes making the pathway a mass of shadows. My attention was drawn to a dark shadow on the wall. Somehow, my hand reached out and touched an object, and I instinctively grasped it. It was a complete set of dark brown Rosary beads. I still do not understand how I was able to see it in the darkness. Although I have excellent vision, it was almost impossible to see such a small dark object in such obscurity. It was as if it were put there for me to take. I would later understand the impact it would have on my life.

My Rosary beads

I continued on my way home and went to bed, not paying particular attention to what I had found. I

was a student pilot at the time and my thoughts were on the following day. I woke up early to make my flight plans. I would be flying solo to Shannon and then Galway airports (both in Ireland), for my private pilot's license. I was excited, but quite nervous, as I was only eighteen years old. I saw the Rosary beads on the windowsill and put them into my flying bag, thinking to myself: "These will keep me safe."

My plan was to depart from Weston Airport at 9:00am, arrive at Shannon Airport at approximately 10:30am, do a touch and go landing, and then head straight off to Galway Airport to refuel at about 12:00 noon. I was delayed one hour departing from Weston Airport and added to that, there were three passenger planes landing before me at Shannon. So I was left circling the airport until I was cleared for my touch and go landing. This I achieved successfully.

Refused landing for refueling

I continued on my way and when I reached Galway Airport's airspace I requested landing for refueling, which I badly needed. I was aghast at the reply I received: "You are not cleared for landing. You are behind schedule and we closed the airport one hour ago." I was distressed, and explained that I was an eighteen-year-old student-pilot, I was sorry for the delay and that I badly needed a break and fuel. But they refused to allow me to land.

I was left with no choice but to go on to my alternative airfield, which was about one hundred miles away. It was a very small airfield, called Abbeyshrule. So I changed course, and headed for that airfield. I was flying over Athenry town when ahead of me I could see a lot of fog. The visibility was very poor,

so I descended to avoid the fog but it did not help. I was very frightened at this stage because the fuel was low and I was starting to get lost. It was almost impossible to navigate because I was preoccupied on the radio talking to Air Traffic Control, explaining the situation. A short time later the visibility was almost zero and I was completely lost. The Air Traffic Controller had just informed me that I had flown past my airfield. I was terrified. I was just waiting for the engine to stall as it must have been running on fumes at this stage. The Air Traffic Controller was trying to do all he could to help me get back on course. He requested that I turn back and try to find Abbeyshrule. He believed I would run out of fuel imminently.

I was going to die

I knew I would not be able to find it as the visibility was so bad. I broke out in a cold sweat and was desperately looking out for a suitable field in which to land before the engine would stall but I could not see one. I was over bog land. It would be suicide to land a plane in a bog.

There was nothing more I could do. I was going to die. My fuel gauge was indicating empty. I took out my mobile phone and was about to call my mother, and tell her good-bye, that I was going to crash-land.

Inspired to pray

Suddenly I felt inspired to get the Rosary beads out of my bag and pray for help. I reached into the back of the plane, grabbed the Rosary beads and begged God to save me and not let me die. I kept looking out of the window

of the cockpit hoping I could recognise some place. I had given up on using my map. It was useless to me at this point. I was still in a cold sweat, waiting for the engine to stall, when miraculously through the thick fog I saw two big lakes gleaming ahead of me. I immediately recognised them as the lakes beside Mulingar town. I headed straight for them while, at the same time informing Air Traffic Control of my location. I was so relieved because I was no longer lost. I knew this area well as I had done many training flights there. I followed the motorway all the way back towards Weston Airfield. I kept hold of the Rosary beads. It was not over yet. I kept praying that I could land safely. At last I was over Weston Airfield looking down on my much-relieved flight instructor. Half of the school's students were looking at me in awe and wonder.

Divine intervention

I made a perfect landing, and when I stopped, I simply said, with all my heart, "Thank you, God." I checked my fuel tanks and they had barely any fuel. My instructor could not believe I had made it back safely. I showed him the Rosary beads, which I held and told him I had said a prayer for help. We both agreed that I was saved by divine intervention. I felt the job was given to my guardian angel to inspire me or done maybe directly by God himself. It was a miracle.

This happened five years ago and I have the same Rosary beads on me at all times. They have kept me safe, and always will.

Daragh Evans, Dublin, Ireland

Are you a regular commuter? Do you have a business trip or a vacation coming up? Think of a little extra insurance for a safe journey.

"May you have a good journey, and God be with you in your way, and his angel accompany you." (Tobit 5:22)

Prayer to guardian angel for a safe trip

My holy angel guardian, ask the Lord to bless the journey which I undertake, that it may profit the health of my soul and body; that I may reach its end; and that, returning safe and sound, I may find all at home in good health. Do thou guard, guide, and preserve us. Amen.

The Rosary is also good to pray while traveling or even just the Hail Mary!



Eucharist - Divine Food

The angels would envy us Holy Communion (Diary 1804)

The two rays in the image of the Divine Mercy among other things symbolise the sacraments. All of the sacraments are gifts of the Divine Mercy. Merciful Jesus is present in all of them. The Eucharist has a special place among the seven sacraments.

Firstly, let me make a certain comparison. Unbelievers think that human life is restricted to the time between birth and death. That the only real world is the one experienced between birth and death. But for those who believe in God and His revelation, their understanding is quite different. We pass through three different worlds, in three different stages.

The first stage is the shortest. It lasts about nine months from the moment of conception in our mother's womb, till birth. The second stage is longer, from the moment of birth until death. The third one, according to God's revelation, is the one we are destined for - the everlasting life after death.

Life between birth and death is full of wonders. Even the longest living person will never experience all of them. But it is nothing compared to the one awaiting us in Heaven, which is a thousand times more wonderful. In the Scriptures it says "that no eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor the heart of man comprehended what wonders God has prepared for those, who enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

Two Truths

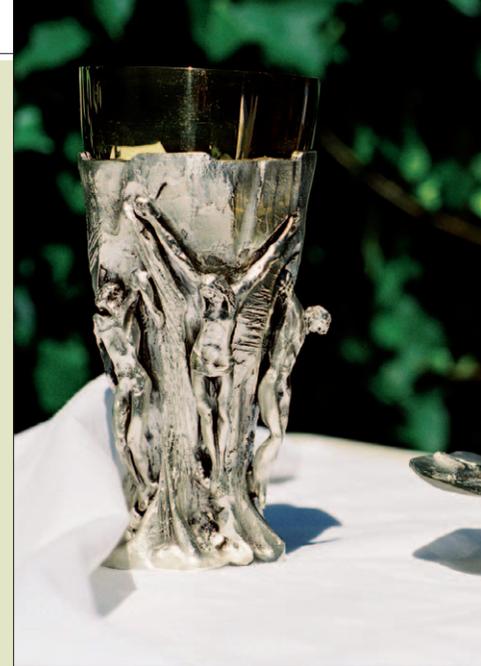
Two truths emerge from God's teaching about human life.

The first one is the transient nature of human life, both in the mother's womb and the life between birth and death. Since the goal of human life is to gain eternal life, man cannot build for himself a permanent home on this earth. It is as if an unborn baby wanted to remain forever in the mother's womb.

The second truth is the interdependence of the stages. Just like the time spent in our mother's womb prepares us for the life in the world, similarly the life in this world prepares us for the life after death.

In the womb we have no concept of the life outside even though it is only a few inches away, in the same way in our present life we have no idea of the world to follow, although it already occasionally touches our hearts.

When we are in the womb our nourishment is the body and blood of our mother, similarly, Holy Communion - Christ's body and



blood - is our nourishment for the world yet to come. Jesus says: "He who eats My body and drinks My blood will have everlasting life."

Thus, we have to remember that the important role of the Eucharist is, in the first place, to transform us, to prepare us for the next world. In the second place, it is to help us at this stage of life. Holy Communion helps us to come to terms with this life and cope with all its problems.

Eternal life

Christ did not promise us that it would make our lives easy. It will not protect us from life's misfortunes; but it will help us to cope with them. What Christ did promise us was that the Eucharist would bring us to eternal life.

This divine food is not transformed into the person consuming it. Rather, this food has the power of transforming into itself the person consuming it. St Augustine expressed this in the following words of Jesus: "I am the food of grown



Heavenly bread

Everyone needs food to live. When we eat ordinary bread like a piece of toast for instance, it is accepted by our body and changed into energy necessary for living. Similarly the heavenly bread strengthens us. Holy Communion gives us spiritual power and changes our attitudes and transforms our hearts into the heart of Jesus. It makes us much as He would like us to be. He is creating us all the time. This is a continuous act of God's Mercy in our life.

men. You will not change Me into yourself, as you change food into your flesh, but you will be changed into Me."

This truth was discovered by St Faustina. She prayed in the Diary: "Most sweet Jesus... transform me into Yourself. Divinize me that my deeds may be pleasing to You. May this be accomplished by the power of the Holy Communion, which I receive daily. Oh how greatly I desire to be wholly transformed into You, O Lord!" (*Diary 1289*).

In the Eucharist she discovered an unlimited source of supernatural powers, capable of transforming a human being completely. She declared: "All the good that is in me is due to the Holy Communion. I feel that this holy fire has transformed me completely" (*Diary 1392*).

In another passage she confesses: "All my strength is in You, O Living Bread. It would be difficult for me to live through the day if I did not receive the Holy Communion" (*Diary 814*). Although she keenly felt her misery, she firmly believed that the Communion has the power to make her a saint (*Diary 1718*).

Of course we have to believe that His body and blood, His life in other words, is growing within us. It is nourishing us, making us so strong that we will be able to live with Him forever one day. We are not angels, so we need something that we can actually see, touch and taste. This is the Eucharist. Jesus says: "Take this all of you and eat it." Not only look at it, but also eat it. Take this gift of new life and enjoy communion with God.

As Catholics we honour the consecrated bread as the body of Christ also after the Holy Mass. We never throw away any of the consecrated bread that is left. We reserve it very reverently in the container called the tabernacle. What I found fascinating is that when you meet a person who has become a Catholic in their adult life, and you ask them what led them to the Catholic Church; it is amazing how often their answer is: "When I entered a Catholic Church building I found that there was something there that I felt was missing from other churches. It was the real presence of the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament."

I do think, that we need to appreciate our faith in it. St Sister Faustina

longed for frequent contact with Jesus in the Eucharist. She would spend all her free moments at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament.

Jesus concealed

She confesses in the Diary: "Jesus concealed in the Host is everything to me" (*Diary 1037*). "How happy my soul is to have such a friend who always keeps me company. I do not feel lonely even though I am isolated" (*Diary 877*). She describes a mystical experience taking place during adoration: "When I was in church waiting for confession, I saw the same rays issuing from the monstrance and spreading throughout the church. After Benediction, the rays shone out to both sides and returned again to the monstrance. Their appearance was bright and transparent like crystal. I asked Jesus that He deign to light the fire of love in all souls that were cold. Beneath these rays a heart will grow warm even if it were like a block of ice; even if it were hard as a rock, it will crumble into dust" (*Diary 370*).

She emphasised that the Eucharist was the testament of God's mercy, eternal life, the mercy of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (*Diary 356*). She called the sacred Host the source of living water springing forth for us from the infinite mercy of God.

She praised Jesus who had left Himself in the tabernacle: "Here is the tabernacle of Your mercy. O you living spring of mercy, all souls are drawn, some like deer, thirsting for Your love, others, exhausted by life, to draw strength" (*Diary 1747*).

Father **Piotr Prusakiewicz** CSMA

Father Michael Sopocko – the first to believe St Faustina

As a confessor to the sisters in various congregations in Vilnius, Fr Sopocko met Sister Faustina in 1933. By Divine Providence he was chosen and prepared to be her confessor and spiritual director.

Fr Sopocko fulfilled that task perfectly, to which Sister Faustina testified in her Diary as well as in her letters. He encouraged and led her by a path to perfection; he was a great help in discerning her inner experiences and revelations. He also initiated the Diary.

Sister Faustina found in him a co-worker and continuator of her mission of spreading the Divine Mercy devotion.

One could ask a few questions: what helped Fr Sopocko accept his role and to fulfill it? Was it only theological knowledge and skills needed to be a spiritual director? Undoubtedly, he had both: knowledge and skills. He was also wise and prudent. But there must have been something more: meeting an extraordinary penitent with supernatural experience and conversations full of mutual understanding required from Fr Sopocko his own deep relationship with God and developed Christian virtues.

Fr Sopocko must have experienced the Divine Mercy in his soul first. He had received the grace of knowing what the Divine Mercy was, its power

and the truth that each Christian needed to turn to the Divine Mercy. He grew into the role of the Apostle of the Divine Mercy by his zeal, his authentic life in faith, continuous studies of theology and in his pastoral care.

Sister Faustina and her revelations inspired him to work on the Divine Mercy mystery. He opened his mind and heart to the Divine Mercy and his own role in this great mission. He discovered the truth about the Divine Mercy in the Bible as well as the great effects of teaching about this attribute of God and its devotion.

His engagement in the Divine Mercy mission was not a result of St Faustina's requests. He had a much deeper motivation. Fr Sopocko never taught about the nun's revelations. He taught the revealed truths given by the Catholic Church. The same truths were the criteria of reliability and the verification of St Faustina's revelations.

Fr Sopocko put unbelievable efforts into the work on the Divine Mercy devotion: scientific research, publications, teaching and seeking support from within the Church authorities.

He told St Faustina to write the Diary. It seems that in the whole work on the Divine Mercy devotion Fr Sopocko was the person who worked the hardest. We shall not forget about the hidden aspect of his apostolic work: of his inner suffering when he was distrusted and accused of seeking to realise his own ambitions rather than in working for God. He did not find understanding among other people, his work was often trivialized. In this matter, his services for the Divine Mercy devotions are indisputable.

In his diary Fr Sopocko wrote: "I met Sister Faustina in 1933. She told me at once that she had known me before, that I shall be her spiritual director and that I shall announce the Divine Mercy to the world."

St Faustina wrote: "The week for confession came and, to my great joy, I saw the priest I had known before coming to Vilnius. [That is to say,] I had known him by seeing him in a vision. At that moment, I heard these words in my soul: **This is My faithful servant; he will help you to fulfill My will here on earth**" (Diary 263).



■ St Faustina and Blessed Fr Michael Sopocko, the Apostles of Divine Mercy

The Divine Mercy and St Faustina gave a new dimension to Fr Sopocko's life as a man and as a priest. In 1938, he wrote: "There are the truths we talk about or hear about often but we do not understand them at all. It was so with me and the Divine Mercy. So many times I talked about it in my sermons, I repeated it in Church prayers and particularly in psalms – but I did not realise the meaning of that truth. I did not go deeper in the content of the truth. It was Sister Faustina, a simple nun from the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, who often mentioned this to me and inspired me to research and study, and thinking of the Divine Mercy more and more. I cannot cite our conversations in detail, I can only admit that at the beginning I did not know what she meant. I just listened to her, disbelieved, thought over it again and again, studied and took some advice

from others. Only after a few years I realised the great importance of this work, this idea and the need to revive this old and forgotten but life-giving devotion. Trust in the Divine Mercy, spreading the devotion among all the people in the world, committing all my thoughts, words and deeds to the Divine Mercy without seeking myself is my main rule of my life with the help of this unfathomable Divine Mercy."

Fr Sopocko did what he set out to do as written in his diary, for example, before World War II, in 1934, he had the image of the Merciful Jesus painted and hung in St Michael's Church in Vilnius. He edited a few publications about the Divine Mercy and printed prayer cards with prayers to the Divine Mercy. He did all this work with the permission from his ordinand although he was not understood by the Church authorities. Fr Sopocko wrote letters concerning the

feast of the Divine Mercy to bishops. He even went to Rome to seek support.

His activity was just the beginning of spreading the Divine Mercy devotion. It was rather unknown or forgotten and therefore, it did not find proper attention among the Church authorities and the faithful. Sister Faustina knew of Fr Sopocko's efforts and appreciated his engagement. She called him the Apostle of the Divine Mercy. God made her realise that his work was pleasant to the Lord, and that He gave Fr Sopocko a lot of spiritual light and help.

She wrote in one of her letters to Fr Sopocko: "... there are lots of things done in this case. When I think of it, I am amazed that you, Father, managed to do so many things although it seemed impossible due to accumulating difficulties. I hope that you, Father, will lead the rest of the things, and no one else." ►

They co-operated in this great mission. Sister Faustina supported it all spiritually, Fr Sopocko was engaged outside the congregation gates. Sister Faustina expected him to work for the Divine Mercy devotion on the outside, in the world. She prayed and made offerings for that intention.

She wrote: "I put all my soul to help you, Father, in this great work, to establish the feast of the Divine Mercy. With my prayers and burnt sacrifice I will ask for the Lord's blessing for you, my dear Father, in this whole matter."

Sister Faustina died in 1938. Fr Sopocko was to continue that great work they had started together. A few months before her death, St Faustina wrote to Fr Sopocko: "I wonder, what's new? How about your health, my Beloved Father, it is well? I asked God to keep you alive for long, long years due to this work. Father, I am so happy that the Divine Mercy has been already worshipped despite so many obstacles and human jealousy, anger and the hatred of Satan, God's work will not be damaged. Lord let me know His glory emanating from this work, and this is just the beginning, my heart was totally amazed (...) Although God directs this work, we are obliged to do our best to push it

forward even if our efforts seem pointless, God's work is built on them."

Fr Sopocko wrote about meeting Sister Faustina a month before her death. She conveyed to him three things to do:

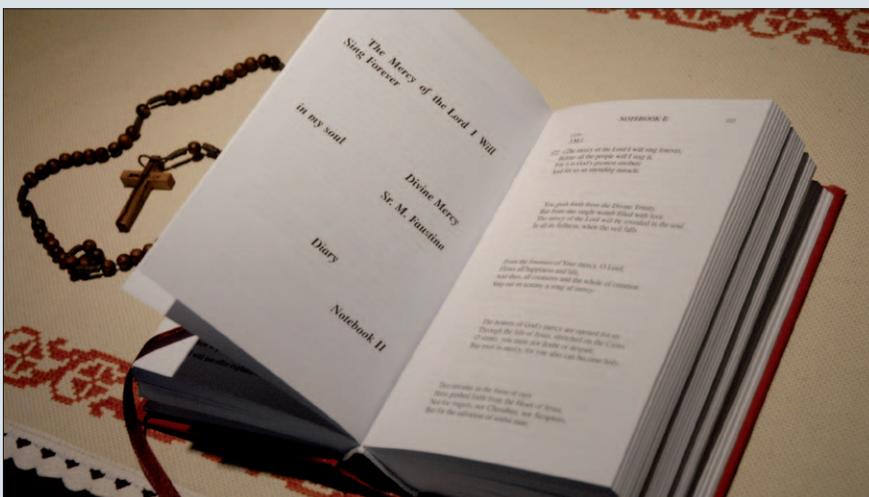
"1. I shall not give up in spreading the Divine Mercy devotion, particularly not to give up in striving for the feast of the Divine Mercy on the first Sunday after Easter. I never say that I have done enough. Despite various difficulties, despite an impression that even God does not want it, I shall not give up. Despite Church statements turning out to be negative, I shall not give up. Despite a lack of physical and moral energy, I shall not give up because the depth of Divine Mercy is unfathomable and life is too short to glorify it. The world is not going to last for a long time and before it ends God wants to give graces to people so that during the Last Judgement no one can say that they did not know anything about God's goodness and the Divine Mercy.

2. Be rather indifferent when it comes to the congregation. It will start from small things and then others will become initiators of it (...) God Himself will bring a proper person from the world, who will know somehow that she/he is the right person in the right place.

3. Have a clear intention in this case and activity. Do not seek my own glory but God's glory and the salvation of other people. If there is a situation, in which I need to say something, I shall think first whether my words are for God's glory. Rather be silent. Not to seek the first place. If the congregation is started, let others rule over me than me governing everything. Be prepared for the most difficult obstacles, relinquishment and let-downs, ingratitude and persecution, experiencing fiascos, bitterness and sadness. When in prayer and I turn to God for comfort but instead I find emptiness and silence until death. Tough!!! One needs to have God in one's soul and talk to Him. She felt that it was the last conversation in her life and asked for blessing. On my request she wished me all God's graces. She said goodbye and promised to pray here on earth, and after death (...) I felt great pain and bitterness that I have to say goodbye to such an extraordinary person and that I am abandoned by everyone. But I realised that it is me who has to trust in the Divine Mercy. God is going to forget about the past. He is going to forgive me all my inconsistencies because He is good. That is why I need to throw my mean-spirited attitude off and trust Him, trust Him and trust Him."

These words were like a testimony of Sister Faustina left to Fr Sopocko.

They expressed all those wonderful things that happened during her lifetime to spread the Divine Mercy. But they also implied that there was much more work to do. God Himself led that work by human efforts and suffering was also needed. Sister Faustina told this to Fr Sopocko which means that she recognized him as a continuator of the Divine Mission in the world.



Bishop **Henryk Ciereszko**, Poland



■ Immaculate Conception by Antonio Cavallucci

Queen of Angels

On January 13th, 1864, a soul (Father Louis Cestac, who died in 1868) accustomed to the favours of the Most Holy Virgin, was suddenly struck as if with a ray of divine clarity. He believed he saw demons spreading out over the earth causing unbelievable ravage. At the same time, he had an elevation towards the Holy Virgin. This good Mother would have told him that as a matter of fact the demons were unleashed on

the earth and that the time had come to pray to the Queen of the Angels and to ask her to send the holy legions to combat and overthrow the powers of hell.

“My Mother,” said this soul “you who are so good, could you not send them without our having to ask?”

“No,” replied the Holy Virgin, “prayer is a condition set by God Himself in order to obtain graces”.

“Well then! My Mother,” replied the soul “would you teach me yourself

how we must pray to you?” And he received from the Most Holy Virgin the prayer “August Queen”.

“My first duty”, wrote Father Cestac, “was to present this prayer to Msgr. Lacroix, Bishop of Bayonne, who approved it. This duty accomplished I had 500,000 copies drawn up, then I sent them everywhere.”

We must not forget to say that during the first print run, the presses broke down twice.

Remedy against the “Spirit of Darkness” and the forces of hate and fear

August Queen of the Heavens, sovereign Mistress of the Angels, You who from the beginning received from God the power and the mission to crush the head of Satan, we humbly ask you to send your holy legions so that under your command and through your power, they may pursue the demons and combat them everywhere, suppress their boldness and drive them back into the abyss.

Who is like God? O good and tender Mother, you will always be our love and our hope! O divine Mother, send the holy angels to defend me and to drive far away from me the cruel enemy. Holy angels and archangels, defend us, guard us. Amen.



Habemus Papam!

It is no mistake that we have started the Glorious Easter Season with a new Pope. New life, new joy and a certain hope in life rather than death should enable us to not only to 'hope' but to share this Good News with others.

But is the election of a new Holy Father a joyful event or does it pass us by with only a minor interest and little reflection on what event has just happened and its crucial importance for us and the Universal Church?

All new leaders make promises to their followers and often ones that cannot be fully realised. Yet here we have not promises but a call to service and a fatherly affection of a shepherd, one who is called to lead by service as indeed we all are. The power of the Chief Shepherd is to call the faithful followers of Jesus to greater holiness and self-giving and not power and control, one people against another. How little the world understands this unique role that the popes exercise trying to fit the temporal power into their own mode of understanding.

The Petrine office, that is, the office given to St Peter, the rock, has withstood many assaults. History reveals the many difficult paths that the successors have had to follow and some failed to live up to their office in the purest sense but yet the ministry has survived and has in recent times given us holy and dedicated men who truly wear the pallium.

There have been 265 popes including St Peter and Pope Francis, the first by this name is the 266th. This alone should make us respectful of the tradition of those sent to lead God's people and it is this succession that maintains the authenticity and continuity of the message of



the Gospel. Now what is the pallium, (cloak/mantle)? The Holy Father receives a piece of wool, woven into a cloth with black/red crosses and held together with pins representing the three nails used for the crucifixion.

The woven pure lamb's wool garment is a sign of the office of the Good

Shepherd and can be traced back to the 2nd century. The crosses are a sign of the suffering of Jesus and of his death so reminding us and the Pope that the journey ends with martyrdom either actual or in dying to self.

The Fisherman's ring which the Pope receives also tells us that he has to be the fisher of men as Jesus told St Peter to be. None of these symbols are about earthly power but the following of the Gospels as Jesus told St Peter and the Apostles to do. So the Pope is a shepherd and a gatherer of all mankind under the mantle of Jesus Christ. What an awesome responsibility this is to fall on human shoulders. A priest and bishop, he already carries responsibility for the flock under his care. He is of course the Bishop of Rome as his first word indicated to those gathered around St Peter's on the night of his election (13-3-2013). He already has the crook and staff. But now elected by his fellow Cardinal Bishops as their spokesman and guide of the *Whole Church* he now speaks on matters of faith and morals to the whole Christian community.

The Holy Spirit guides the Church and is truly present through the actions of those whose awesome duty it is to elect the Pope. If we truly believe this

and do not get side-tracked into the many diverse opinions on various issues that abound in the people of God then surely we must behave humbly before the man who has been chosen to lead the Church through these difficult times. Humility helps us to recognise who we are before God and those who have authority over us. When this authority is empowered by God there is not much room for dissent. We may struggle with some things or even disagree in our humanity but we should always remember that the Pope's principal authority is to guide souls not assert temporal power.

Now the Chief Shepherd has laid out what he considers is the 'mission' with which he hopes to guide the Church.

Maybe we could read his inaugural homily and reflect on it and pray daily for Pope Francis and that our response will be faith filled and obedient to the call of the Gospel.

Halina Holman

Encouragement 21

www.thehostapostolate.org

Prayer for the Pope

Almighty and Everlasting God, have mercy on Your servant Francis, our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to Your loving kindness, in the way of eternal salvation, that with Your help he may ever desire that which is pleasing to You and accomplish it with all his strength. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Inaugural Homily of Pope Francis

Homily of the Holy Father at the Inauguration of his Papal Ministry 19 March 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I thank the Lord that I can celebrate this Holy Mass for the inauguration of my Petrine ministry on the solemnity of Saint Joseph, the spouse of the Virgin Mary and the patron of the universal Church. It is a significant coincidence, and it is also the name-day of my venerable predecessor: we are close to him with our prayers, full of affection and gratitude. I offer a warm greeting to my brother cardinals and bishops, the priests, deacons, men and women religious, and all the lay faithful. I thank the representatives of the other Churches and ecclesial Communities, as well as the representatives of the Jewish community and the other religious communities, for their presence. My cordial greetings go to the Heads of State and Government, the members of the official Delegations from many countries throughout the world, and the Diplomatic Corps. In the Gospel we heard that "Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary as his wife" (*Mt* 1:24). These words already point to the mission which God entrusts to Joseph: he is to be the *custos*, the protector. The protector of whom? Of Mary and Jesus; but this protection is then extended to the Church, as Blessed John Paul II



pointed out: "Just as Saint Joseph took loving care of Mary and gladly dedicated himself to Jesus Christ's upbringing, he likewise watches over and protects Christ's Mystical Body, the Church, of which the Virgin Mary is the exemplar and model" (*Redemptoris Custos*, 1). How does Joseph exercise his role as protector? Discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unflinching presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand. From the time of his betrothal to Mary until the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem, he is there at every moment with loving care. As the spouse of Mary, he is at her side in good times and bad, on the journey to Bethlehem for the census and in the anxious and joyful hours when she gave birth; amid the drama of the flight into Egypt and during the frantic search for their child in the Temple; and later in the day-to-day life of the home of Nazareth, in the workshop where he taught his trade to Jesus. How does Joseph respond to his calling to be the protector of Mary, Jesus and the Church? By being constantly attentive to God, open to the signs of God's presence and receptive to God's plans, and not simply to his own. This is what God asked of David, as we heard in the first reading. God does not want a house built by men, but faithfulness to his word, to his plan. It is God himself who builds the house, but from living stones sealed by his Spirit. Joseph is a "protector" because he is able to hear God's voice and ▶

► be guided by his will; and for this reason he is all the more sensitive to the persons entrusted to his safekeeping. He can look at things realistically, he is in touch with his surroundings, he can make truly wise decisions. In him, dear friends, we learn how to respond to God's call, readily and willingly, but we also see the core of the Christian vocation, which is Christ! Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation! The vocation of being a "protector", however, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves, in time, protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts! Whenever human beings fail to live up to this responsibility, whenever we fail to care for creation and for our brothers and sisters, the way is opened to destruction and hearts are hardened. Tragically, in every period of history there are "Herods" who plot death, wreak havoc, and mar the countenance of men and women. Please, I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility



■ The Dream of St Joseph by Philippe de Champaigne, 1642-43

in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be "protectors" of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment. Let us not allow omens of destruction and death to accompany the advance of this world! But to be "protectors", we also have to keep watch over ourselves! Let us not forget that hatred, envy and pride defile our lives! Being protectors, then, also means keeping watch over our emotions, over our hearts, because they are the seat of good and evil intentions: intentions that build up and tear down! We must not be afraid of goodness or even tenderness! Here I would add one more thing: caring, protecting, demands goodness, it calls

for a certain tenderness. In the Gospels, Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness! Today, together with the feast of Saint Joseph, we are celebrating the beginning of the ministry of the new Bishop of Rome, the Successor of Peter, which also involves a certain power. Certainly, Jesus Christ conferred power upon Peter, but what sort of power was it? Jesus' three questions to Peter about love are followed by three commands: feed my lambs, feed my sheep. Let us

never forget that authentic power is service, and that the Pope too, when exercising power, must enter ever more fully into that service which has its radiant culmination on the Cross. He must be inspired by the lowly, concrete and faithful service which marked Saint Joseph and, like him, he must open his arms to protect all of God's people and embrace with tender affection the whole of humanity, especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important, those whom Matthew lists in the final judgment on love: the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and those in prison (cf. *Mt 25:31-46*). Only those who serve with love are able to protect! In the second reading, Saint Paul speaks of Abraham, who, "hoping against hope, believed" (*Rom 4:18*). Hoping against hope! Today too, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others. To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope! For believers, for us Christians, like Abraham, like Saint Joseph, the hope that we bring is set against the horizon of God, which has opened up before us in Christ. It is a hope built on the rock which is God. To protect Jesus with Mary, to protect the whole of creation, to protect each person, especially the poorest, to protect ourselves: this is a service that the Bishop of Rome is called to carry out, yet one to which all of us are called, so that the star of hope will shine brightly. Let us protect with love all that God has given us! I implore the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, Saints Peter and Paul, and Saint Francis, that the Holy Spirit may accompany my ministry, and I ask all of you to pray for me! Amen.

Guardian angels

(Part 9)

The existence of angels is a dogma of faith, and the existence of guardian angels is clear from Holy Scripture and tradition.

St Thomas (*Summa Theologica* I:108), following St Denis (*De Coelesti Hierarchia*, vi, vii), divides the angels into three hierarchies each of which contains three orders. Their proximity to the Supreme Being serves as the basis of this division. In the first hierarchy he places the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones; in the second, the Dominations, Virtues and Powers; in the third, the Principalities, Archangels and Angels. The only scriptural names furnished of individual angels are Raphael, Michael and Gabriel - names which signify their respective attributes.

Lowest rank

Guardian angels, according to Thomas Aquinas, are from the lowest rank of angels. St Thomas affirmed that every man receives a guardian angel in his *Summa Theologica* (First Part, Question 113) and he provides irrefutable arguments why this must be so. It was the common teaching in his time and no doctor ever questioned it since the thirteenth century.

The Scriptures give us no indication of the precise time of the creation of angels; their existence is assumed at

the earliest times. The belief in guardian angels has been taught implicitly in Scripture, in both the Old and New Testament. Besides personal guardian angels, all of Israel was thought to have a guardian angel, as is seen in Exodus 23:20-23. Your guardian angel is yours alone.

Perhaps the earliest explicit declaration of it is to be found in St Ambrose's words: "We should pray to the angels who are given to us as guardians" (*De Viduis*, ix). That every individual soul has a guardian angel has never been defined by the Church, and is, consequently, not an article of faith; but it is the 'mind of the Church', as St Jerome expressed it: "The dignity of a soul is so great, that each has a guardian angel from its birth" (*Comm. in Matt.*, xviii, lib. II).

The New Testament quotes this passage, and tells us that mankind - including the Lord Jesus Himself - was made a little lower than the angels, 'for the suffering of death' (*Hebrews 2:9*). Angels do not die, but men and women do. Even Jesus, the Son of God, was a mortal man, but has now received the glory and honour which was His due when, as He said after His resurrection, "all power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth" (*Matthew 28:18*). ▶

Jesus tells us that children have their own guardian angels, “Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in Heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in Heaven” (Matthew 18:10). This verse seems to indicate that children have an angel ready to help anytime there is a need for one.

Bible references

The Bible gives us many references on the guardian angels, for example, Gen. 19:11: “And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness”; 1 Kings 19:5: “An angel touched him, and said unto him, ‘Arise and eat’”; Ps. 91:11: “He will give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone”; Dan. 3:28: “Who hath sent an angel and delivered his servants that trusted in him”; Dan. 6:22: “My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not hurt me”; Acts 5:19; “But an angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them out, and said,” etc.; Acts 12:11: “And when Peter was come to himself, he said, ‘Now I know of a truth, that the Lord hath sent forth his angel and delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.’” Note in particular, that angels are sent forth to minister to them that shall inherit salvation (Heb. 1:14) also that Michael is the patron angel of Israel (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1).

In Matt. 28:5-7; “And the angel answered and said unto the women, ‘Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, who hath been crucified. He is not here; for he is risen, even as he said “Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples, He is risen



from the dead; and lo, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him; lo, I have told you”; Acts 8:26: “But an angel of the Lord spake to Philip, saying, ‘arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza’”; Acts 27:23,24: “For there stood by me this night an angel of the God whose I am, whom also I serve, saying, ‘Fear not, Paul; thou must stand before Caesar: and lo, God hath granted thee all them that sail with thee.’”

In Hebrews it says that believers have a guardian angel. „Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?” (Hebrews 1:14). Also Scripture reminds us that we do not always know when we have seen an angel because of this other passage, “Do not forget to

entertain strangers, for by so *doing* some have unwittingly entertained angels.” (Hebrews 13:2).

The conversion of a sinner gives great joy to their guardian angel and indeed to all the angels. Our guardian angel encourages us to thank God for the many humiliations we receive daily, however it is most difficult if we have pride.

Guide us

Guardian angels can help to serve as guides in this world. It is much easier, however, if we cooperate with the guardian angel. We often struggle in our sin, only to be further trapped. We should take advantage of all that God provides for us and call on our guardian angel and

St Michael the Archangel often throughout the day for help and assistance.

These guardian angels do not lose any of the joy they have in beatitude. Guardian angels are spirits, and they have no sense of emotion. Even if their trust is lost they rejoice in the justice of God. They feel no sorrow and certainly no shame for the final fall of their charge. No guardian angel 'fails', they all do a good job. When the last guardian angel is sent by God, that will be to protect the last man created by God.

Padre Pio

We can learn from the saints many of whom had wonderful relationships with their guardian angels. Padre Pio had an especially tender love and devotion for his guardian angel. From the time that he was five years old, he was able to see and converse with his guardian angel. In his childlike simplicity, he assumed that everyone had the same experience. Enjoying an intimate friendship with his guardian angel, Padre Pio referred to him as the "companion of my childhood." The loving relationship continued throughout Padre Pio's life. For Padre Pio, his angel was his support, his protector, his teacher, his brother, and his friend. At times, Padre Pio's guardian angel acted as his secretary as well as his heavenly "postman" carrying messages to his spiritual children.

Padre Pio's guardian angel awakened him in the morning, and together they would join in prayer and praise to God. Padre Pio wrote to Father Agostino: "Again at night when I close my eyes, the veil is lifted and I see Paradise open up before me; and gladdened by this vision I sleep with a smile of sweet beatitude on my lips and a perfectly tranquil countenance, waiting for the little companion of my childhood to come to

waken me, so that we may sing together the morning praises to the Beloved of our hearts" (Letters).

Feast Day

The Feast of the Guardian Angels is a Catholic festival celebrated annually on the 2nd October. Paul V was the first Pope, in 1608, to authorise a feast day in honour of guardian angels. Pope Clement X changed the date to 2nd October and Pope Leo XIII, in 1883, upgraded the date to a double major feast.

In an address to American pilgrims on 3rd October 1958, Pope Pius XII spoke eloquently of the holy angels and said, "The angels are glorious, pure and splendid. They have been given to us as companions along the way of life. They have the task of watching over you all, so that you do not stray away from Christ, your Lord."

Unique presence of angels

The former Pope Benedict XVI used his Sunday Angelus address to remind Christians to call upon their guardian angel for help throughout life. "Dear friends, the Lord is always near and active in human history, and follows us with the unique presence of His angels, that today the Church venerates as 'Guardian,' in other words those who minister God's care for every man," the former Pope told pilgrims gathered in Rome's St Peter's Square, 2nd October 2011.

Our guardian angel will always be delighted for us to call on him often for help, assistance and protection in all circumstances.

Noreen Bavister, UK

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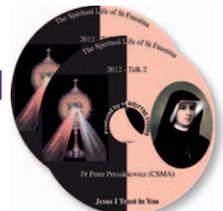
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Pilgrimage invitation from God and St Michael

A wonderful experience of St Michael the Archangel

In the last issue Catherine Mossey shared a story about her mother who had an wonderful experience of St Michael the Archangel; little did either of them know at that time the impact it would have on them and on so many others.

And His ways continue to amaze; six of us from Macclesfield in late September 2012 travelled with a group from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Goa, India, Mauritius and the USA, to Rome, Monte Sant'Angelo, San Giovanni Rotondo, Lanciano and Manopello. We were all "experienced" pilgrims but nothing had prepared us for all that we were to experience on this pilgrimage; for me in particular it turned out to be the most personal and emotional journey I have ever been on. Our pilgrimage was led by Fr Peter Prusakiewicz, a Michaelite Father from Poland, who took tremendous care of us all throughout the pilgrimage; we following him through the crowds as he carried aloft a Union Jack on a pole - we were delighted to see the flag changed several times to accommodate some fellow pilgrims from Scotland and Ireland! On our first day in Rome, after the Holy Mass in the Church of the Holy Spirit - designated by Pope John Paul II as the Shrine of the Divine Mercy - and in glorious sunshine, we were taken on an extremely interesting

and informative guided tour of St Peter's Square and then the Basilica and the crypts below, containing the tombs of many popes, including, of course, St Peter.



Invited by God and St Michael

It was a wonderful start to our pilgrimage, a journey which lasted six hours with several stops on the way from the south of Rome to Monte Sant' Angelo - the Shrine of St Michael the Archangel, reached by a winding road of hairpin bends that seemed to be stretching up, almost to Heaven!

We were very privileged to be the first English-speaking group lead by the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel ever to visit the shrine and Fr Peter said he believed that we were there, not by chance - but that each one of us had been invited for a reason - by God and St Michael.

I had been dreading the long drive but I have never known six hours to pass so quickly; after a time of prayer and singing, Fr Peter invited each one of us in turn to introduce ourselves, share something about our background, our favourite food and colour and how we thought we came to be on the pilgrimage. It was a fantastic way to get to know one another. The variety of stories was amazing/funny/poignant and by taking a risk to share something of ourselves and entrust that to the whole group, a real sense of bonding, of community, and belonging to the group developed.

Entering the Shrine

As well as introducing myself, I was invited by Noreen, the group organiser,

to share my mother's story about St Michael the Archangel. I had not expected to be asked to speak about my mother so it was very moving for me and a great privilege and a blessing to do so - but that was nothing compared to the emotion I felt on entering the Shrine to St Michael - the only chapel, ever, not consecrated by human hands - but by St Michael himself and which has been given the title of "Celestial Basilica". As we entered the cave, the beauty and sense of holiness took my breath away; I was completely taken by surprise and quite overwhelmed by the depth of emotion it stirred in me. St Michael has appeared in this place several times - with the message that "it is a sacred place...where the sins of men can be forgiven... and prayer will be answered." The name of St Michael in Hebrew means "who is like God?" - the answer he points us to is: "no one" - and comes with a call to bow down before God, open our hearts to Him and believe in His personal love for each one of us. Recalling my mother's experience of St Michael, the same great Michael whose presence was so evident in the Shrine, my heart was overflowing with love and thanks. It was a special blessing to have a friend with me, who had known my mother and witnessed the transformation in her, brought about by St Michael's appearance. Together we stood before the altar and the beautiful statue of St Michael and, with deep emotion, gave thanks to God. The following day, I was invited to read the prayers of intercession during Sunday Mass in the Shrine and was asked to pray for my mother, by name and also to include my seriously ill twin brother, by name, in the prayers for the sick. It was a great blessing and very humbling but, as I need to use a walking stick, I was rather concerned about the approach

to the altar - up six marble steps, three of which were quite steep; my main concern was the descent, as there were no handrails or support and, to put my mind at rest, I asked one of the readers to help me, if necessary. I need not have worried: I "floated" down the steps with ease; it felt like I was being carried; the person I had asked to help me said she had been deeply moved by "the lightness, grace and ease" with which I came down the steps. She felt that something special was happening; who knows; maybe "someone" was helping me...

Some people ask why we have shrines; Fr Peter suggests that it is simply because God wants them, that shrines are not of man but of God - for us: to help and encourage us in our faith and journey through life.

St Padre Pio

Certainly the next shrine we visited was the Shrine of St Padre Pio! Nothing prepared me for the magnificent sight that would meet us; approaching the shrine which houses Padre Pio's tomb, through a corridor of increasingly beautiful mosaics, our guide explained that they were a depiction of Padre Pio's life and passage into Paradise: entering the chapel I understood what she meant; the sight that met us was dazzling and took my breath away: the chapel seemed to be made of gold - walls, ceiling, mosaics, hanging lights; the effect was stunning and mind-blowingly beautiful, beyond description - a foretaste, perhaps and yet, still only a pale shadow, of the wonders that await us with God for all eternity. As we filed past the tomb, we were able to pause, place a hand on it and pray. Recalling how Padre Pio had suffered - physically, spiritually and

emotionally - and yet hearing about his obedience and humility, his life of service in the confessional and his passionate love for God was incredibly moving and put all our own sufferings into perspective. Fr Peter told us that miracles happen around Padre Pio so this was the moment to pray for all our intentions. I felt particularly blessed to be visiting Padre Pio's tomb on mine and my twin brother's birthday. (Yet again, I had not appreciated that when booking the pilgrimage.) As we left San Giovanni Rotondo, I rang my sister-in-law to tell her that I had prayed for Peter (my brother) at St Michael's Shrine & Padre Pio's tomb and of course, to give him my love. Peter had had a bone marrow transplant and then had caught pneumonia and was so desperately poorly that I had almost cancelled the pilgrimage so I was astonished when he came to the phone. He had been too ill to even speak before I left home; for the first time in months, he sounded like my brother again! How great is our God and thanks be to Him for the intercession of St Michael and St Pio!

In the following days we visited two further shrines: the Eucharistic Miracle in Lanciano where, in the 8th century, in response to a priest's doubts about the Real Presence whilst saying the Holy Mass, the Host became live flesh and the wine live blood - and both are on display still today. In Manoppello we visited the Shrine of the Holy Face where a sheer, almost immaterial piece of cloth, (or veil) is said to bear the image of the face of Jesus. It is said that, in this image of Jesus, we can see the face of every person - male, female, known, unknown and, as the light changes, so does the face of Jesus. Both shrines require and deserve prolonged reflection. ▶

Angels are God's messengers

All the shrines we visited were presented as opportunities to deepen our personal faith and relationship with God so that, strengthened in both, we can continue on our way. The importance of angels in our lives was very much emphasised; angels were described as the S.A.S - Spiritual Army of Soldiers created by God out of love because He loves us; they are God's messengers of love, sent to help us; when we pray, they pray with us but God is always the focus. St Michael is a special angel, an extra help in time of danger and especially at the end of our lives. Pope Leo XIII's prayer for protection to St Michael is recommended to be said daily. It was only during the pilgrimage that it dawned on me: before my mother died, we started saying the prayer to St Michael every day and I have continued to say it every day since she died 20 years ago; I also wondered if the last 20 years have been preparing me for the experience of this pilgrimage. When I returned home, there was a birthday present in the post

from a (non-Christian) friend who had not known I was on a pilgrimage: it was a guardian angel! Co-incidentally, within 48 hours of returning from Italy and visiting the Shrine of St Michael, I had three phone calls: from Noreen Bavister asking me to write this article for The Angels magazine; from someone who knew my family when I was growing up in Manchester, saying that he had just read mum's story and asking if he could share/spread it; and from Hope Price who wrote the Angels book - *and who I had not heard from for 20 years* - asking if I would tell mum's story in a (Yorkshire) radio interview! I actually did a radio interview over the phone but, afterwards, the producer contacted me again to say that the story was so powerful, he wanted to come to my house and record the whole of it; it was broadcast on Christmas Eve. It does seem that without any intervention on my part, the story has a life of its own and St Michael is on the move again! I am also beginning to realise that St Michael and this story will always be a part of my life. Many people have been helped or encouraged by it. So many, myself included, have been helped too, by going on pilgrimage.

I returned home renewed

In particular, I would certainly recommend this pilgrimage, to everyone: take the opportunity to visit these holy shrines in Rome, San Giovanni Rotondo, Lanciano and Manopello - and then, Rome again! Please do not be concerned about the number of shrines or the amount of travelling; I suffer from fibromyalgia and arthritis but had no problems visiting any of the shrines or travelling on the coach. Before I went, I was exhausted physically, emotionally and even spiritually; I returned home revived, renewed and with my faith strengthened; friends told me I "glowed"! Little did I know of all that God had in store for me; as you visit these holy places, may you also delight in discovering what He has in store for you so that, with St Michael, we can all acclaim "Who is like God!"

For those who were there we sang two hymns daily 'There's a Shrine in Mont Sant Angelo, shining bright for all to see', the other pilgrim song that we sang so many times - on the coach, in church, in the hotel, as we walked - brings to mind instantly, so many images, impressions, experiences and emotions, special to each of us, of our wonderfully blessed and joyful pilgrimage and of the "special guardian angel" who took such good care of us - Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA; I finish with the last line of the pilgrim song that he taught us and led us in so many times:

San Michele Arcangelo, prega per noi!

St Michael the Archangel, pray for us!

Catherine Mossey
Macclesfield, England

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Special thanks to Father Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA, the chief editor of The Angels magazine, who is the patron of this work.

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

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Main Hall, RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4**Divine Mercy
Day of Prayer****September 28th 2013
Saturday 9.30am to 3.30pm**Westminster Cathedral
Francis Street London
SW1P 1QW
Led by Mgr Keith Barltrop
and Fr Andrew
Gowkielewicz MIC**PHOTO CONTEST
SEE AN ANGEL!
ANGELS ARE AMONG US**MORE INFO AND RULES AT:
WWW.KONKURS.ANIELSKA.COM.PLYOU MAY WIN ATTRACTIVE AWARDS
YOUR PHOTO WILL TAKE PART
IN A POST-EVENT EXHIBITION**See an Angel! Angels are among us**The art of photography is like painting with light, recording reflections of the surrounding world. Photography may also be a way to notice the Divine Presence in everyday life. The light of the Divine Presence and his inspirations are directed to man through invisible spiritual beings – ANGELS - influencing us and our lives. The aim of the Angelic Photo Contest is to notice those subtle signs of the Divine Messengers' presence among us. If you are interested in taking part in the Photo Contest, please visit our website: www.konkurs.anielska.com.pl or email us at: konkurs@anielska.com.pl

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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 Marys 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 Marys)

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 Marys)

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 Marys)

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 Marys)

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 Marys)

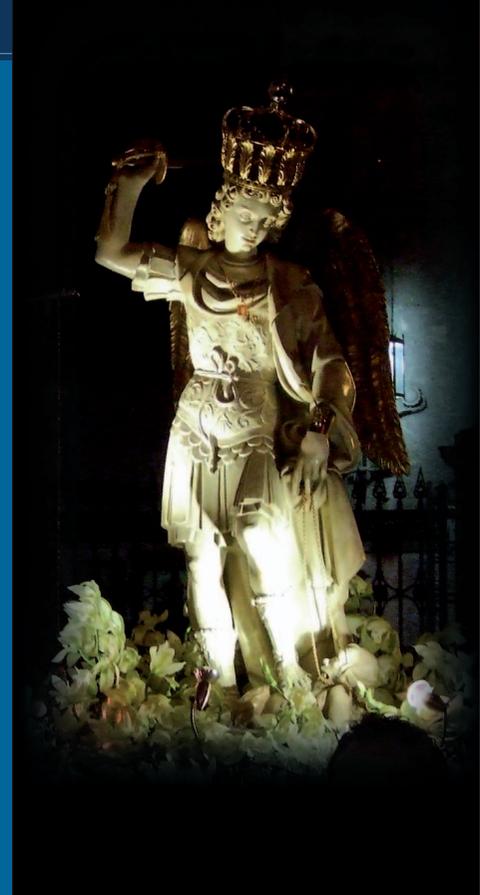
7. By the intercession of St Michael and the Celestial Choir of Principalities, may God fill our souls with a true spirit of obedience. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

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 Marys)

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 Marys)

Recite on the next four beads:

1 Our Father in honour of St Michael

1 Our Father in honour of St Gabriel

1 Our Father in honour of St Raphael

1 Our Father in honour of our Guardian Angel

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

Prayer of Pope Leo XIII

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