

## WE HONOR THE ANGELS IN OUR LIVES

For God commands the angels to guard you in all your ways.  
With their hands they shall support you,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.  
Psalm 91: 11 - 12

Angels - in Heaven, on Earth and in Hell  
Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

Divine Revelation has established the existence of a created world of Spirits. Angels were created by God and are now living in Heaven, sympathetic and helpful to the needs of men, or in Hell where they



exist to seduce the human race from allegiance to the Creator. The existence of Angels; their spiritual nature; the fall of the evil Spirits of their own free will; the role of the devil in the fall of man, are doctrines of faith proclaimed by the Church and by the 4th Lateran Council, 2nd Council of Lyons, the Councils of Florence, and Trent, and the 1st Vatican Council.

The Old Testament books early speak of Angels but are always careful in their expressions to steer away from any possible idolatry, so closely related were the Angels to God that they were sometimes erroneously thought of, as attributes of God. Even during Christ's life the Sadducees denied the existence of Angels.

In the Books of Daniel and Tobit we see Angels in their full glory. Gabriel is mentioned by name as the Angel who foretold Christ's coming and Michael as the "one who mounts guard over your people." Daniel speaks of seeing Angels as does St. John at Patmos "ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him." The Book of Tobit through more than half its length is the narrative of the Angel Raphael and his ministrations to Tobias' future wife and his father. At the end of the story the helpful companion identified himself "I am Raphael, one of the seven, who stands ever ready to enter the presence of the glory of God."





The Gospels tell of an Angel appearing to Zachary to foretell John the Baptist's birth; to Mary to announce the Incarnation; to Joseph that his quandary about Mary's being with child be resolved. Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt at the warning of an Angel, and an Angel told Joseph of Herod's death and the possibility of the Holy Family's safe return to Palestine. Angels announced Christ's birth with their Glorias of praise, in Bethlehem. They came also to confirm Christ in His resistance to Satan in the desert, as well as comfort Him in His agony

in Gethsemane. Two of the heavenly host awaited the women to tell them their Lord had risen, "He goes before you into Galilee."

Divine Revelation in Bible and Tradition tells us to honor the Angels God has sent us as Guardians. That each of the faithful has his individual Angel is common belief, implied in Scripture and arbitrarily stated by St. Basil who reasons that angelic assistance is part of Christ's plan for the salvation of the men He died to save. These Guardian Angels are of Divine Providence which works through God's creatures. These pure Spirits most nearly resemble God and yet are not dissimilar to man, having intelligence and will like us. They are God's intermediaries between the God they see and mankind whom they are entrusted to lead to the same Beatific Vision.



Presence of God

Let us remember that we live and move and have our being in the Holy One.

The more we call on the Lord  
the more we can feel His Presence.

Day by day He draws us closer to His loving heart.

## Psalm 148

Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; give praise in the heights.

Praise Him, all you angels; give praise, all you hosts.

Praise Him, sun and moon; give praise, all shining stars.

Praise Him, highest heavens, you waters above the heavens.

Let them all praise the Lord's name; for the Lord commanded and they were created,

Assigned them duties forever, gave them tasks that will never change.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deep waters;

You lightning and hail, snow and clouds, storm winds that fulfill His command;

You mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

You animals wild and tame, you creatures that crawl and fly;

You kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all who govern on earth;

Young men and women too, old and young alike.

Let them all praise the Lord's name, for His name alone is exalted, majestic above earth and heaven.

The Lord has lifted high the horn of His people; to the glory of all the faithful, of Israel, the people near to their God. Hallelujah!

### A Story: Heaven's Messenger

Barbara was driving her six-year-old son, Benjamin, to his piano lesson. They were late, and Barbara was beginning to think she should have cancelled it. There was always so much to do, and Barbara, a night-duty nurse at the local hospital, had recently worked extra shifts. She was tired.

The sleet storm and icy roads added to her tension. Maybe she should turn the car around.

"Mom!" Ben cried. "Look!"

Just ahead a car had lost control on a patch of ice and rolled over, then crashed sideways into a telephone pole.

Barbara pulled over, skidded to a stop and threw open her door.

Thank goodness she was a nurse she might be able to help these unfortunate passengers. Then she paused. What about Ben?

She couldn't take him with her little boys shouldn't see scenes like the one she anticipated.

But was it safe to leave him alone?

What if their car were hit from behind? For a brief moment Barbara considered going on her way. Someone else was sure to come along.

No! "Ben, honey, promise me you'll stay in the car!"

"I will, Mommy," he said as she ran, slipping and sliding, toward the crash site. It was worse than she'd feared.

Two girls of high school age were in the car. One, the blonde on the passenger side, was dead, killed on impact. The driver, however was still breathing. She was unconscious and pinned in the wreckage. Barbara quickly applied pressure to the wound in the teenager's head while her practiced eye catalogued the other injuries. A broken leg, maybe two, along with probable internal bleeding. But if help came soon, the girl would live. A trucker had pulled up and was calling for help on his cellular phone. Soon Barbara heard the ambulance sirens. A few moments later she surrendered her lonely post to rescue workers. "Good job," one said as he examined the driver's wounds. "You probably saved her life, ma'am." Perhaps.

As Barbara walked back to her car a feeling of sadness overwhelmed her, especially for the family of the girl who had died. Their lives would never be the same. Oh God, why do such things have to happen? Slowly Barbara opened her car door. What should she tell Benjamin? He was staring at the crash site, his blue eyes huge. "Mom," he whispered, "did you see it?" "See what, Honey?" she asked. "The angel, Mom! He came down from the sky while you were running to the car. And he opened the door, and he took that girl out." Barbara's eyes filled with tears.

"Which door, Ben?" "The passenger side.

He took the girl's hand, and they floated up to Heaven together."

"What about the driver?" Ben shrugged. "I didn't see anyone else."

Later Barbara was able to meet the families of the victims. They expressed their gratitude for the help she had provided. Barbara was able to give them something more - Ben's vision.

There was no way he could have known - by ordinary means who was in the car or what had happened to either of the passengers. Nor could the passenger door have been opened; Barbara had seen its tangle of immovable steel herself. Yet Ben's account brought consolation to a grieving family. Their daughter was safe in Heaven. And they would see her again.

Author unknown

### PRAYER TO MY GUARDIAN ANGEL

Angel of God's light, whom God sends as a companion for me on earth, protect me from the snares of the devil, and help me to walk always as a child of God, my Creator.

Angel of God's truth, whose perfect knowledge serves what is true, protect me from deceits and temptations. Help me to know the truth, and always to live the truth.

Angel of God's love, who praises Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, Who sacrificed His life for love of us, sustain me as I learn the ways of Divine love, of sacrificial generosity, of meekness and lowliness of heart. Thank You, my heavenly friend, for your watchful care. At the moment of my death, bring me to heaven, where the one true God, Who is light, Truth and Love, lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.



### PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

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 power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

### LITANY OF THE HOLY ANGELS

Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven, Have mercy on us.

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.

God, the Holy Spirit, Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, One God, Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, Queen of Angels, pray for us

Holy Mother of God, pray for us

Holy Virgin of Virgins, pray for us

Saint Michael, who is ever the defender of the people of God, pray for us

St. Michael, who drove from Heaven Lucifer and his rebel crew, pray for us

St. Michael, who cast down to Hell the our accuser, pray for us

Saint Gabriel, who explained to Daniel the heavenly vision, pray for us

St. Gabriel, who foretold to Zachary the birth and ministry of John the Baptist, pray for us

St. Gabriel, who announced to Blessed Mary the Incarnation of the Divine Word, pray for us

Saint Raphael, who lead Tobias safely through his journey to his home again, pray for us

St. Raphael, who delivered Sara from the devil, pray for us

St. Raphael, who restored his sight to Tobias the elder, pray for us

All ye holy Angels, who stand around the high and lofty throne of God, pray for us

Who cry to Him continually: Holy, Holy, Holy, pray for us

Who dispel the darkness of our minds and give us light, pray for us

Who are the messengers of heavenly things to humans, pray for us

Who have been appointed by God to be our guardians, pray for us

Who always behold the Face of our Father in Heaven, pray for us

Who rejoice over one sinner doing penance, pray for us

Who delivered the Divine Law to Moses on Mount Sinai, pray for us

Who brought good tidings when Christ was born, pray for us

Who comforted Him in His agony, pray for us

Who sat in white garments at His sepulcher, pray for us

Who appeared to the disciples as He went up into Heaven, pray for us

Who shall go before Him bearing the standard of the Cross when He comes to judgment, pray for us

Who offer to God the prayers of those who pray, pray for us

Who assist us at the hour of death, pray for us

Who conduct to Heaven the souls of the just, pray for us

Who perform signs and wonders by the power of God, pray for us

Who are sent to minister for those who shall receive the inheritance of salvation, pray for us

Who are set over kingdoms and provinces, pray for us

Who have often put to flight armies of enemies, pray for us

Who have often delivered God's servants from prison and other perils of this life, pray for us

Who have often consoled the holy martyrs in their torments, pray for us

All ye holy orders of blessed spirits, pray for us

Hymn: Angel Voices

Angel voices, ever singing, round Your throne of light,  
Angel harps, forever ringing, rest not day or night;  
Thousands only live to bless You, and confess You Lord of Might.  
You Who are beyond the farthest mortal eye can scan,  
Can it be that You regard songs of sinful man?  
Can we feel that You are near us and will hear us? Yes, we can.  
Yes, we know Your love rejoices o'er each work of Yours;  
You did ears and hands and voices for Your praise combine;  
Craftsman's art and music's measure for Your pleasure did design.  
Here, great God, today we offer of Your own to You;  
And for Your acceptance proffer, all unworthily,  
Hearts and minds, and hands and voices, in our choicest melody.  
Honor, glory, might and merit, Yours shall ever be,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, blessed Trinity;  
Of the best that You have given Earth and Heaven render You.



Saint John Baptist de la Salle  
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,  
help us to always live in the presence of our God.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!