

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE KEYNOTE—DEVOTION TO THE ANGELS (2-28-21)

Prayer to Guardian Angel of the United States (from *Opus Angelorum*)

O glorious Guardian Angel of the United States, to whom God has entrusted the care of our beloved country, we honor you and thank you for the care and protection you have given to this great nation from the first moment of its inception.

O powerful Angel Guardian, whose watchful glance encompasses this vast land from shore to shore, we know that our sins have grieved our Lord and God and marred the beauty of our heritage. Lead us to a deep conversion, so that we may return to the embrace of His merciful love!

O Holy Angel, obtain for us through the intercession of the Queen of Heaven before the throne of God the graces we need to overcome the forces of evil so rampant in our beloved land. Help us, our God-given protector and friend, to respond wholeheartedly to the urgent pleas of the Mother of God at Fatima. Assist us to offer the prayers and sacrifices necessary to bring peace and goodness to our nation.

We want to make you known and loved throughout our land, so that docile to your inspirations we may know, love and serve our Lord more faithfully and so become once more "one Nation under God"! Amen.

SACRED SEVEN

- ___ 1. We know from the visions of saints that angels really have wings to fly.
- ___ 2. According to Saint Thomas Aquinas, each angel is its own species.
- ___ 3. In the hierarchy of creatures, angels are above humans.
- ___ 4. Mary is the greatest of God's creatures, angelic or human.
- ___ 5. We know that being very spiritual is exactly the same as being very holy.
- ___ 6. Hell is a creation of God.
- ___ 7. At the origin of creation, God created demons along with good angels.

KEYNOTE: CREATION AND THE ANGELS (Notes from *My Catholic Faith* by Most Reverend Louis LaRavoire Morrow, D.D.)

- I. The Hierarchy of Being—"all things visible and invisible" (Scholastic View)
 - A. Uncreated/Eternal: God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - B. Created:
 - 1. Immaterial Spirits or Angels (Immortal beings)
 - 2. Rational Human Beings (Immortal souls)
 - 3. Animals
 - 4. Plants
 - 5. Inanimate Matter

- II. God's motivation to Create Angels and Men:
 - A. Out of love and for His glory
 - B. For the good and happiness of angels and men (blessing/beatitude)

- III. Angelic Attributes:
 - A. Spirits without bodies having understanding and free will
 - 1. Superior to Man and inferior to God
 - 2. Possessed wisdom, power, and holiness
 - B. Choirs (Ranks) of Angels (from *His Angels at Our Side* by Fr. John Horgan):

SERAPHIM—"Burning ones" closest to God, on fire with love for Him

CHERUBIM—Constantly contemplate the wisdom and love of God in His relationship with us

THRONES—Form the seat of God's authority and mercy and are concerned with divine judgments and ordinances

DOMINATIONS—Concerned with the government of the universe and coordinate the ministries of angels who deal with creation

VIRTUES—Exercise the raw power of the physical universe concerned cause and effect and cosmic order, ensuring the well-being of the world

POWERS—Introduces man to the higher mysteries and repress the attacks of the hostile powers of Hell against the deepest laws of physical creation

PRINCES/PRINCIPALITIES—Guardians of nations or peoples

ARCHANGELS—Possess leadership and authority in the heavenly realm and are associated with the protection of nations, dioceses, religious communities, and the Church's mission (Michael/Gabriel/Raphael)

ANGELS—Most involved in the doings of mankind and are sent on missions from God, such as serving as guardian angels

- IV. The Trial of the Angels before the Fall of Man:
 - A. God desired and willed the happiness of Heaven for all His angels:
 - 1. The good angels submitted to God's will
 - 2. The devils/demons refused to submit—"Non servium" (Hell)
 - B. The good angels and their assistance to humans:
 - 1. They behold the face of God, and praise and glorify Him in perfect eternal happiness in Heaven
 - 2. How the angels help us:
 - a. With intercessory prayer
 - b. As messengers sent to us by God
 - c. As guardian angels
 - d. Through exercising special charge over nations, communities, churches, governance of the universe and of the created order
 - e. By battling against evil angels and men
 - f. By protecting us from harm in soul and body
 - g. By inspiring us to do good
 - h. By helping us in our work and in our time of need

QUESTIONS

- I. Which rank or choir of angels do you find most interesting? Do you ever pray for help from this specific rank of angels?
- II. What is your favorite Scripture story that involves an angel or angels? Why is this your favorite?
- III. What could you do to increase your awareness and cooperation with the good angels?

MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer—Include the “Signum Crucis,” “Pater Noster,” “Ave Maria,” “Gloria Patri,” “Capital Campaign Prayer to Saint Joseph,” and “Prayer to the Guardian Angel of the United States”
- II. Mid-Day Prayer—Praying “The Divine Praises” and making a particular examination of conscience with an Act of Contrition
- III. Daily Mental Prayer—Conversing with your guardian angel
- IV. Nightly Examination of Conscience followed by the Confiteor:
Have I expressed my devotion to the holy angels by:
 - A. Praying with devotion to the good angels today, particularly the prayer “Angel of God” and “The Prayer to Saint Michael”?
 - B. Repeatedly inviting my guardian angel to guide me and help me through each of my daily activities, and then thanking him for his assistance?
 - C. Calling upon my guardian angel to assist me in trials, especially in difficult relationships and challenging activities?
 - D. Asking my guardian angel to help me in all my prayers and worship, especially when praying the Rosary and when assisting at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass?