

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE PRAXIS—DEVOTION TO THE ANGELS (3-7-21)

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. God created angels and men for their happiness, not for His own happiness.
- ___ 2. Of all God's creatures, humans resemble God the most.
- ___ 3. The angels were not created equal in their attributes.
- ___ 4. The good angels behold the face of God continually, praise and glorify Him, and are perfectly happy in His presence.
- ___ 5. Satan, or Lucifer, was originally the most excellent angel created by God.
- ___ 6. Often the devil appears as an angel of light, and we are tempted by evil which appears good.
- ___ 7. God permits all mankind to have temptations, but never temptations beyond a person's power to resist with God's help.

PRAXIS: SPIRITUAL WARFARE (Notes from *My Catholic Faith* by Most Reverend Louis LaRavoire Morrow, D.D.)

- I. Free will—God has chosen us for Heaven, but requires our acceptance and cooperation; Satan (Lucifer) and the other devils (demons) desire Hell for us, for "misery loves company" and envy drives their malice.
 - A. Satan's opposition to God:
 - 1. He opposes the Father of Mercy as the Father of Malice
 - 2. He opposes Jesus, the Truth, as "The Father of Lies"

3. He opposes “The Lord, the Giver of Life” as “a murderer from the beginning”
 4. Key evidence of the Devil’s work while appearing as “an angel of light”:
 1. Opposition to life (jealousy, envy, vengeance, and murder)
 2. Opposition to truth (deception and lies)
 3. Opposition to freedom (disobedience, self-indulgence, and sin)
 4. Opposition to love—mercy/charity (selfishness, manipulation, malice)
- B. Tactics of Satan and his minions:
1. Possession (rarest and requiring a Major Exorcism)
 2. Obsession
 3. Oppression
 4. Infestation
 5. Temptation (common to all humans)
- II. We are gold tested in fire—temptation:
- A. Temptations are permitted by God for our cleansing and perfection, and they originate from:
1. The world—its sinful wants and vanities
 2. The flesh—evil inclinations of your weak and corrupted nature
 3. The Devil—taking advantage of the weaknesses of our flesh and the world’s sinful glamour and allurements
- B. Temptation in itself—is not a sin—but becomes sinful when:
1. We bring it upon ourselves through carelessness and overconfidence (instead, we are to avoid occasions of sins—bad company, evil places or circumstances)
 2. We play with, take pleasure in, or yield to it (“playing with fire”)
- C. For a mortal sin—these must be simultaneously present:
1. Grave matter
 2. Full knowledge
 3. Deliberate consent
- III. Overcoming Temptations: We are never tempted beyond our ability to overcome the temptation with God’s help:
- A. Watchfulness (Vigilance) and Prayer:
1. Morning and evening prayer, with nightly examination of conscience
 2. Eucharistic Adoration
 3. The Rosary
- B. Remaining in a state of grace and receiving Holy Communion frequently:
1. Frequent sacramental Confession
 2. Holy Communions (or Spiritual Communions) on more than just days of obligation
 3. Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, to the Virgin Mary and other saints, and to the angels (Consecrations)

4. A deeper understanding of and cooperation with Sacramental grace
5. Minor exorcisms and deliverance prayers
6. Fasting, almsgiving, and works of mercy (spiritual and material)
7. The use of Sacramentals:
 - a. Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet
 - b. Brown Scapular
 - c. Miraculous Medal and Saint Benedict's Medal
 - d. Holy Images, Holy Water, and Blessed Candles
 - e. Seeking Plenary Indulgences
8. Avoiding idleness and unholy curiosity

QUESTIONS

- I. Why would God permit a person to become possessed by a devil or multiple demons?
- II. How can a person discern whether a temptation is coming primarily from the world, the flesh, or the Devil?

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?