

**PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE (10-23-22): BALTIMORE CATECHISM NO. 2
PART 1, LESSON 4—CREATION AND THE ANGELS**

- I. Prayers
 - A. “Signum Crucis”: “In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Santi. Amen.”
 - B. “Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel”
 - C. “Prayer to our Guardian Angel” (page 30)
 - D. Saint and Virtue:
 - 1. Saint Michael (“Who is like God?”)
 - 2. Courage
- II. True or False (page 29)
- III. Creation and the Angels
 - A. One God = Creator of Heaven and Earth
 - 1. Invisible things (including angels):
 - a. “Day”: Light of initial creation
 - b. “Night”: Darkness of the Angelic Fall of Satan and One-Third of the Angels bringing about the division between Heaven (God and His Holy Angels) and Hell (Satan and his devils)
 - c. Satan: “Non serviam.”
 - 2. Visible things (including men)
 - a. Material reality (“good”) crowned by man (“very good”)
 - b. Man marries, generates, preserves (“keep”), cultivates (“tills”), and develops (individually, corporately, historically)
 - B. The Angels and Temptation:
 - 1. Countless personal spirits without bodies possessing understanding and will:
 - a. Simplicity: See, love, and serve God in Heaven
 - b. Office = Messenger: Pray for us; serve us; deliver messages from God to us and messages from us to God; light our path; guard us; rule us; guide us
 - c. By nature, superior to humans in intellectual capacity and immediate proximity to God
 - d. Do not marry, generate, or develop
 - e. Each is so unique as to be its own species, yet perfectly ordered and coordinated as spiritual persons by God because of their spiritual and intellectual capacities

2. Man's temptation to sin:
 - a. From ourselves (wounded flesh)
 - b. From persons and things around us (the world)
 - c. From devils (also—obsession, oppression, infestation, possession)
 - d. Can always be resisted with the help of God, the angels, and the saints, and are not sinful unless we accept them and delight in them
- C. Three Tiers of the Nine Choirs of Angels:
1. Contemplate and adore God directly:
 - a. Seraphim—Burn for love with God and sing: “Holy, holy, holy”
 - b. Cherubim—Contemplate God's wisdom and love
 - c. Thrones—The seat of God's authority and mercy
 2. Fulfill God's plan in the universe (cosmos)
 - a. Dominations—Oversees government and coordination of activity in the universe
 - b. Virtues—Exercise power that orders and sustains the universe
 - c. Powers—Army that opposes and limits the attacks of the hostile powers of Hell
 3. Interact with and serve humanity more closely
 - a. Principalities—Guardians of societies large or small
 - b. Archangels—including Michael, Gabriel, Raphael—protectors of various societies who interact with humans in a more immediate and apparent way than do the principalities
 - c. Angels—Army most involved with human activity—include the guardian angels
- IV. Table Talk—Discussion Questions
- V. Mission/Prayer and Blessing