

SAINT MICHAEL
THE ARCHANGEL
AND THE
GUARDIAN ANGELS

St. Alphonsus Liguori



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GUARDIAN ANGELS**

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**SAINT MICHEL
THE ARCHANGEL**

AND THE GUARDIAN ANGELS

Motives for trust in their Powerful Protection,

**BY
SAINT ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI**

**May be used as a novena for any of the feasts of Saint
Michael and the other Angels.**

INTRODUCTORY NOTE TO THE FRENCH EDITION

This booklet has remained unpublished until now (1866); it was recently discovered in Rome among the writings of our Holy Author. Having received an authentic copy, we hastened to translate it for the benefit of the faithful. It consists of sermon outlines for a novena in honor of Saint Michael; they can also be used for meditation. One can clearly see the devotion Saint Alphonsus had for the great Archangel; moreover, he had the happiness of being baptized on the very day of Saint Michael's principal feast, September 29, and was from that moment placed under his special protection by receiving his name among his baptismal names. He chose him as the first Patron of his religious institute, after the Mother of God, and he never failed to turn to him with confidence in all his needs. He even made a pilgrimage to his sanctuary on Mount Gargano, where he celebrated Mass with great edification in 1731.

**-The Translator
(Father Dujardin)**

First Consideration **Saint Michael, Prince of the Heavenly Host and** **Protector of the Church**

Saint Michael, for having defeated Lucifer—who had held the highest rank among the Angels and had rebelled against his Creator—was elevated by the Lord to the place formerly occupied by that rebel, and made Prince of the heavenly host. At the same time, he became the principal Protector of the Church. Under the Old Law, he watched over the Jewish Church, taking care to preserve the faith in the one true God against idolaters who worshipped many deities, and to maintain hope in the future Messiah, who was to come to save humanity, lost through Adam’s sin.

When Jesus Christ came into the world, and the Jews refused to recognize Him as their Savior, God rejected their assembly, and willed that Saint Michael should become, after the Blessed Mother, the principal Protector of the new Church of the Christians. So says the deacon Panteleon, a seventh-century author:

*“From that time on, He appointed him as the greatest defender for us Christians.”*¹

Saint Laurence Justinian says the same:

*“The Holy Mother Church honours him, knowing him to be her special and proper guardian, a constant intercessor.”*²

And this is affirmed by the Holy Church itself, which declares that it honours this mighty Archangel as its special Patron, just as he once was for the Synagogue:

¹ Surius. 29. sept. Narr. mirac. arch. Mich.

² Serm. in festo S. Mich.

*“As he was once the protector and patron of the Synagogue of the Jews, so now the Church of God venerates him as her guardian and patron.”*³

One may reflect here on the harm caused by sin, namely:

1. The loss of God’s grace;
2. The loss of peace in this life, taken away by remorse;
3. Eternal damnation.

Example : Consolation and Intercession

Saint Michael, as Protector of the entire Church, constantly intercedes with God on behalf of Christians and obtains for them the help they need. He also assists on earth the Sovereign Pontiff and all Bishops in the care of souls, and watches attentively over the defence of all the faithful against the attacks of the demons—those very ones he once drove out of the heavenly kingdom.

³ *Offic. 8. maii.*

Second Consideration

Saint Michael Defends us against the Temptations of the Devil

Since humankind was lost through Adam's sin, God sent His only Son to earth to redeem it. At the same time, He entrusted Saint Michael with the mission of protecting humanity as a valiant warrior, tasked with restraining Lucifer's power. Thus speaks once again the previously cited author, Panteleon:

*“God, in His gracious nature, provided us with a powerful weapon to safeguard us — the great Michael, Prince of the Heavenly Host, against the power of the devil.”*⁴

The same author adds that Saint Michael, although always dwelling in heaven, travels all over the earth with extreme speed, to go and strengthen men against the temptations of the devil:

*“Michael, who resides in heaven, traverses the whole earth in a moment, approaches the afflicted faithful, strengthens and consoles them.”*⁵

We must make a point to honour and invoke this great minister of God.

At this point, it is good to recall what relates to prayer, by considering:

1. Its necessity,
2. Its efficacy,
3. And its qualities — namely, humility, confidence, and perseverance.

The Church assures us that Saint Michael has been given to us as a defender, and that he comes to the aid of whoever calls upon him:

⁴ *Narrat. Mirac.*

⁵ *Encom. in glor. Mich.*

Michael the Archangel comes to the aid of the people of God".⁶

He is especially quick to assist those attacked by the demon. Pantaléon says that he even discovers the snares of our enemies, and reveals their evil plots:

*"He exposes all the snares of the devil, knowing the schemes of our adversaries."*⁷ Often the evil spirit leads our soul to regard a bad action as something permitted, or even as something holy, in order to deceive us by appearances; but Saint Michael uncovers these deceptions, and makes the evil that we were about to embrace appear to us in all its horror,

An Example from Father Nieremberg

Father Nieremberg recounts in his book on Saint Michael the story of a servant of a nobleman who, after living a sinful life for many years, was near death. At that moment, the devil tempted him violently to despair by bringing all his sins before his eyes. The evil spirit even succeeded in getting him to say that he refused to confess or receive the sacraments, believing himself already damned. However, this unfortunate sinner, despite his disordered life, had still maintained a certain devotion to Saint Michael and used to commend himself to him. So, at the hour of death, the merciful Archangel appeared to him, told him that he had prayed for him, and revealed that, through his intercession, the Lord was granting him three more hours of life so that he could confess and receive the Sacraments and die in God's grace.

The dying man, in tears, thanked his heavenly benefactor for such a great favour. Then, he asked his brother to quickly fetch a confessor. His brother immediately set out

⁶ *Encom . in glor . Mich .*

⁷ *Offic . 8 . maii .*

toward a nearby Dominican convent. On the way, he encountered two Dominican friars, who told him that they had already been summoned by an unknown person to go and hear the confession of a sick man, and they were already on their way to his house.

It is presumed that it was Saint Michael himself who had warned them and urged them to come. When they arrived, the dying man made his confession and received the sacraments with deep sorrow for his sins. When the three hours had passed, he died — giving much hope of his eternal salvation.

Third Consideration

Saint Michael Fights for us against the Infernal Dragon

Deacon Pantaleon assures us that Saint Michael not only obtains for his pious servants the courage and strength to resist the temptations of hell, but comes to fight in person when he sees one of them strongly pressed by the devil and exposed to the imminent danger of falling into sin: *He repels the onslaught of demons.*⁸ Moreover, Saint Bruno, Bishop of Segni and Abbot of Monte Cassino, who lived in the 11th and 12th centuries, says that this generous Archangel loves men so much that he never ceases to fight for them, day and night, against the infernal dragon, and that he even calls the Angels who are under his command to make them fight with him, so that we may not be vanquished by our eternal enemy: *Michael, cum Angelis suis, non cessat die ac nocte praeliari contra draconem illum*⁹. Also, Pantaleon adds that he is always as it were camped around the faithful: *Semper castra locans in circuitu fidelium.*¹⁰ That is to say, according to our way of understanding, he comes with his Angels and sets guards around Christians, so that they do not fall prey to hell, especially when they have had recourse to him.

Example

Jacques Massi, speaking of the help that Saint Michael lends to those from whom he receives homage, reports that a treasurer of the King of Poland, named Hubert Salonic, having lived many years in sin, and finally finding himself on his deathbed, would have been

⁸ *Encom.*

⁹ *Sentent. l.6.c.3.s.5*

¹⁰ *Encom.*

damned, if the Holy Archangel had not helped him. He himself admitted that, in this extremity, he considered himself lost, and that the demons were already coming to take him; but then, Saint Michael, whom he had honored during his life, appeared to him, drove out his enemies, and then told him that he had obtained for him from God eight days time to repair the disorders of his conscience. Enlightened and strengthened by such a singular grace, the sinner called a priest, confessed with true sorrow, received the other Sacraments with devotion, and died with great hope of salvation.

We must not conclude from this example that, if we continue to live badly, Saint Michael will obtain salvation for us at the moment of death; for these kinds of graces are rare. We know, moreover, that he who returns to his vomit will be abandoned by God, who does not allow his mercy to be trifled with: *Be not deceived, God is not mocked.*¹¹ Thus He once said: *For three crimes of Damascus, and for four I will not convert it.*¹² The people of Damascus having sinned up to four times, there is no more grace for them.

¹¹Galatians 6:7

¹²Amos 1:3

Fourth Consideration.

Saint Michael Helps us to Come out of Sin,

Saint Michael comes to the aid of his pious servants when they fall into sin, by obtaining for them the grace to know the ugliness of their faults and to detest them; this is why the Church commands us, in order to obtain the forgiveness of our sins, to confess our guilt, first to God, then to the Blessed Virgin, and then to Saint Michael, the Archangel. *Confiteor Deo omnipotenti, beatæ Mariæ semper Virgini, beato Michaeli Archangelo.*¹³ We see here that the Holy Archangel is also specially prayed to, to help us recover the grace of God.

Saint Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem in the 7th century, in a speech¹⁴ in which he gives a learned eulogy to Saint Michael, calls him the Guide of those who go astray: *Errantium Ductor*; that is to say, he brings back to the right path sinners who live far from God, and helps them find the means to attain forgiveness. He also calls him the one who excites those who have fallen to rise again: *Prolapsorum Excitator*; for the Holy Archangel, by salutary inspirations, leads sinners out of the unhappy state in which they find themselves.

Deacon Pantaleon reproduces the same eulogy in other words: *Deducit ad viam pœnitentiæ, et peccatorum procural remissionem.*¹⁵ Saint Michael, who ardently loves our souls, when he sees them fallen into the abyss of sin, and exposed to being precipitated into the abyss of hell, strives, by various means, to lead them to penance,

¹³ The prayer "I confess to Almighty God"

¹⁴ *Orat. de Ang. excell,*

¹⁵ *Encom*

which is the only way to return to the state of grace. He adds that the generous Archangel goes so far as to vouch for sinners: *Fidejubet pro peccatoribus*; that is to say, seeing one of his pious servants in the disgrace of God, he prays the Lord to await his repentance, and in a way, pledges himself as a guarantee for the sinner, promising God that this sinner will offend Him no more, because he, the Archangel, will take care to assist him when he sees him in danger of falling again.

Example

We read of many examples of sinners saved by the intercession of Saint Michael: I will report a very beautiful one, taken from a work by Father Nieremberg. A priest named Tarentao had been leading a sinful life for twenty years, though he still maintained some devotion to Saint Michael. When the bishop of the area died, he thought to pray to the glorious Archangel—not to repair his faults, but to obtain the episcopate. Nonetheless, Saint Michael deigned to appear to him and told him that he had deserved hell for many years, but that out of compassion for him, he had obtained from the divine mercy that he be given time for repentance. He then exhorted him to no longer aspire to the episcopate, but rather to prepare for death, which was not far off; he added that he would obtain for him contrition for his sins in order that he may receive forgiveness. After this advice, returning to himself, the sinner made a good confession; and at the end of eight days, he died. Before expiring, he declared to those present that his heavenly protector was always near him and strengthening him.

I point out again that these examples are rare; what frequently happens is that those who persist in evil have a bad end; this is why I would like you to understand that, when one falls back into sin, it is difficult to correct oneself,

and this for three reasons: first, the one who falls back becomes weaker; second, the relapse makes the demon stronger; and third, the grace of God diminishes.

Fifth Consideration

Saint Michael gives each person a guardian angel.

The deacon Pantaleon teaches that Saint Michael, according to the order established by God, takes care of all the faithful: *Curam gerit totius gentis fidelis*.¹⁶ Thus, although residing in Heaven, he nonetheless helps and consoles Christians here below in their tribulations.

Saint Bruno of Segni adds that, since Saint Michael has been raised by the Lord to the dignity of Chief of all the Angels, it is his role to assign to each soul on earth its Guardian Angel. He urges us to consider how much we owe him in this regard: *Vide quantas gratias beato Michaeli debeamus, a quo Angelos accepimus nobis ministros ad custodiam ordinatos*¹⁷ — “See how many graces we owe to blessed Michael, by whom we have received the Angels, appointed as ministers for our protection.”

Now, since Saint Michael is the light and guide of all the Angels — who are all beneath him — he is the one who directs our Guardian Angels, teaching them the best way to guide us and defend us from our enemies. Therefore, when we see a person whose vices are leading to their downfall, or who is persecuting us, we would do very well to pray to Saint Michael to warn the Guardian Angel to whom that person is entrusted, indicating the best way

¹⁶ *Narr. mirac.*

¹⁷ *Sentent. l.6.c.3.s.5*

to enlighten them, so that they may correct themselves, or cease to persecute us.

Yes, our entire salvation, the whole life of our soul, consists in doing God's Will: *Vita in voluntate ejus*.¹⁸ Therefore, what we must always ask of God, following David's example, is that He teach us to do His will: *Doce me facere voluntatem tuam*.¹⁹ What we must ask of the Blessed Virgin, our Guardian Angel, and our Patron Saints is that they obtain for us the grace to do God's will. But it must be understood that we must conform to the Divine Will, not only in prosperity, but also in adversity, and even in the tribulations we experience from men when we are persecuted; for everything comes from God. This is the true means of sanctifying ourselves and enjoying true peace, which nothing can alter: *Non contristabit justum, quidquid ei acciderit*.²⁰

¹⁸ Ps. 29:6

¹⁹ Ps. 142:10

²⁰ Prov 12:21--

Sixth Consideration .

Saint Michael Assists us at the Moment of Death .

Saint Michael is specially charged by the Lord to assist us at the moment of death. Everyone knows that at that moment the attacks of the devil become more terrible, while our strength diminishes and our minds are overwhelmed by extreme anguish; for we must consider that three causes mainly torment those who are about to die: first, the memory of sins committed; secondly, the fear of eternal damnation; and thirdly, the assaults of hell. This is why the Church urges us to beg Saint Michael to protect us in the great battle we will have to fight against the devil at the hour of death, saying: *Sancte Michael Archangele, defende nos in prælio, ut non pereamus in tremendo iudicio.*²¹ Saint Michael the Archangel! defend us in the battle, so that we perish not in the fearful judgment.

In the Recommendation of the Soul, she wants all those present to pray to the Holy Archangel to take under his protection the soul that is about to leave this world: *Suscipiat eam Sanctus Michael Archangelus.* Furthermore, we read in the Office these words, as spoken by the Lord himself: *Archangel Michael, constitui te principem super omnes animas suscipiendas.*²² Michael, My Archangel, I have established you as prince over all the souls that are to be received into My Kingdom. It is therefore to Saint Michael that God entrusts the care of

²¹ *Miss. 8. Maii*

²² *Offic. 8. Maii*

souls passing from this life to eternity.

Examples

Many examples show that Saint Michael obtains a happy death for his pious servants . A monk of the Capuchin Order named Yvon had a great devotion to the glorious Archangel. One day, he appeared to him and warned him that he should prepare for death, which was near. From that moment on, Brother Yvon thought only of preparing himself to die well, through numerous acts of virtue, and he died in the odour of sanctity, as reported by Father Palocci, who wrote his Life. We also read in the Life of Saint Cajetan, by Father Falcone, that, in his last moments, demons appeared to him and tormented him with their temptations, but that Saint Michael, to whom he was very devoted, appeared to him in turn and delivered him from all the anxieties caused by the evil spirits.

Seventh Consideration

Saint Michael Rescues the Souls in Purgatory

Saint Michael is also responsible for consoling the souls in purgatory. We read in his Office that God entrusts him with all the souls who are saved, so that he may lead them to paradise: *Cui tradidit Deus animas Sanctorum, ut perducat eas in paradisum exultationis.*²³ And in the Mass for the Dead, the Church prays to the Holy Archangel to present the souls of the deceased to God in heaven: *Signifer Sanctus Michael repræsentet eas in lucem sanctam.* Also, full of tender solicitude for these good souls who are thus entrusted and recommended to him, he does not fail to assist and help them, providing them with much relief from the pains of purgatory. And as for those who have devotion to this heavenly prince, I said earlier that he comforts them in all their tribulations in this world ; how much more should we believe that he hastens to help and relieve them when they find themselves in purgatory , where their sufferings are much greater than all the pains of the present life!

Examples

Jacques Massi tells us that a priest, during the Mass for the Dead, once specially recommended some souls by pronouncing the words quoted above: “*Signifer Sanctus Michael repræsentet eas in lucem sanctam.* May the Prince of Angels, Saint Michael, lead them into the holy light”; and at that very moment, he saw the glorious Archangel descend from heaven into purgatory to deliver them.

²³ *Offic. 8. Maii*

The same author reports that a Cistercian monk, after his death, appeared to a priest, his friend, and told him that he was still in purgatory, but that he would be delivered if the priest would commend him to Saint Michael during Mass. The priest did as he requested, and he saw — as did others — the soul of his friend being led to heaven by the Holy Archangel.

From this, it is inferred that it is very pleasing to Saint Michael when one seeks, through good works and devotions, to relieve the souls in purgatory and to deliver them from their pains; and this is also very pleasing to Jesus Christ, who, full of love for these good souls — His eternal spouses — greatly desires that we help them through our prayers.

Eighth Consideration.

Saint Michael Bears the Standard of the Cross.

Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, saves all the faithful by means of the Cross, upon which He died for our salvation. It is by the Cross that He obtains for us the pardon of our sins and the grace of God. Hence the Cross is raised aloft as the standard of salvation, under which all the elect are enlisted. Now, the Church proclaims in her chants that it is Saint Michael who bears this standard:

*Sed explicat victor Crucem
Michael, salutis signifer.*²⁴

Thus, on the day of the universal Judgment, it will be this glorious conqueror who, carrying the standard of the Cross, will summon beneath this triumphant sign all the souls that have been saved, in order solemnly to introduce them into heaven and present them before the throne of God.

Let us therefore be devoted to the Cross — that is to say, to Jesus Christ, who sacrificed His life for us upon the Cross. The faithful are here exhorted to make every day a half-hour of meditation on the Passion of Jesus Christ. For if someone were to receive insults, blows, and wounds on your behalf, and you would not even consent to think of it, what sorrow would that not cause to the one who had suffered so much for you! And how, on the contrary, would he not be consoled, if he knew that you never ceased to think of it, to speak of it to others, and to show your gratitude for it!

Let us return to Saint Michael: let us strive to conceive a great devotion toward this powerful and charitable

²⁴ “But the conqueror unfolds the Cross Michael, standard bearer of salvation.” *Offic. 8. Maii*

protector, hoping that one day he will introduce us into the blessed homeland, and let us pray the Mother of God to commend us to him. According to Saint Bonaventure, when the Blessed Virgin orders Saint Michael to take care of certain souls, he applies himself in a special manner to guard them; he even calls upon other Angels to assist him in defending them at the moment of death. He then introduces them into heaven, if they are free from every stain; and if they must first be purified, he obtains from God, by his intercession, that the time of their purgatory be shortened, and sees to it that, while they suffer there, those who are devoted to him on earth come to their aid by prayers and good works. Such is the thought expressed by the holy Doctor, when addressing the Queen of Angels:

*“Michael, leader and prince of the heavenly host, together with all the ministering spirits, obeys thy commands, O Virgin, in defending in the body, and in receiving from the body, the souls of the faithful who especially commend themselves to thee, O Lady.”*²⁵

Example

Father Engelgrave recounts that Ferdinand, a young prince of Portugal, had a great devotion to Saint Michael: every day he visited him at an altar dedicated in his honor, and celebrated all his feasts by fasting and by holy communion. The holy Archangel well knew how to reward his zeal: one day he appeared, beseeching the Mother of God to deliver him soon from the perils of the world and to obtain for him the grace of going straight to heaven. The good Mother received this prayer of her celestial servant, and, on the day that she foretold, Ferdinand happily departed from this life at the age of

²⁵ Spec. B. M. V. lect. 3.

seventeen, assisted by Saint Michael, who at once introduced him into paradise, as is piously believed.

Ninth Consideration.

Devotion to Saint Michael is a Sign of Predestination.

After the Last Judgment, as stated heretofore, Saint Michael will gather all saved souls, introduce them into Paradise, and present them before the throne of God, so that the Lord may bless them and admit them to eternal enjoyment of heavenly happiness. Father Recupito says on this subject that those who are devoted to this glorious Archangel have a special sign of predestination to Paradise.²⁶ The reason for this is that Saint Michael, greatly loving the salvation of his pious servants, will not allow a soul who maintains a special devotion to him to fall into disgrace with God: he will obtain for it the strength to resist the attacks of Hell; and if unfortunately this soul has fallen in the past into some grave fault, as soon as it commends itself to this powerful protector, he will easily obtain for it the grace of forgiveness and perseverance; for the Church attests that, when one honours Saint Michael, one shares in his benefits, and in the prayers that he never ceases to address for those who serve him, in order to be able to lead them to the kingdom of heaven: *Cujus honor præstat beneficia populorum, et oratio perducit ad regna cælorum.*²⁷ Note these words: *Cujus ...oratio perducit ad regna cælorum*; they signify that, when Saint Michael recommends a soul to God, he obtains for it eternal salvation. Therefore, Saint Lawrence Justinian urges all men to strive to acquire the protection of this powerful Archangel, through prayers and other pious homages, so that he may help them in all the needs of the soul; for he cannot disdain the prayers addressed to him, nor fail to protect those who trust in his intercession,

²⁶ (1) De Signispræd.c. 19.

²⁷ (2) Offic. 8. Maii.

and who love him: *Quamobrem, agnoscant singuli protectorem suum; illum votis amplectantur, devotione inclinent; non enim poterit orantes despiciere, repellere confidentes, declinare amantes.*²⁸

Finally, I will indicate some practices of piety that one can observe to obtain the protection of Saint Michael:

1. Celebrate his novena each year, reciting in his honor, on each of the nine days, nine Our Fathers, Hail Marys, and Glories, and fasting on the eve of his feast day.²⁹

2. Keep his image at home, taking care to greet him through it every morning upon rising and every evening before going to bed, with this prayer of the Church already cited: *Sancte Michael Archangele, defende nos in praelio, ut non pereamus in tremendo iudicio*: Saint Michael the Archangel! defend us in the battle, so that we perish not in the fearful judgment.

3. Immediately seek his help in temptations, and make a special prayer to him every day to obtain his protection during life, and especially at the moment of death, for example:

PRINCEPS gloriosissime, Michael Archangele, esto memor nostri: hic et ubique semper precare pro nobis Filium Dei, alleluia, alleluia.	O MOST glorious Prince, Michael the Archangel, be mindful of us, here and everywhere: pray always unto the Son of God for us, Alleluia, Alleluia.
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²⁸ Sermo in festo S. Mich

²⁹ The Church celebrates two feast days each year in honor of Saint Michael, namely the first, on May 8, in memory of his famous Apparition on Mount Gargano, in the kingdom of Naples; the second, on September 29, is called the Dedication of Saint Michael, in memory of the consecration of the church dedicated to him in Rome; this last feast is the most solemn, and is at the same time the feast of all the Angels. (Breviar. 8. maii.) (Fr. Dujardin)

V. In conspectu
Angelorum psallam tibi,
Deus meus.

R. Adorabo ad templum
sanctum tuum et
confitebor nomini tuo.

Oremus

DEUS, qui miro ordine,
Angelorum ministeria
hominumque dispensas:
concede propitius ut, a
quibus tibi ministrantibus
in caelo assistitur, ab his
in terra vita nostra
muniatur. Per Dominum
nostrum Iesum Christum.
Amen.

V. In the sight of Angels I
will sing to Thee, O God.

R. I will worship facing
Thy holy temple and
confess Thy name.

Let us pray

O GOD, who in a
marvelous order hast
established the ministries
of angels and of men,
mercifully grant that as
Thy holy Angels ever do
Thee service in heaven, so
at all times they may
succor us here upon earth.
Through our Lord Jesus
Christ. Amen.³⁰

³⁰ From the Mass of Sept.29

MEDITATION
FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT MICHAEL THE
ARCHANGEL
September 29

I. There is no Angel in heaven whose glory surpasses, or even, according to Saint Basil and other Fathers, equals, that of the Archangel Saint Michael; and this is with good reason, since Saint Michael was chosen to crush the pride of Lucifer and all the rebellious angels, by driving them from heaven. O my soul! If you love this holy Archangel who so cherishes men, rejoice in his greatness in heaven; and pray that, as he is the universal protector of the Church and of all the faithful, he may be your special protector with God, Who loves him greatly, and who rejoices to see glorified by all creatures this servant so faithful and so zealous for His honor.

II. In the Mass for the Dead, the Church implores the Lord to allow Saint Michael to ‘introduce their souls to the abode of the Blessed’: *Signifer Sanctus Michael repræsentet eas in lucem sanctam*. Scholars explain this prayer by saying that Saint Michael has the honorable function of presenting to the Divine Judge, Jesus Christ, all the souls who depart this life in the grace of God. Protect me, then, O glorious Archangel! And by your protection, grant that on the day of my death my soul may be clothed with the grace of God and worthy of being presented by your hands to Jesus Christ, my sovereign Judge.

III. The Holy Church also prays to Saint Michael, in the name of all the faithful, to defend us at the moment of death against the demons, so that we may not be defeated in the assaults they then commence upon us, and that we may not be lost: *Sancte Michael Archangele, defende nos in praelio, ut non pereamus in tremendo iudicio.*³¹ Ah! Holy Archangel! Hell has many weapons to fight me at the hour of my death: these weapons are my sins, by means of which it will seek to throw me into despair; they are also the horrible temptations by which it will want to make me fall back into sin. You who have conquered and driven my formidable enemies from heaven, come and conquer them again for me and drive them far from me at the moment of my death; I beg you by the great love that God has for you, and that you have for him. O Mary, Queen of heaven! Command Saint Michael to assist me at the hour of my death.

³¹ Mass of St. Michael, Sep. 29

MEDITATION
FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN
ANGELS.
October 2³²

I. Saint Bernard³³ says that we must honor our Holy Guardian Angels in three ways: by Respect, by Devotion, and by Trust.

We must honor them with our RESPECT; for these pure spirits, these princes of heaven, are always near us, and they witness all our actions. Thus, out of respect for our Guardian Angel, we must avoid any act that would offend his gaze. Saint Frances, a Roman lady, saw her Angel at her side in human form; whenever someone indulged in an unseemly action or word in his presence, he would cover his face with his hands. Ah! my Holy Guardian Angel! How often have I forced you, by my sins, to cover your face! I ask your forgiveness, and I beg you to intercede for me with the Lord; I am resolved to no longer displease God or you with my faults.

II. Secondly, we must honor our Holy Angels with our devotion, because of the veneration they deserve and the love they bear us. There is no father, brother, or friend whose affection can surpass the love the Guardian Angels have for each of us. People often love us out of self-interest, and this is why they easily forget us when we are in misfortune, and even more so when we offend them; but our Guardian Angel loves us solely out of charity; this is why he assists us especially in our tribulations and does not abandon us even when we happen to fall into sin:

³² In many churches, celebrated on the first Sunday in September (Fr. Dujardin)

³³ In Ps. 90 s. 12

*Non dimittet cum peccaveris*³⁴; He then strives to open our eyes and bring us back to God through prompt repentance. O my good Angel! How grateful I am to you for the light you have given me! Why have I not always obeyed you! Ah! Continue to enlighten me, correct me when I fail, and do not abandon me until the last moment of my life.

III. Finally, we must have great CONFIDENCE in the help of our Guardian Angels. God has not satisfied his love for us by giving us his Son Jesus as our Redeemer and Mary as our Advocate. He willed to give us his Angels to guard us, and he commanded them to assist us throughout our lives: *Angelis suis mandavit de te, ut custodiant te in omnibus viis tuis.*³⁵ O God of infinite mercy! What means do you still have left to give me, to save me? I thank you for so much kindness, Lord! And you too, I thank you, O my Angel, Prince of Paradise, who have assisted me for so many years! I have forgotten you; but you have not stopped thinking of me. I do not know how far I have yet to go to enter eternity; ah! my charitable Guardian! Guide me on the path to heaven, and do not cease to assist me until you see me become your companion forever in the kingdom of the Elect.

³⁴ Exod, 23:21

³⁵ Ps. 90:11

PRACTICES OF DEVOTION IN HONOUR OF THE HOLY ANGELS

I

HOMAGE TO ST. MICHAEL

HYMN

TE SPLENDOR et virtus Patris Te vita, Iesu, cordium, ab ore qui pendent tuo, laudamus inter Angelos.	O JESUS! life-spring of the soul! The Father's Power and Glory bright! Thee with Angels we extol; from Thee they draw their life and light.
TIBI mille densa milium ducum corona militat; sed explicat victor Crucem Michael salutis Signifer.	THY thousand, thousand hosts are spread, embattled o'er the azure sky; but Michael bears Thy standard dread, and lifts the mighty Cross on high.
DRACONIS hic dirum caput in ima pellit tartara, ducemque cum rebellibus	HE in that sign the rebel powers did with their dragon prince expel: and hurled them from heaven's high towers.

caelesti ab arce fulminat.

CONTRA ducem
superbiae
sequamur hunc nos
Principem,
ut detur ex Agni throno
nobis corona gloriae.

PATRI, simulque Filio,
tibi que, Sancte Spiritus,
sicut fuit, sit iugiter
saeculum per omne
gloria. Amen.

Antiphon

Princeps gloriosissime
Michael Archangele, esto
memor nostri; hic et
ubique semper precare
pro nobis Filium Dei.

down like a thunderbolt to
hell.

GRANT us with Michael
still, O Lord,
against the Prince of Pride
to fight;
so may a crown be our
reward,
before the Lamb's pure
throne of light.

TO GOD the Father and
the Son
and Holy Paraclete to
Thee,
as evermore hath been
before,
be glory through eternity.
Amen.

Antiphon

Most glorious Prince,
Michael the Archangel,
be ever mindful of us;
here and everywhere pray
always for us to the Son
of God.

<p>V. In conspectu Angelorum psallam tibi, Deus meus:</p> <p>R. Adorabo ad templum sanctum tuum, et confitebor nomini tuo.</p> <p>Oremus</p> <p>DEUS, qui miro ordine Angelorum ministeria hominumque dispensas, concede propitius, ut a quibus tibi ministrantibus in caelo semper assistitur, ab his in terra vita nostra muniatur. Per Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen.</p>	<p>V. Before the Angels will I sing praise unto Thee, O my God.</p> <p>R. I will worship at Thy holy temple, and praise Thy name.</p> <p>Let us pray.</p> <p>O GOD, who in a marvellous order hast established the ministries of angels and of men, mercifully grant that as Thy holy Angels ever do Thee service in heaven, so at all times they may succour us here upon earth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.</p>
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200 DAYS INDULGENCE, (partial), once a day, for all the faithful who, with at least a contrite heart, devoutly recite this Hymn, with the Antiphon, the Verse, and the Prayer, in honor of Saint Michael the Archangel, in order to obtain his protection against temptations during life and at death.

PLENARY INDULGENCE, for those who recite these prayers every day for a month, provided that on one day of their choosing they confess, receive communion, and pray according to the intention of the Supreme Pontiff.

II.

ANGELICAL CHAPLET, IN HONOR

OF SAINT MICHAEL.

Kneel before the image of the Holy Archangel, and after making a sincere act of contrition, devoutly recite the following prayers and salutations.

<p>V : Deus in adiutorium meum intende; R : Domine, ad adiuvandum me festina.</p> <p>V : Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.</p> <p>R: Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.</p> <p>V : Pater noster, qui es in caelis, sanctificetur nomen tuum. Adveniat regnum tuum. Fiat voluntas tua, sicut in caelo et in terra. Panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie, et dimitte nobis debita nostra sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris. Et ne</p>	<p>V : O God come to my assistance</p> <p>R: O Lord, make haste to help me</p> <p>V: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost R: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end, Amen</p> <p>V: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And</p>
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<p>nos inducas in tentationem,</p> <p>R : Sed libera nos a malo. Amen.</p> <p>Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum. Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.</p> <p>R : Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc, et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen..</p>	<p>lead us not into temptation.</p> <p>R : But deliver us from evil.</p> <p>Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus.</p> <p>R: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.</p>
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First Salutation

One Our Father and Three Hail Marys

To the First Choir of Angels

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.

Second Salutation

One Our Father and Three Hail Marys

To the Second Choir of Angels

By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of **Cherubim** may the Lord grant us the grace to leave the ways of sin and run in the paths of Christian perfection.

Amen.

Third Salutation

One Our Father and Three Hail Marys

To the Third Choir of Angels

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.

Fourth Salutation

One Our Father and Three Hail Marys

To the Fourth Choir of Angels

By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of **Dominations** may the Lord give us grace to govern our senses and overcome any unruly passions.

Amen.

Fifth Salutation

To the Fifth Choir of Angels

By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of **Virtues** may the Lord preserve us from evil and falling into temptation.

Amen.

Sixth Salutation

To the Sixth Choir of Angels

By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of **Powers** may the Lord protect our souls against the snares and temptations of the devil.

Amen.

Seventh Salutation

To the Seventh Choir of Angels

By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of **Principalities** may God fill our souls with a true spirit of obedience.

Amen.

Eighth Salutation

To the Eighth Choir of Angels

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 may attain the glory of Heaven.

Amen.

Ninth Salutation

To the Ninth Choir of Angels

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 in the life to come to Heaven.

Amen.

Pray, in conclusion, one Our Father in honor of each of the following leading Angels: Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, Saint Raphael and our Guardian Angel.

Concluding prayers:

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, you who shine with excellence and superhuman virtue deliver us from all evil, who turn to you with confidence and enable us by your gracious protection to serve God more and more faithfully every day.

Pray for us, O glorious St. Michael, Prince of the Church of Jesus Christ, that we may be made worthy of His promises.

Almighty and Everlasting God, Who, by a prodigy of goodness and a merciful desire for the salvation of all men, has appointed the most glorious Archangel St. Michael Prince of Your Church, make us worthy, we ask You, to be delivered from all our enemies, that none of them may harass us at the hour of death, but that we may be conducted by him into Your Presence. This we ask through the merits of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

- **Seven years and seven quarantines** of indulgence every time the Chaplet is said.
- **100 days' indulgence** daily for those who carry the Chaplet or kiss the medal depicting the holy angels attached to it.
- **Plenary indulgence once a month**, granted to those who recite the Chaplet daily and, on one day chosen by them, after Confession and Communion, pray for the exaltation of the Church and the safety of the Pope.
- **Plenary indulgence on specific feast days**, under the same conditions as above:
 - Feast of the Apparition of St. Michael – May 8
 - Dedication of St. Michael – September 29
 - Feast of St. Gabriel the Archangel – March 18
 - St. Raphael the Archangel – October 24
 - Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels – October 2

PRAYER TO ONE'S GUARDIAN ANGEL

ANGELE DEI, qui custos es mei, Me tibi commissum pietate superna; (Hodie, Hac nocte) illumina, custodi, rege, et gubernas. Amen.	ANGEL OF GOD, my guardian dear, To whom his love commits me here; Ever this (day, night) be at my side, To light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.
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LITANY OF SAINT MICHAEL

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

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.

St. Michael,

Pray for us.

St. Michael, filled with the wisdom of God,

Pray for us.

St. Michael, perfect adorer of the Incarnate Word,

Pray for us.

St. Michael, crowned with honour and glory,

Pray for us.

St. Michael, most powerful Prince of the armies of the

Lord,

Pray for us.

St. Michael, standard-bearer of the most Holy Trinity,

Pray for us.

St. Michael, guardian of Paradise,

Pray for us.

St. Michael, guide and comforter of the people of Israel,

Pray for us.

St. Michael, splendour and fortress of the Church

Militant,

Pray for us.

St. Michael, honour and joy of the Church Triumphant,

Pray for us.
St. Michael, light of Angels,
St. Michael, bulwark of orthodox believers,
Pray for us.
St. Michael, strength of those who fight under the
standard of the Cross,
Pray for us.
St. Michael, light and confidence of Souls at the hour of
death,
Pray for us.
St. Michael, our most sure aid,
Pray for us.
St. Michael, our help in all adversities,
Pray for us.
St. Michael, herald of the everlasting sentence,
Pray for us.
St. Michael, consoler of Souls detained in the flames of
Purgatory,
Pray for us.
St. Michael, whom the Lord has charged to receive Souls
after death,
Pray for us.
St. Michael, our prince,
Pray for us.
St. Michael, our advocate,
Pray for us.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
spare us O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
V. Pray for us, O glorious St. Michael, Prince of
the Church of Jesus Christ.

R. That we may be made worthy of His promises.

Let us pray.

Sanctify us, we beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus, with Thy holy blessing, and grant us, by the intercession of St. Michael, that wisdom which teaches us to lay up treasures in Heaven by exchanging the goods of this world for those of eternity, Thou who lives and reigns world without end. Amen.

NOVENA IN HONOR OF THE GUARDIAN ANGEL.

Deus in adjutorium et Gloria Patri

1. O my good Guardian Angel! I thank the Most High for having confirmed you in grace, to reward you for your fidelity, and I ask you to help me thank Him for having deigned to charge you with taking care of me. Gloria Patri.

2. O heavenly Prince! I am ashamed to have neglected, in my spiritual and temporal needs, to have recourse with confidence to your powerful patronage, and I humbly ask your forgiveness for the pain that I, a miserable worm, have dared to cause you, by offending my God! Gloria Patri.

3. O my loving Guardian! Imprint in my soul, towards you and towards all the guardian Angels of States, Churches, peoples, and each individual, trust for protection, respect for presence, love for assistance, so that I may never again displease you. Gloria Patri.

4. O compassionate Physician! Teach me what I must do, and lend me your help, to cure me of my bad habits and of all the infirmities that overwhelm my soul. Gloria Patri.

5. O my charitable Guide! Grant me the strength necessary to overcome the difficulties, interior and exterior, that I encounter in the practice of virtue, and to bear with true patience the pains of this life. Gloria Patri.

6. O powerful Intercessor with God! Obtain for me the grace to overcome all temptations and to carry out all that

you suggest to me for the good of my soul. Gloria Patri.

7. O most pure Spirit, burning with love for God! In flame my heart with this sacred fire, fill me with a tender devotion to Jesus and Mary, inspiring me night and day to pay them homage, and grant that I may always conform to the divine will. Gloria Patri.

8. O my faithful Protector! Assist me, so that I may respond worthily to your affection and your benefits, and that I may work with all my strength to promote your worship and that of all the heavenly Spirits. Gloria Patri.

9. O blessed Minister of the Most High! Implore divine mercy for me, so that one day I may go to celebrate it in heaven, and there eternally sing with you the glory and goodness of the Lord. Gloria Patri.

PRAYER.

Angel of God, my Guardian, my Protector, my Guide, my Master, and my most sincere Friend! I offer my humble thanks to the sovereign Lord, who, in reward for your fidelity, has confirmed you in his grace and introduced you into eternal beatitude, and who has charged you and the other glorious Spirits who form his court with the care of guarding us poor mortals from the beginning to the end of our lives. Ah! great Prince, who would be so kind as to be called my Guardian! I beg you, fill my heart with the feelings I must always have toward God and toward you, feelings of respect, love, gratitude, submission, and trust, and faithfulness to follow your inspirations. Repress in me the impulses of lust, enlighten me in my darkness and doubts, strengthen me in my weaknesses, bring me back from my wanderings, raise me up from my falls, and defend me against the enemies of my salvation, especially at the decisive moment of my death, so that I may attain

the happiness for which God created me, and that I may love and glorify the Lord with you for all ages. Amen.

LITANY OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGEL

For Private Recitation.

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Jesus, hear us.
Jesus, 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 me.
Angel of Heaven, who art my guardian,
pray for me.
Angel of Heaven, whom I revere as my superior,
pray for me.
Angel of Heaven, who dost give me charitable counsel,
pray for me.
Angel of Heaven, who dost give me wise direction,
pray for me.
Angel of Heaven, who dost take the place of a tutor,
pray for me.
Angel of Heaven, who dost love me tenderly,
pray for me.

Angel of Heaven, who art my consoler,
pray for me.

Angel of Heaven, who art attached to me as a good
brother,
pray for me.

Angel of Heaven, who dost instruct me in the duties
and truth of salvation,
pray for me.

Angel of Heaven, who art to me a charitable shepherd,
pray for me.

Angel of Heaven who art witness of all my actions,
pray for me.

Angel of Heaven, who dost help me in all my
undertakings,
pray for me.

Angel of Heaven, who dost continually watch over me,
pray for me.

Angel of Heaven, who dost intercede for me,
pray for me.

Angel of Heaven, who dost carry me in thy hand,
pray for me.

Angel of Heaven, who dost direct me in all my ways,
pray for me.

Angel of Heaven, who dost defend me with zeal,
pray for me.

Angel of heaven, who dost conduct me with wisdom,
pray for me.

Angel of Heaven, who dost guard me from all danger,
pray for me.

Angel of Heaven, who dost dissipate the darkness and
enlighten the mind,
pray for me.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
 Have mercy on us, O Lord.
 Jesus, hear us.
 Jesus, graciously hear us.
 Pray for us, O Guardian Angel,
 That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let Us Pray.

Almighty and eternal God, Who by an effect of Thine ineffable bounty hast given to each of the faithful an angel to be the guardian of body and soul, grant that I may have for him whom Thou hast given me in Thy mercy so much respect and love, that, protected by the gifts of Thy graces and by his help, I may merit to go to Thee in Heaven, there to contemplate Thee with him and the other happy spirits in the brightness of Thy glory. Amen.

HYMN TO THE GUARDIAN ANGELS

This hymn was written by St. Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621) and is the hymn for Vespers for the feast of the Guardian Angels on October 2.

<p>CUSTODES hominum psallimus Angelos, naturae fragili quos Pater addidit caelestis comites, insidiantibus ne succumberet hostibus.</p> <p>NAM, quod corruerit proditor angelus,</p>	<p>THE GUARDIANS of our race, our Angel Guides we hail; our Father sendeth forth to aid our nature frail these heavenly friends, lest we should suffer overthrow through cunning of our subtle foe.</p> <p>FOR he, who justly lost the honor once his own,</p>
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concessis merito pulsus
honoribus,
ardens invidia, pellere
nititur
quos caelo Deus advocat.

HUC, custos, igitur
pervigil advola,
avertens patria de tibi
credita
tam morbos animi, quam
requiescere
quidquid non sinit
incolas.

SANCTAE sit Triadi laus
pia iugiter,
cuius perpetuo numine
machina
triplex haec regitur, cuius
in omnia
regnat gloria saecula.
Amen

ANTIPHON

Sancti Angeli, Custodes
nostri, defendite
nos in praelio, ut non
pereamus in tremendo
iudicio

the traitor angel, rues his
lost and vacant throne,
with burning envy strives
to make them fall away
whom God doth call to
heavenly day.

THEN, watchful
Guardian, spread thy
wings and cleave the air,
haste hither to our home
committed to thy care;
drive thence each noxious
ill that might the soul
infest,
nor suffer danger here to
rest.

NOW to the holy Three
your praise devoutly pour;
His glorious Godhead
guides and governs
evermore
this triple fame; to him
ascribe we all our praise
who reigns through
everlasting days. Amen.

ANTIPHON

O ye holy Angels, our
guardians, defend us in
battle that we may not
perish in the awful
judgment.

VERSICLE AND RESPONSE

V: In conspectu
Angelorum psallam tibi,
Deus meus.

R: Adorabo ad templum
sanctum tuum, et
confitebor nomini tuo

Oremus .

Deus, qui, ineffabili
providentia, Sanctos
Angelos tuos ad nostram
custodiam mittere
dignaris ; largire
supplicibus tuis , et
eorum semper protectione
defendi , et æterna et
societate gaudere .
Per Christum Do
minum nostrum.
Amen

V: I will sing praise to
thee in the sight of his
angels:

R : I will worship towards
thy holy temple, and I
will give glory to thy
name.

Let us pray
O God, Who in Thine
ineffable providence dost
vouchsafe to send Thine
angels to watch over us,
grant to Thy suppliants
to be continually
defended
by their protection
and to-share their
companionship in
eternity. Through Our
Lord Jesus Christ Thy
Son, Who liveth and
reigneth with Thee in the
unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, world without end,
Amen.

PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
Creator of Angels and of men,
who orders all things with infinite wisdom and goodness!
Filled with the deepest gratitude for all Your blessings,
we thank You especially for that tender mercy
which moved You to give us the Princes of heaven
as guides and protectors amid the darkness
and dangers of the world in which we live.

Grant us, we pray, the grace always to be docile to their
guidance,
so that one day we may be united with them in Paradise,
to bless You there with them
for ever and ever.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

END