

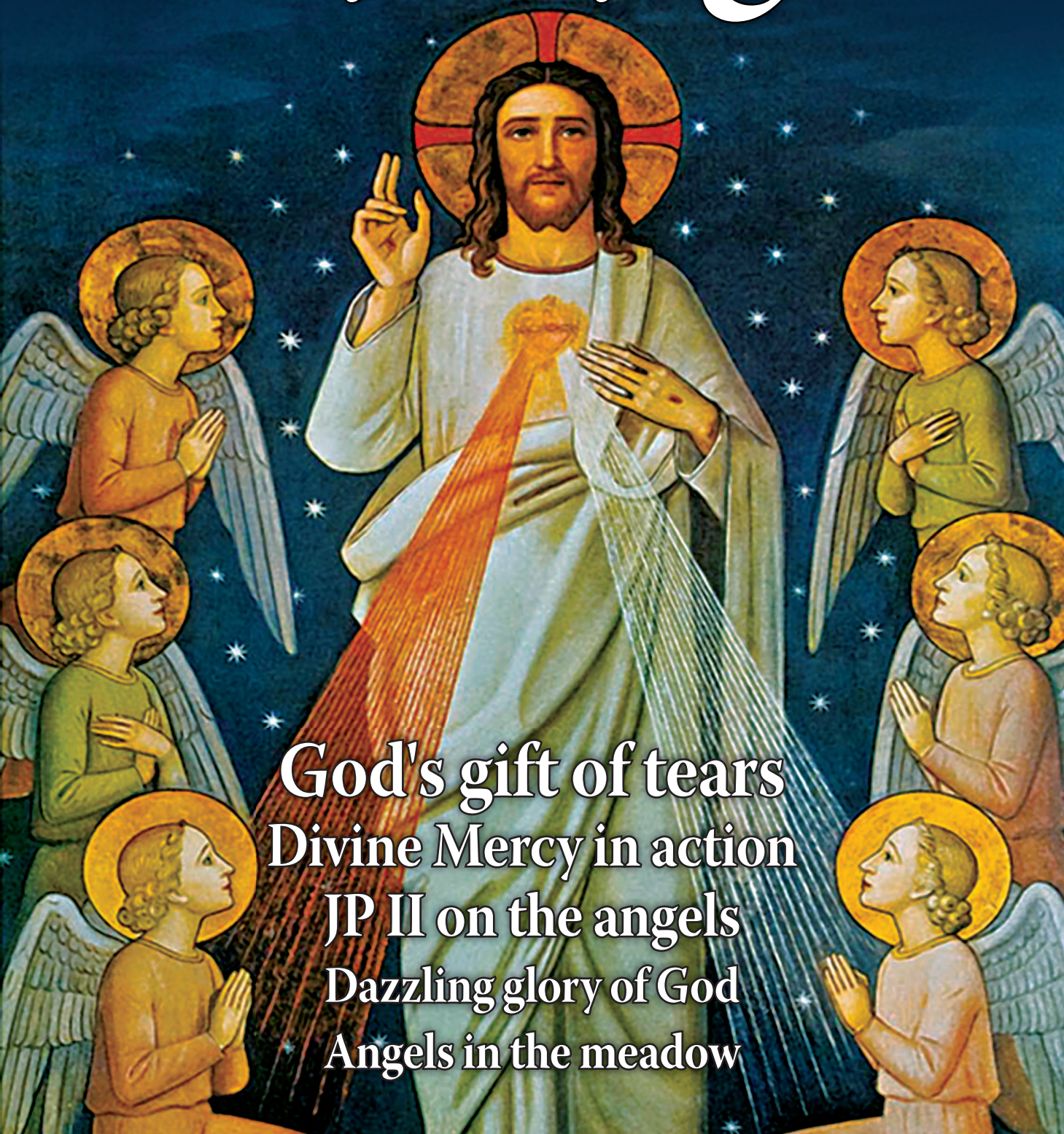


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The Angels

Messengers from a loving God



God's gift of tears
Divine Mercy in action
JP II on the angels
Dazzling glory of God
Angels in the meadow



It is a pleasure to welcome you to the thirteenth quarterly edition of 'The Angels messengers from a loving God' magazine. Thank you for your emails and letters. We are pleased you are becoming more acquainted with the nine choirs of angels and the Divine Mercy.

Everything begins with the Divine Mercy and ends in the Divine Mercy. One of the best periods in my life was between 1992 – 1996. It was a tremendous grace for me to be chaplain to the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw, and to stay under the same roof where St Faustina lived and where she started her religious life. She experienced the love of God and sensed His mercy in a mystical way. She had a positive and good influence on other girls and sisters in the convent. She prayed all the time in her heart to Jesus and was a woman of sacrifice and penance.

As with other saints St Faustina did not have many friends. She preferred to be on her own spending time in prayer with Jesus. She was very obedient to do the will of God.

Praying for the dying is part of the devotion with the Divine Mercy. St Faustina very much wanted to be with the sick and the dying to prepare them for their final confession. She knew the value of regular confession and especially before Easter and during the week prior to Divine Mercy Sunday.

The cross is the throne of the Divine Mercy. The cross is a sign of God's love and mercy. The cross is a wonderful present to give to someone as a gift. Jesus gave us everything on the cross; His blood, His mother, His clothes, His life. This is my blood which will be shed for you.

I assure you of the constant prayer of the priests of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel for all the readers and their families every day. I would kindly ask you to let others know about our magazine and distribute it all over the world. I would be interested to hear from you by letter or email and to relate any testimonies on how the Divine Mercy or your guardian angel has helped you in your life.

This Year of Faith is a special gift from God, all that happens is because of Him. May Jesus the Divine Mercy, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the creator of the world be in your heart and become the centre of your life each day.

God bless you.

Father Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA

The Angels

Messengers from a loving God

A Catholic Quarterly Magazine on Holy Angels

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Inseparable best friends

“The sunlight” – stated Father Pio – “was paler than the brightness of my guardian angel. The whole appearance of the good spirit was shining like lightning, because of the origin and grace of all of God’s heavenly hosts and powerful holy angels.”

The guardian angel was for him a mirror of God’s power. “After God and the Mother of God” - he wrote further – “for me, the guardian angel is my closest friend on earth.”

He also paid homage to angels who guard and protect homes. In 1912 Father Agostino was travelling from Naples to Pietrelcina to where Padre Pio was staying, because of the poor condition of his health. He arrived at about 3am and found the house door open. Padre Pio was awake in his bed.

“Do you sleep at night with the front door open?” I asked.

“What should I be afraid of?” he answered me. “The angels who guard the house are present here. I always sleep with the door open and I am never afraid of anything.”

Padre Pio and his guardian angel were like twin brothers and inseparable best friends. “Poor angel,” wrote Padre Pio, “he is too good. I wonder if he will ever succeed in teaching me to be grateful for his help. It is worth abandoning yourself consciously to the protection of your guardian angel and to ask for help in anything overwhelming or worrying, even if it is as trivial as waking up in the morning. Do not be afraid to send him to those who await his help.

When the night approaches and I am closing my eyes,” he confessed to his spiritual director, “I see heaven which appears just in front of me. This vision gives me courage and I can sleep with a sweet smile on my lips, with peaceful thoughts, awaiting the arrival of my little companion from childhood to wake me up and to pray together with words precious to our hearts.”

He told his friars several times that his guardian angel was crying because “he would not listen to his directions which were the manifestations of the Holy Will of God.” Then he prayed that his most faithful friend would protect and free him from further unfaithfulness. Sometimes there were little misunderstandings between Padre Pio and his guardian angel. The latter was not always punctual. Padre Pio wrote in a letter to his spiritual director Father Agostino: “On Saturday I thought that the bad spirits were truly trying to kill me. I did not know which saint to beg for help. Then I turned to my angel and he purposefully delayed his arrival. In the end he ran towards me singing hymns to God in his angelic voice. I sharply told him off for the delay in answering my earnest cry for help. To punish him, I purposefully



■ The natural-sized figure of Padre Pio in the Sanctuary in San Giovanni Rotondo

did not stand face to face with him, wanting to keep him at a distance. In the end, the poor creature caught my attention by his crying when I stood close to him. I understood then that he wanted to apologise to me.” “I am always close to you my beloved,” he said, “hovering always around you! My feelings towards you will never cease, even with your death!”

Intercession of our heavenly guard

Padre Pio gave the greatest respect to the guardian angels of his spiritual children. “Pray to your guardian angels,” he encouraged those entrusted to him, “always send them to me, when you need anything from the guardian angel. He is quicker than an aeroplane, does not wear out his shoes and does

► not need a train ticket. He will relate to me the message and I will be at your disposal as long as my strength lasts.”

So that is how it was. Father Alessio Parente, a friar given to Padre Pio as a helper, recalls that once when he sat next to him, Padre Pio was concentrating praying the rosary. When I wanted to ask him something he said:

“Leave me alone my son. Can you not see that I am busy? Can you not see all those guardian angels coming towards me from my spiritual children bringing me news from them?”

I answered: “Padre, I cannot even see one guardian angel, but I believe you because every day you say to people ‘send them to me...’”

Another time Padre Pio told Father Michaelangelo from Cavalaney his secret that he was able to listen two different messages from a person and the angel at the same time. Sometimes during his conversation with people, one could notice “an unusual moment of detachment from reality and concentration on his inner person.” Then one could sense his internal conversation with someone invisible. He always wished that the pilgrims’ guardian angels would protect, guide and direct them in their difficulties of life. He prayed that the angel would help, assist and “protect them from the temptations of the world, the flesh and the Devil.” Once he said to Giovanni Sienny: “Look carefully! The angel is here and is very beautiful! The hour of the angels is approaching and as never before, the spirits are called to serve the children of the Church. That is why never say that you are alone in the fight with our enemies and that there is no soul to whom you can be open with and give your worries to. That would be a great offence to the messenger of heaven.”

Duties of the guardian angels

From the letters of Padre Pio we uncover that the guardian angel performed different tasks. Above all the stigmatic did ask his angel to help him in his priestly duties and spiritual direction to lots of people.

When Padre Pio was staying in Pietrelcina, he constantly corresponded with his spiritual director by letters. Those letters were the only source of support, during his spiritual desolation. We discovered from them that his guardian angel protected him. Padre Pio confided to Father Agostino: “When I received your letter the bad spirits told me that I should tear it up and throw it on the fire. I answered that nothing can persuade me to change my mind. Then they leapt on me like the hungriest of wolves, until the arrival of my guardian angel which made them stop their furious attacks against me.” From the report of Father Agostino, his spiritual director, one can see that



■ Sandals of Padre Pio



■ Sacral items and everyday objects used by Padre Pio

the bad spirits anxiously awaited Padre Pio's written notes about them.

Padre Pio was given help by Father Alessio Parente as an assistant in his old age. Sometimes when the tired assistant would go for a short rest during the day he did not always hear his alarm clock. He said: "Then I heard strong knocking at the door and I clearly heard somebody's voice in my sleep calling me 'Alessio, Alessio, come downstairs!'" I would come out of the room but would meet no one in the corridor. On arrival to Padre Pio who was awaiting my help, I tried to explain my delay. He said: "Yes, I understand, but do you really think that I would continually send my guardian angel every day to wake you up? You had better go and buy a new alarm clock."

Padre Pio constantly prayed to his guardian angel because as he was saying, conversations with him doubled his goodness and vigilance of this perfect spirit: "Whoever prays often to his guardian angel will receive more compound goodness from him." He always lived in the grace of God so that his guardian angel would lead him efficiently to heaven. Familiarity was a sign of the deep bond which Padre Pio had with his heavenly spirits. Father Benedetto was a witness to the dialogue between Padre Pio and his guardian angel during one of the ecstasies: "Angel of God, my angel do you not care about me? Tell me who was here yesterday morning? The Angel is smiling! Tell me then, tell me then. I will not let you go until you tell me..."

Father Agostino asked Padre Pio why he never told anyone about his conversations with the angels, Jesus, Mary and the Saints. He answered: "I always assumed that this is the normal and common practice of every Christian."

Father **Robert Krawiec** OFMCap



My Guardian Angel

God gave you a loving task, from the first moment of my life, till the last,
To guard me, to keep me safe,
To whisper gently with love, the right way to turn,
To laugh with me,
To cry with me,
To walk with me through my pains,
To hold my hand when darkness comes,
To enfold me with your loving wings when I suffer.
Oh beautiful guardian angel,
With me every second of my life,
Through all the years, thank you for being faithful to the Lord,
Forgive me for all the times I have forgotten you are there,
For the times you have protected me,
My love I now give you,
Let me think of you often my beautiful angel,
Because out of all the angels in heaven,
The Lord picked you especially for me.
Oh beautiful angel,
Dear to me, my angel from the first moment, till the end
Trusted by God with a wonderful mission,
Is your mission nearly complete?
Will you hold my hand at the end?
When you see Jesus take my hand,
Will you weep with joy to see your mission completed,
Will you sing songs of joy at the sight,
Will you sing to Jesus when He takes me into his loving arms,
To the place he has prepared for me,
And says to you
"Well done faithful angel of mine, your task is now complete"

Teresa Smith, Lancashire, England



I take part in a spiritual battle

An interview with Grzegorz Rymarzak, a knight of St Michael the Archangel from Poland

How did your adventure with the knighthood start?

I had been looking for my place in the Church. Then when I attended a conference about spiritual danger in the modern world, I realised how important it was to support people who were enslaved by evil spirits. I wanted to engage myself in these spiritual battles but had no idea how to go about it. While researching this subject on the Internet, I came across information about the Knighthood of St Michael the Archangel. I read 'The Rules' which I found very interesting. I took a particular passage from the Gospel to my heart. "And these signs will accompany those who believe: in My Name they will drive out demons" (Mark 16:17).

How long have you been a knight?

Four years. I joined the movement in 2008. That particular year was the Year of St Michael! That is not an accident. I believe that the Prince of Heavenly Hosts invited me to the knighthood.

Do you think that St Michael is a crucial patron saint for the modern world?

Yes, of course. His name means "Who is like God". He shows us the direction in which to go, where to find the help and protection against evil. St Michael defeated Satan through humility versus pride and this is obvious. He is an extremely powerful patron saint.

Have you ever experienced special care from your guardian angel?

Yes, I have. I pray to my guardian angel every day. I need him particularly when I assist a priest during exorcisms. This is a very difficult and exhausting service. The evil one manifests incredible strength and hatred in a possessed person. I would not be able to hold them or stand the blasphemies and terrifying voices but for my guardian angel.

Could you tell us about the meetings of your host?

There are twenty knights in our host. We meet once a month. It is our custom to pray for one another. We read the Bible, sing hymns and religious songs and say the prayers of the knights. We also share our experiences and prayer intentions.

Apart from formation meetings, we are close friends and often visit one another.

What do the knights do when they see someone in spiritual torment or in danger of sin?

The essential thing is by going to Holy Communion and saying a prayer for that person. In a difficult case, say the prayer for healing or even seek an exorcist's help if needed. Satan is furious because the knights tear souls from him. We fight with him via our friendship with Jesus Christ, Mary the Mother of God, the saints, St Michael the Archangel, our guardian angels, the sacraments, prayers, by fasting and good deeds.

The knighthood is developing in English-speaking countries. What would you like to tell the young knights there?

If deep in your heart you feel a calling to pray for people who are suffering due to evil spirits, if you wish to live in friendship with Jesus and the angels, if you are willing to work on your weaknesses, the knighthood is for you. Ask St Michel to lead you where he wants you to be.

Interview by **Agata Pawlowska**

Interested in becoming a Knight of St Michael?

- **Monthly Eucharistic adoration and Reconciliation**
- **Daily Bible reading**
- **Fast each Friday on bread and water (or a good deed if fast is impossible)**
- **Pray the Chaplet to St Michael**
- **Daily exorcism prayer to St Michael**
- **Nine day Novena to St Michael before the feast day on 29th September**



The Knights of St Michael the Archangel is a movement overseen by the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel. During the last quarter many people have contacted me and are interested in becoming a Knight of St Michael. During the trial period of three months the candidate should follow all the rules (Statutes) which includes curtailing bad habits such as alcohol or smoking, eventually eliminating them completely if one can. It is permissible to have a glass of wine with a meal.

The official name of this apostolic movement is The Knights of Saint Michael the Archangel. The main task of the knights is to proclaim the victory of Jesus Christ over Satan. The knights are sent on a mission to expiate God for the sins of humankind and to obtain the conversion of sinners. They aim to achieve this by reciting the prayer of St Michael the Archangel to defend us in the day of battle (see back of magazine). This simple prayer of exorcism is said every day to keep away evil spirits from oneself, the Church and the whole world, particularly from those that are tempted and possessed by Satan. It is referred to in these set of the rules (Statutes) as the prayer of simple exorcism

For further information on the rules (Statutes) if you are interested in becoming a Knight of St Michael please contact me by letter or email redakcja.kjb@gmail.com

Father **Piotr Prusakiewicz** CSMA
General Animator of the Knighthood
Congregation of St Michael the Archangel
Ul. Pilsudskiego 250
05-261 Marki, Warsaw, Poland

The power of my guardian angel

I was on holiday in Turkey and whilst I was driving on the highway one of the tyres burst and I started to lose control of the vehicle. Seeing what was happening, other drivers slowed down. I was frightened as my car was pulling over to the next lane, which was fenced with a crash barrier. I was preparing for death but I still held on to the steering wheel. Fortunately, my car stopped just in front of the barrier. I was not even injured in the accident in which I could have lost my life. I know my guardian angel helped me because I always entrust myself to him before each journey I take.

Fr **Artur**, Poland

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St Faustina and her guardian angel

(Part 3)

From early childhood Christians pray to their guardian angels to be at their side, to light and guard, to rule and guide them. The prayer shows a heavenly messenger's role towards a person entrusted to him by God. St Faustina shared a great friendship with her guardian angel and her knowledge and understanding can enrich our own.

An angels' mission is to fulfil God's will, which is always good. They see God directly, stay with Him continuously and accomplish His orders. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "With their whole beings the angels are servants and messengers of God. Because they 'always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven' they are the 'mighty ones who do His word, hearkening to the voice of His word'" (Mt 18:10 and Ps 103:20).

No one knows God's will better than the angels and no one can help us to fulfil it better than the angels. When Jesus became Man, he was similar to us in everything except in sin. He fulfils His Father's will in a perfect way and wishes that His disciples do the same. However, we are not able to do it on our own. That is why we have to ask for help every day: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Our guardian angel helps us understand what our Father expects from us.

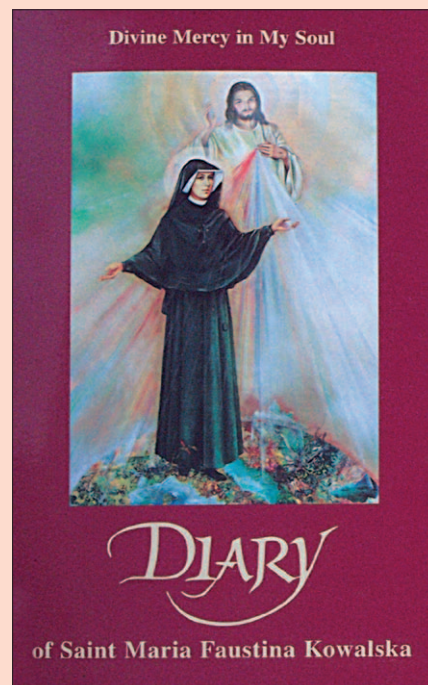
St Thomas Aquinas explained that God alone may affect the will efficaciously but angels may influence the human will by friendly persuasion, by the good apprehended by the intellect or by rousing our passions to prompt us to do good (S. Th. O. 111, art. 2).

St Faustina loved God's will: "Your holy will is the life of my soul" (Diary 6). Sometimes it was difficult and painful for her but eventually she submitted her will to God's will and chose what He wanted. In this way she converged to her beloved Jesus. In the Diary there is a sentence crossed out, which reads "From today on, my own will does not exist". On the next page there is another sentence "From today on, I do the will of God everywhere, always, and in everything" (Diary 372).

Her guardian angel helped her in her life. He conveyed the Lord's commands with great delicacy as the most tender mother towards her child. When one day St Faustina fell on her face weeping and languishing for God, her guardian angel touched her and

said: "The Lord orders me to tell you to rise from the ground" (Diary 470).

Apart from telling messages from God, her guardian angel enjoined St Faustina to pray in urgent cases, especially for the dying. One afternoon she came to the garden with her pupils. At one point she heard: "pray



for the dying” (**Diary 314: 820**). She immediately began to say the Rosary encouraging others to pray with her. The next day she was informed that one of the sisters of the congregation died in the moment of her prayer.

Her guardian angel also reassured her in times of trepidation. Terrified about the demons’ hatred towards her, St Faustina asked her guardian angel for help. He at once appeared and said: “Do not fear, spouse of my Lord; without His permission these spirits will do you no harm” (**Diary 419**).

The angel also taught her by words and signs. Once he took her to purgatory. St Faustina wanted to talk to the souls but her guardian angel beckoned her to leave (**Diary 20**). Another day she was led by the throne of God where she met lots of saints she knew from pictures. Once again, her guardian angel did not let her talk to them (**Diary 683**).

St Faustina was strengthened by seeing her guardian angel. When on retreats he assisted her in a visible manner from Vilnius to Warsaw and from Warsaw to Cracow. He disappeared the moment she entered the gate of the order (**Diary 490**).

He made her aware of the importance of faithfulness towards God’s will. When he took her before the throne of God, she saw a great and inaccessible light, and a place destined for her, close to God. Her guardian angel said to her: “Here is your throne, for your faithfulness in fulfilling the will of God” (**Diary 683**).

Andre Frossard wrote about Pope John Paul II: “The Pope prays like he breathes.” The same may be said about St Faustina. Her everyday ordinary life was filled with a prayer. She mentioned a nine-day novena said in common by the whole community before the feast of the Immaculate

Conception of the Mother of God. Apart from that, St Faustina made a personal effort to salute the Virgin Mary a thousand times each day for nine days. She said a thousand “Hail Marys” and never failed in carrying out her duties. It was not an easy task: “I must admit that such a matter requires a good deal of attention and effort” (**Diary 1412**).

Her guardian angel taught her to concentrate on God. Once he gave her a lesson in focussing her heart and mind: “When we took our seats on the train from Warsaw to Cracow, I once again saw my guardian angel at my side. He was absorbed in prayer and in contemplating God, and I followed him with my thoughts” (**Diary 490**). St Faustina did not need a chapel to be engrossed in God. She prayed in the train full of travellers and was not disturbed by anyone because her guardian angel was next to her.

Sometimes St Faustina experienced great emotions whilst praying. One evening she looked up to the sky and saw the beautiful star-strewn firmament and the moon. An inconceivable fire of love for the Lord welled up within her soul. She glorified Him for all His works and the yearning for God grew even stronger in her (**Diary 470**).

Our guardian angel assists us like St Faustina’s angel. They inspire us to recognize God’s will, to do what is good, what is perfect in God’s eyes. They rush to our aid so that we can resist the temptations of the Devil. May we model ourselves on the friendship between St Faustina and her guardian angel. He was her best friend, a protector and a sounding board. Perfectly obedient and full of trust towards him, St Faustina asked him for help and intercession.

Father **Karol Dabrowski** CSMA

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How to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

In her Diary Saint Faustina wrote:

"I saw a great radiance, in the midst of it, God the Father. Between this radiance and the Earth I saw Jesus, nailed to the Cross and in such a way that when God wanted to look at the Earth, He had to look through the wounds of Jesus. I understood that it was for the sake of Jesus that God blesses the Earth" (**Diary 60**).

"I saw an angel, the executor of divine wrath... about to strike the Earth... I found myself pleading with God for the world with words heard interiorly. As I was praying in this manner, I saw the angel's helplessness; he could not carry out the just punishment" (**Diary 474**).

The following day an inner voice taught her to say this prayer on ordinary rosary beads:

"First of all you will say one 'Our Father', a 'Hail Mary' and the 'I believe in God'. Then on the Our Father beads you will say the following words:

'Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.'

On the Hail Mary beads you will say the following words:

'For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.'

In conclusion three times you will recite these words:

'Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world' (**Diary 476**).

Jesus said later to Sister Faustina:

"Say unceasingly this chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this Chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My Infinite Mercy. I desire that the whole world know My Infinite Mercy. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those who trust in My Mercy..." (**Diary 687**)

"...When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person not as the just judge but as the Merciful Saviour."

Begin with the Sign of the Cross, and then one Our Father, one Hail Mary and the Apostles' Creed.

Then on the Our Father beads say the following:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the ten Hail Mary beads say the following:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

(Repeat step 2 and 3 for all five decades.)

Conclude with:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

(Repeat three times.)

Divine Providence

One Saturday afternoon I was taking my dog, Max, for his walk along the route I normally took – down a lane, when I was approached by someone on the ‘Square’ at the Cross in Leyland who offered me a leaflet with the face of Christ on it. A prayer was on the reverse side and so I popped it in my jacket thinking: “I’ll read it later.”

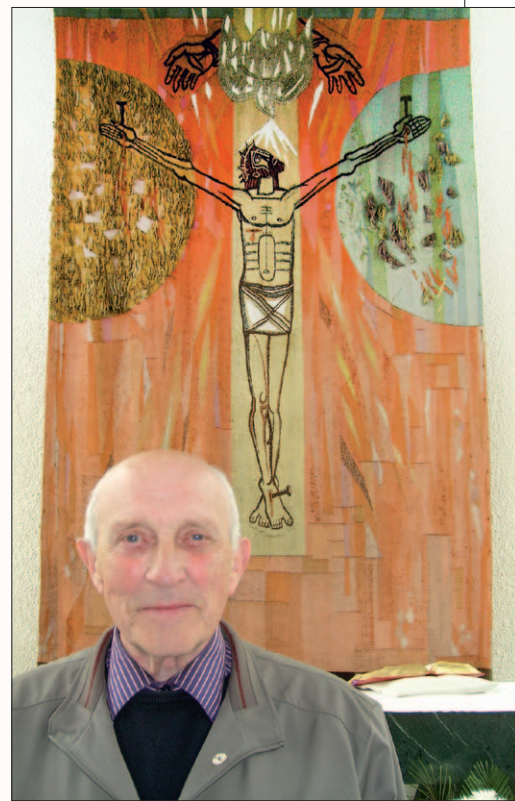
When I got home I did just that; I had never seen a picture of Christ like this one, nor the prayer on the reverse. I realised what a lovely prayer it was. I began to say it each day when I walked with Max past St Mary’s on my way back home. Each time I passed I had a strong feeling of being detached from the Church. I was struggling with Vatican II. I had become a lapsed Catholic, although I still said my prayers and had my devotion to our Blessed Mother through the Rosary. I was also a member of the Legion of Mary. I felt if I was to go into the church I would be a hypocrite going back to Mass.

I enjoyed going to the Fox Lane Cricket Club for the cricket and also for the social side. Each Saturday afternoon I would go down and have a blackcurrant juice (due to me being an alcoholic) and to mix with people, other than the socialising I would do when walking my dog. Unfortunately, Max died shortly after the day I was given the leaflet. This left me very empty.

One bright Sunday afternoon I was feeling low and missing Max. I decided to go along to the cricket club. It was empty. I had my blackcurrant juice and still felt bored and fed up. It is hard when you have been used to drinking and socialising with everyone. I

thought I may as well make my way home and as I came out of the club I was going to go the route I would normally take. For some reason, I guess it was because I was feeling melancholy, I thought I’d go the way I walked the dog past the church. When I approached the church it was 2.35 pm. I saw people entering and thought I’d go in and see what was going on. There were lots of people there and priests seated on chairs in the side chapels. I decided to go to the priest who was situated in Our Lady’s Chapel. I asked him if I may have a chat and if it were possible to hear my confession. It has been 36 years since I was in church. He agreed and kindly heard my confession. I felt so free from the heavy burden that I must have been carrying for all those years.

I felt I had come home; and still today I ask the Holy Spirit to guide me and walk with me each day. The next stage of the ‘event’ was the Service, for which I was handed a programme for the ‘Divine Mercy’. I looked at the picture and thought to myself: “I have seen this picture before”. Getting the picture of the face of Jesus from my coat pocket I realised that they were, in fact, one and the same. I was so overcome when thinking of the timing of those events: from handing me the leaflet in the Square to me stumbling



into the Divine Mercy service. I knew it was Divine Providence.

I am slowly learning to live with the changes and try and keep an open mind. Most importantly I feel fully back with God at my side, where I once belonged, especially each time I receive Him in Holy Communion.

The reason I want to share with you this amazing episode in my life is because it may be of help to others who are experiencing difficulties with changes in the ways of the Church, or even with alcoholism. If you keep that chat-line open to Heaven then He’ll do the rest and work wonders in your life; all in His own good time.

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

David Prescott, Lancashire, England

Divine Mercy in action

Fr Silvester Bukenya is a Catholic priest from the Diocese of Masaka in Southern Uganda. In this article, he shares with us the theological and practical implications of Divine Mercy. He uses the village of Bulema-Iwoyo, where he was born in Uganda, as an example of a place where God's mercy has come to reign in the last few years.

Dear Readers,

I am delighted to share with you the implications of God's mercy from the perspective of people that have experienced mercy in action.

Mercy and love

On many occasions, Jesus' miracles of healing were accompanied by cries of "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me" from the mouths of the lepers, the blind and the deaf (cfr. Mk 8:22-26, Mt 20:29-34, Mk 10:46-52, Lk 5:12-16). Mercy and both physical and spiritual healing are therefore intertwined in the scriptures. The Old Testament also provides us with many images of human misery and of God in His mercy seeking to relieve it.

According to John Paul II, mercy is love's second name (Dives in Misericordia, 1980). Here the Pope was not saying anything new. According to Catholic theological tradition, mercy is also a certain kind of love, a certain expression of love.

The Polish theologian Ignacy Rozycki goes on to define love as a sharing and giving of oneself to another, a selfless seeking of the good of another. Traditional Catholic moral theology therefore treats the virtue of mercy as flowing from love of neighbour.

Namely, it is that virtue which inclines us to offer assistance to a person suffering from want or misery.

This being so, "mercy" in moral theology is not love itself but love's result and extension (Pillars of Fire in my Soul: the spirituality of St Faustina). Since God is love, mercy is the greatest attribute of God. Pope John Paul II, whom many refer to as the Pope of Divine Mercy, wrote in Dives in Misericordia: "The Bible, Tradition, and the whole life of the People of God provide unique proof ... that mercy is the greatest of the attributes and perfections of God" (no. 13). The Holy Father was reiterating here the teaching of St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas.

Archimedes, the great Greek mathematician, wrote, "give me a place to stand, and I will move the earth". One thing I have come to learn through my interaction with the Global Children's Foundation is that engaging with good hearted people who are on fire to move

the world is the best way to contribute to changing our world which is spinning out of control towards a different direction; as the rich grow richer and the poor grow poorer.

Growing up in a Ugandan Village

As I reflected I began to consider how I might frame my thoughts as it relates to the people of the village where I was born in Uganda. I thought of Noreen Bavister the foundress of the Global Children's Foundation, Alison Boyes, Richard da Costa and all their colleagues who raised funds for a much needed health centre for the people of my village and their clear understanding that the purpose of wealth is not security.

Such and several others like them live what they believe by their actions. As St Francis of Assisi recognised in



■ Construction of staff accomodation



■ Drilling the water wall

his life, the purpose of wealth is reckless generosity; the kind that rekindles hope on dark days, reminding us that God is with us always. It creates in the heart a freedom of spirit that takes a person light-footed through the world, scattering possibility as it goes. As I reflected on this, I also thought about the many people of action like Mother Teresa of Calcutta who continued to embody the message of Divine Mercy as received by St. Faustina.

As we walk the world, the poverty and misery we see causes us to question the status quo. My village is almost the same as it was when I was growing up as a teenager a few decades ago. Children as young as seven trek over two kilometres to fetch water from the swamps. This is unprotected water, from which wild and domestic animals also drink. The evenings are a scene of long lines of children and their mothers with babies on their backs carrying 20 kilogram jerrycans and pots of water on their heads. Half of the working day is spent on this activity. The girls face daily fears of being attacked on the way to the swamps. The general risk of snake bites and other injuries on the human body are also prevalent. This is compounded by the fact that shoes are a rare commodity in my village. I remember the first time I put on shoes was when I entered the seminary as a 13 year old; and even then I was considered more privileged by my friends of the same age in the village.

At night, mothers cover their children with their own clothing due to the lack of blankets and proper bedding. I remember that our mother could bundle us together in a corner at night and cover us with her long African traditional tunic. This was never warm enough for the four of us

and we could spend the night tearing it apart. Mosquitoes could also easily pass through and bite us terribly in addition to bedbugs and fleas! I had more bouts of malaria in my life as a child than I can remember. It is just a miracle that I am alive. If one of us wet the bedding at night, the poor woman would have to wash it in the morning, and wait until it was dry before she could move out into the village.

Before the St Faustina Health Centre was built for us, the nearest hospital was 100km away from the village. With poor roads and bicycles as the main means of transport, stories of expectant mothers delivering by the road side on their way to hospital were very common with great risk to their own health and that of the babies. Many resorted to traditional birth attendants, who though effective, could not handle high-risk complications, leading to high rates of infant and maternal mortality.

That was and still is the status quo for many children, perhaps not only in my village in particular, but also in Uganda in general, Africa and many parts of the developing world.

Mercy and Action

Why do some people live in appalling poverty while others are comfortable and privileged? Some people have asked this question, pondered their circumstances and then acted. They know there is something they have to do to meet the challenges of their day.

Faith, generosity, and pragmatism in a time and place where to practice them calls for courage are the mettle of which today's good hearted people with a vision are made. Many people in the world are simply seen but not heard. Their miseries are read about in books

and magazines but not addressed. Some people, explicitly or implicitly inspired by Divine Mercy, have refused to accept such oppression. Because they are convinced that almighty God requires them to make lasting efforts towards the relief of the suffering and instruction of the ignorant.

Some people in the twenty-first century are called to make a contribution to the betterment of the world in which they find themselves. It is about believing that a better world, a more peaceful and equitable world, is possible. It is about consistently, persistently, confidently and courageously making choices that have an impact with a multiplier effect for the future and in the lives of others. The Saint Faustina Medical Health Centre built by Noreen and her friends will be around for the next 100 years. In that period, it will save the lives of thousands of mothers, children and the elderly. It will give jobs and bring happiness to hundreds of others. Here lies the genius of effective and practical mercy. It is mercy shared in from generation to generation just as it is in the mind of God.

Undaunted by the social conditions of their day, good hearted and courageous people put their faith in God and move forward to help others. They know what they have to do and do it. In my opinion, mercy in action has been happening every day in my village since 2006 when I went on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. Meeting fellow pilgrims, Alison Boyes and Noreen Bavister led me to share with them the plight of my village folk who were in urgent need of mercy just as Bartimaeus the blind man of the Gospels was. They introduced me to others like Richard Da Costa who has given great financial help, Christl Nagendra (who raised funds

by climbing Mt Kirimanjaro), Alison Dunne who ran a half marathon and Tim Beacon who donated an assortment of medical equipment free. This all led to the presence in the midst of Bulema-Lwoyo village of a priceless health centre.

The above have helped to provide running water to the village, solar power and medical equipment including a dentist surgery that is the envy of major hospitals in Uganda, as well as a staff house and maternity centre for expectant mothers. Bags of blankets and children's clothes were collected from England and Scotland and distributed to the village folk to alleviate the poor sleeping conditions. Donations of mosquito nets will go a long way in reducing incidents of malaria amongst children.



■ The St Faustina medical centre in Lwoyo village

Because of this health centre, the government has now decided to pass the major hydro electricity power line by this village to supplement the solar power available. This is a dream come true for this area. The happiness and joy on the faces of everybody, as they see hope restored to their village, is impossible to ignore. The government will supplement the salaries of the medical assistant, nurse and midwife, whom we now currently have. Donations of goats, chickens and other local items will help to pay for the medical care of those who cannot afford to pay with money.

For the year of faith Father Dominic Doyle from St Dominic's Church, Staffordshire has adopted the health centre as a parish project in memory of Susan Cooper. Through God's grace two other people living in different parts of England, Margaret Lander and Win O'Boyle recently with their friends raised money for much needed medicines via the GCF charity. Their continued help lifts the spirits of our medical team, that people do really care.

We have submitted a joint application to DFID (UK Department for International Development) for an exchange program; whereby, students/staff from Northampton University School of Health will come to Uganda to train our health workers in public health delivery; and some of our health workers will visit the University in turn. The proposal has been much supported by the district health office in Uganda; Sue Allen, Executive Dean for Student Experience, Northampton University, and Tim Beacon will oversee the initiative. Nothing is wasted. We have decided to turn the shipping container at the health center; into a canteen to provide some basic requirements for people who come for treatment.

There has been a wonderful response from the Carmelite nuns from Preston and Christine Johnson from Glossop to the appeal for knitted jumpers and blankets for children in Africa. The idea began when they heard about children in Africa who were wrapped in newspaper and were called "Fish and Chip Babies" because no clothes were available to dress them. The parishioners including housebound and the partially sighted have knitted more than 400 jumpers, hats socks and many little blankets for the children. They have

also donated baby grows and other good warm babies clothes, the idea is spreading from the north to the south of the country.

At the end of 2012, a tonne (1000kg!) of baby clothes was shipped to Uganda having been donated by people of goodwill in the United Kingdom. These will be yet another sign of mercy in action. Poor children who experience daily the coldness of the tropical night and the stinging bites of mosquitoes every day will have a chance to experience some genuine warmth for the first time.

As a major witness of this revolution, I have observed how one person or two people can, and have made a difference. As Robert Kennedy wrote in 1966: "Some believe there is nothing one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world's ills. Yet many of the world's great movements have flowed from the work of a single person. These men and women moved the world, and so can we all. Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small history of this generation. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped."

We all stand in a long line of women and men who have exemplified mercy in action. Just look and see the legacy of mercy in action in the schools and hospitals, shelters, clinics and child care organisations scattered all over the world that have been inspired by the name and spirit of Divine Mercy.

A large Divine Mercy image hangs at the entrance of the St Faustina Health Centre in Uganda; a reminder of the spirit behind its existence. It is the first of its kind in Africa to be named directly after the saint associated with Divine Mercy. I have



■ Children from Lwoyo village, Eastern Uganda

been blessed to experience this reality especially during the pilgrimages to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Poland and with Mary's Meals who sponsored my trip to Medjugorje with groups of like-minded people; and hearing stories and witnessing the power of God's mercy and love moving hearts and minds.

The United Nations Millennium declaration

It is reassuring that in September 2000 world leaders signed the millennium declaration with a concrete action plan to halve world poverty by 2015. They dared to dream that the suffering of billions brought about by extreme poverty, hunger and disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination could be alleviated by 2015.

However, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is frank in his assessment

when he says that the targets will not be reached particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The weakened world economy, the rise in food prices, the collapse of major political and economic systems and environmental disasters all over the globe have moved the focus away from the urgency of these goals, which represent the moral compass of the twenty-first century. Thankfully people who understand the moral imperative behind these goals, have the vision to enkindle the same spirit in others and have become advocates of mercy in action.

The challenge of any vision is how to make it real. This challenge is a serious invitation to seek creative ways of bringing the haves and the have-nots to the same table. It is about bridging the gap between those who are rich and those who are poor. If a Londoner can leave his or her mansion near Hyde Park, and spend a few days in a hut in a Ugandan village, while the Ugandan leaves his or her hut to spend a few days near Hyde Park, that will be the beginning of bridging the gap. Using the words of the poet Tagore: "impossible, improbable dreams can be realised".

Just as the United Nations constantly reminds member states of their broken promises to the most vulnerable members of the human family, each one of us has serious questions to ask ourselves and answer in this regard. Let the time for procrastination be over. The time for analysis is long past. For the sake of our credibility as forgiven creatures of God and for the sake of the poor who need help now, not next week, let us have the courage to call each other to "Divine Mercy in Action" today.

Mercy is not a social façade. Mercy is not a sham designed to mask our essential self-centeredness. Mercy is the emotion that links us to those outside ourselves. It is our capacity for outreach. It enables and drives us to go beyond ourselves to the beating pulse of the rest of the world.

Mercy is part of who we are as a people that have experienced and continue to experience God's unconditional mercy; visible in Christ Jesus and of which St Faustina had a physical glimpse of.

Mercy is that divinely dangerous glue of the human race that must be rescued from its relegation to mere vision statements, meetings, holy pictures and prayer books. To respond, we have to step out of our comfort zone and find our way into the lives of those who are suffering until it scrapes away our indifference to them. Then we have to translate mercy into action, remembering along the way that those whom we think we are liberating are in fact also our liberators, since for every action there is always an equal and opposite reaction (Sir Isaac Newton).

Fr Silvester Bukunya
Masaka, Uganda

Christ in the garden

Christ's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane is one event found in the Gospels that has been shown in different ways by artists throughout the ages. However, it is a work by Francesco del Cairo (1607-1665) that unlocks for the viewer the drama of this prodigiously intense scene in the life of Christ.



The painting of *Christ in the Garden* depicts the scene described by St Luke's gospel when Christ withdraws from his disciples to pray. "Father, if you are willing, remove this chalice from me; nevertheless not my will, but yours, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him' (Lk 22:42-43). It is in Luke's account only that we find Christ alone with the angel. In the accounts from Matthew and Mark, there is no angel and Jesus is accompanied by Peter, James and John. While in John's gospel, the event is not recorded. All John tells us is that '...he went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered' (Jn 18:1). Del Cairo has chosen this account of Christ's agony to show us this intimate moment of angelic consolation.

Francesco del Cairo was a painter during the period of the Italian Baroque (1598-1674). He served his apprenticeship under Morazzone, whose influence can be detected in del Cairo's early works.

While still a young man, del Cairo moved to Turin and became a court painter to the House of Savoy. It was during his time in that city that he made a series of paintings with religious subjects and executed them in a style that sharply contrasted light and dark.

During the years 1637 and 1638, del Cairo travelled to Rome where he was exposed to the works of Guido Reni, Domenichino and Guercino. He also came in contact with the Caravaggisti or followers of Caravaggio.

Del Cairo painted several versions of *Christ in the Garden*, but it is the one that hangs in the Pinacoteca di Brera in Milan which is particularly moving. At the centre of the painting is the figure of Christ. He is kneeling in prayer, although he seems to be slumped over the rock where he is praying, almost as if he is asleep. One can sense the sheer exhaustion he is feeling and his anguish as he pleads with his Father in heaven.

The angel almost fills the top half of the painting as he swoops down to strengthen Christ. With his strong, muscular arms and enormous wings, he looks as though he is about to pluck Christ and carry him away to safety.

Whereas the figure of Christ is quite static and motionless, the figure of the angel, on the other hand, conveys a sense of power, movement and speed. Del Cairo achieves this by structuring the composition of the painting with strong diagonal lines formed by the angel's left arm, wing and leg, as well as positioning the figure of the angel emerging from the top-right hand corner of the painting and Christ's body pointing towards the bottom-right. The skilful foreshortening of the angel's

torso gives the painting depth and gives the impression that the angel is bursting out from the darkness behind. Yet, there is still a touching intimacy in the way the heads of Christ and the angel are placed so near each other.

The tone of the painting is quite dark, except for the light that is falling on Christ's head and shoulders and on the angel's arms, legs and wings. This light seems to be coming from somewhere beyond the left of the picture. This use of chiaroscuro – the effect of contrasting light and dark – was popular among Italian Baroque painters, especially Caravaggio. It creates a dramatic three-dimensional effect to the subject matter.

The colour palette is rather restrained, apart from the dark bronze and ochre, only the red of Christ's tunic stands out from the darker portions of the painting. In the darkness of the foreground we can just make out the symbols of the Passion, while in the top-left hand corner of the painting is the chalice which appears to be floating in a dreamlike way above the drama of the angel's intervention.

This painting shows its strength by combining the beauty of the angel with the tragedy of Christ's agony. It is able to both move us and draw us into the suffering of Christ.

Father Andrew Kingham
St Andrews, Scotland

God's gift of tears

Writing of the gift of tears, Peter Dinzelbacher, Austrian historian and the author of "The Lexicon of Mysticism", said that "the ability to shed tears is rooted in religious fervour." As with any other gift, we can either reject it, neglect it, misunderstand it or make use of it. Any gift imposes on us a certain degree of responsibility to use it well.

The gift of tears, as with every gift of the Holy Spirit, is never given to us for no reason, but always for a specific purpose. We do not know why certain people, and not others, are granted particular gifts. However, we do know that even the supposedly unremarkable, everyday gifts, build up our communion with the Body of Christ and make us more sensitive to God. This is equally true of the spiritual gift of tears.

In the Bible, tears are symbolically linked with water. They are a particular sign of what is occurring in a person's inner self. They become a kind of universal communication between the person and God. This is why their significance in religious exaltation should not be played down.

It is obviously true that all tears do not come from the Holy Spirit. They are just as likely to be a gift offered to God or a sign of normal religious sentiment. Defined in purely theological terms, the ways in which tears can be understood numbers into the teens. That is why we should always exercise caution when we try to interpret them. Tears have a very individual character, varying from person to person.

Humans are created as being sensitive as well as reasoning beings. As far back as the sixteenth century, Cardinal Robert Bellarmine ascribed

a more profound significance to tears, beyond that of simple sentimentality. St Catharine of Sienna had earlier voiced this same opinion when God had revealed to her an entire tract on the subject of tears. St Gregory the Great had attributed a particular significance to tears, noting them to be a sign of that most important Christian characteristic, humility. The contemporary Protestant theologian, George Watson, considers tears as a blessing which crushes indifference and hardness of heart.

It is tears which allow us to experience the touch of the Holy Spirit, which has an effect on the whole of our being, both on our reason and feelings. Seen from this perspective, tears are a "stamp of truth", a guarantee of the authenticity of our feelings. They are a particularly eloquent expression of our deepest and strongest inner experiences. It is therefore not surprising that they are frequently referred to in Scripture. Characters in the Bible are frequently seen to weep, either from pain and suffering, from joy as well as when imploring something of God.

Joel summoned the Chosen People to be converted and to return to God in tears. The Jews weep upon their release from slavery. Jesus himself went through the experience of weeping over the death of

Lazarus. These were very particular tears, those of God weeping over the condition of a human person, of God empathising with the pain felt by His followers.

Even if our tears do not go beyond an expression of complaint or of other strong emotions, they continue to be a way of turning to God. A person in tears demands to be listened to. Tears are frequently a means of communicating with our own selves, they compel us to take stock of the consequences of our actions. They give us an opportunity to review our lives. Tears force us to react, they are a symptom of an inner breakthrough.

True repentance and humility and the tears which form part of it, are one of the most perfect ways of following Jesus. However, this cannot be the humility of pretence as seen by the medieval penitent. As that leading historian of spirituality, Simon Tugwell, wrote: "a forced penitence is yet another form of... original sin." Attributing to oneself sins and atrocities which one has not committed, leads to pharisaism, which, according to Paul Evdokimov, is an incurable spiritual disease. The tears which it gives rise to, are a particularly insidious evil, a form of evil which imitates goodness.

St Maxim Kausokalybos taught that true tears of humility are linked ►

▶ to a sensitivity to the patience and long-suffering nature of God. It is only thanks to the grace of an awareness of the depth of Divine Mercy, granted to us by the Holy Spirit, that we can, in turn, acknowledge the significance and weight of our own sins. Tears are a natural consequence of this awareness.

Since the times of the Desert Fathers, prayer has been inextricably linked with tears. "Pray with tears of repentance, and each of your requests shall be heard... Above all else, pray for the gift of tears, so that, through repentance, you may crush the hardness of your spirit" said Evagrius Ponticus. Tears constitute a confession of the necessity for salvation, an acknowledgment of our need for it. It is through our tears that we lift our spirits to God. They are just as much part of prayer as thoughts, gestures and speech.

As Benedetto Calati wrote, tears bear witness to a maturity of understanding of the essence of the act of redemption. Bishop Peter Damiani attributed to tears the power of exorcism and of protection from temptations. Tears which cleansed the soul from defilement, were, without doubt, singularly abhorrent to demons. St Ambrose even likened tears to the water of Baptism. According to him, weeping constituted a particular form of renewal of the Sacrament of Baptism and St Simeon considered tears to be an essential element in preparing to receive the Eucharist, speaking of the 'Baptism of tears.' To St Augustine of Hippo, tears were the equivalent of blood, affecting the soul rather than the body.

As St Luke tells us, Christ gave a blessing using the words: "Blessed are those who weep, for one day they will laugh." In the first place, these



words are used to strengthen those who are weeping and despondent. They confirm the value of natural human emotions in opposition to artificial, shallow, passing joys. The inclusion of tears within the list of Beatitudes means the same as including them among the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit himself is given to us in the gift of tears. As with all the other gifts, so also tears are intended to serve to build up the Church on earth, in realizing the work of Salvation. In guiding us along the way of Christ, the Holy Spirit also leads us through suffering, humiliation, and sadness through tears. One of the Fathers of the Church wrote: "When the grace of the Holy Spirit comes to us, it concentrates our minds, so that we become humble and mindful. It heightens our awareness of sin and death, of the coming judgment and

of eternal punishment. Our souls are filled with tears, with repentance and with regret. Our eyes become gentle and filled with tears. The closer the Holy Spirit comes to us, the more our souls feel reassured and strengthened by the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ and by His never-ending love for man. Next, He grants us a profound contemplation, which leads everything and engulfs everything within His great Providence. When the human mind is filled with wonder at supernatural brightness and is enlightened by the splendour of the knowledge of God, then the heart of man becomes happy and gentle and displays the fruits of the Holy Spirit: joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, love and humility. The soul delights in unspeakable joy."

Małgorzata Jackiewicz
Poland

Christ “with all his angels”

THE YEAR OF FAITH, 11th October 2012 – 24th November 2013

331. Christ is the centre of the angelic world. They are his angels: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him.” They belong to him because they were created through and for him: “for in him all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities - all things were created through him and for him.” They belong to him still more because he has made them messengers of his saving plan: “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?”

332. Angels have been present since creation and throughout the history of salvation, announcing this salvation from afar or near and serving the accomplishment of the divine plan: they closed the earthly paradise; protected Lot; saved Hagar and her child; stayed Abraham’s hand; communicated the law by their ministry; led the People of God; announced births and callings; and assisted the prophets, just to cite a few examples. Finally, the angel Gabriel announced the birth of the precursor and that of Jesus himself.

333. From the Incarnation to the Ascension, the life of the Word incarnate is surrounded by the adoration



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and service of angels. When God brings the firstborn into the world, he says: “Let all God’s angels worship him.” Their song of praise at the birth of Christ has not ceased resounding in the Church’s praise: “Glory to God in the highest!” They protected Jesus in his infancy, served him in the desert, strengthened him in his agony in the garden, when he could have been saved by them from the hands of his enemies as Israel had been. Again, it is the angels who ‘evangelize’ by proclaiming the Good News of Christ’s Incarnation and Resurrection. They will be present at Christ’s return, which they will announce, to serve at His judgement.

Taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

If you believe...

Taken from
the Gospel of St John

- He has given you power to become children of God (1:2).
- You shall see greater things than these. You will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man (1:50).
- You will not perish but have eternal life (3:16).
- You are not condemned (3:18).
- You have eternal life; you do not come into judgement, but have passed from death to life (5:24).
- It is the work of God (6:29).
- You shall never thirst (6:35).
- You will have eternal life; and He will raise you up at the last day (6:40).
- It is granted you by the Father (6:63).
- Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water. Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive (7:38).
- If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free (8:31).
- I give you eternal life, and you shall never perish, and no one shall snatch you out of My hand (10:27).
- You will know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father (10:38).
- Though you die, yet shall you live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die (11:25).

- ▶ You will see the glory of God (11:40).
- You will become sons of light (12:36).
- You will not remain in darkness (12:44).
- You are obeying Jesus (14:1).
- You will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will you do.... if you ask anything in my name, I will do it (14:12).
- You are already made clean by the Word which I have spoken to you (15:3).
- You will bear much fruit (15:3).
- Ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you (15:7).
- That my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full (15:11).
- The spirit of truth ... will guide you into all the truth (16:13).
- Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full (16:23).
- The Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and believed that I came from the Father (16:27).
- The love with which thou (Father) hast loved me may be in them, and I in them (17:26).
- You are of the truth (18:37).
- You are blessed (20:29).
- You have life in His name (20:21).

Mary Witchalls, Surrey, England



A few years ago I had the most beautiful dream. A dream like no other I have ever had. This was not the kind of dream where things that make absolutely no sense and intertwine with things that do. It was a dream of razor sharp clarity and an all pervading heavenly peace.

I was sitting in a summer meadow surrounded by flowers, trees and bushes that reminded me a little bit of my childhood years in England. I was sitting in the meadow in complete peace. Peace pervaded everything... the sky, the meadow, the world around me and the world within me.

At my right side a dog lay very close to me. He looked very much like a golden retriever. I felt an immense closeness and friendship with this beautiful serene creature. I knew that we were intimate companions. We sat together, absorbed in the peace of the meadow.

Then out from the bushes sauntered three majestic creatures that looked like a mix between a large dog and a lion. But they were neither. Slowly they came towards us and proceeded to lie down on the other side of me in the meadow. As I gazed upon them I was struck by how each creature emanated a different virtue, nobility and inexpressible dignity.

There was no time in this place, only an 'eternal now.' Not a word was spoken, yet all was communicated. We basked together in the warmth of the sun and the beauty that surrounded us. I would have stayed in this place forever. I did not want to leave it, but slowly began to awaken from sleep. On awakening I became completely aware of who



Angels in the meadow

these majestic visitors were. They were St Michael, St Gabriel, St Raphael and my guardian angel.

In the early eighties, our oldest son, Luke, chose St Michael as his Confirmation name. He spent twelve years in Canada's armed forces as a peacekeeper in places such as Bosnia and Kosovo. How many prayers I said on his behalf to St Michael to keep him safe! He did come home safely.

Our second son, David, was very ill as a child and we had to watch him closely, as he almost died more than once before the age of five with asthma attacks.

David was born on St Raphael's old feast day of October 24th. From an early age I placed him under Raphael's care. Many were the nights that I sat at the foot of his bed asking for intercession from the 'Medicine of God.' David took Raphael for his Confirmation name. Today he is healthy and strong and after many prayers to Raphael, he found his beautiful wife Vanessa. He will always have St Raphael as one of his heavenly friends.

Our youngest son, Philip, took St Michael for his Confirmation name, but I always prayed to St Gabriel to intercede on his behalf in order to

honour all three of the Archangels. Today, Philip is a postal worker. The patron saint of postal workers is St Gabriel! Divine coincidence. I pray that Philip will pass on the love of the angels to his children one day.

When I am feeling low or preoccupied and weighed down with the temporal things of this world, I go within, into the heavenly meadow and relive the joy and friendship of that angelic visitation and as the scripture says, I find the pearl of great peace that I had lost. Once again I am bathed in God's Heavenly Light that the angels brought to me that day.

I am again filled with such happiness and thanksgiving that I was given this amazing grace. St Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and Alphie, my guardian angel I thank you! Amen.

There is a happy footnote to this story. It was on October 2nd that I got up early and decided that there was no better day than the Feast Day of the Guardian Angels to write my story. I didn't have a printer or a very good computer, so I went to our local stationary store and used their computer. When I completed the story and stood up from the computer, I looked to my right and there was Father Joseph Dabrowski, our parish priest, who is a Michaelite Father. It is the Michaelites whose mission it is to spread devotion to the angels and who are in charge of The Angels magazine. God is truly a God of surprises with impeccable timing! I did not need any confirmation, but Father Joseph's presence there at that moment was a fiat from the Lord that he was pleased that I had honoured his holy angels. Amazing Grace!

Christine Oskirko, London, Ontario

Christine is an artist. The above picture of St Raphael was taken from her website www.oskirkoart.ca

Archangels

(Part 8)

Archangels are generally taken to mean ‘chief or leading angel’ (Jude 9; 1 Thes 4:16), they are the most frequently mentioned throughout the Bible.

The Archangels have a unique role as God’s messenger to the people at critical times in history and salvation (Tb 12:6, 15; Jn 5:4; Rv 12:7-9), for example, as in the Annunciation and the Apocalypse. God chose one of the lowest groups of angels to hold the greatest honours, such as announcing the birth of Christ to Mary, of leading his army into battle against Satan.

There are only three named archangels. All other angelic names are either pious legends or come from extra-biblical books. The Catholic Church only names Gabriel, Michael and Raphael. Their feast day is celebrated throughout the Church on September 29th.

The reason why the Church gives more emphasis to these three archangels originates from the Council of Rome of 745. Pope St Zachary intended to clarify the Church’s teaching on the subject of angels and curb a tendency by some toward angel worship, also condemning the obsession with angelic intervention and angelolatry, but also reaffirming the approval of the practice of the reverence of angels. The synod struck a number of ‘angels’ names from the list of those eligible for veneration in the Church of Rome, some of which are usually given as Adimus, Inias

(Iniaes), Raguel, Sabaoc (Sabaoth), Simiel, Tubuas (Tubuael) and Uriel.

Only the reverence of the archangels mentioned in the recognized Catholic Biblical canon, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, remained licit. However, St Uriel and others slowly crept back into popular devotion in many places. This restriction did not affect the Eastern and Oriental Churches, who continued to honour the other four out of the seven Archangels.

St Michael

St Michael has been invoked as patron and protector by the Church from the time of the Apostles. The Eastern Rite and many others place him over all the angels, as Prince of the Seraphim. He is described as the ‘chief of princes’ and as the leader of the forces of heaven in their triumph over Satan and his followers.

The name Michael in Hebrew means ‘Who is like God’ and was the battle cry of the good angels against Lucifer and his followers when they rebelled against God. He is mentioned four or five times in the Bible; in Daniel 10 and 12, in the letter of Jude, Revelation and in Enoch. His will is focused, immovable and

entirely driven toward accomplishing goodness; he is the protector of souls, and wields his powerful sword against the poisonous and vindictive aspirations of he who is known as a liar from the beginning.

Christian tradition recognizes four offices of Saint Michael: (1) to fight against Satan; (2) to rescue the souls of the faithful from the power of the enemy, especially at the hour of death; (3) to be the champion of God’s people; and (4) to call away from earth and bring people’s souls to judgment.

In the book of Enoch (9:1; 10:15; 20:5; 24:4-10; 40:8; 53:6; 58; 66:14-15; 70:11-16) and a work discovered among the Dead Sea Scrolls entitled ‘War of the Sons of Light Against the Sons of Darkness’ (also known as ‘The War Scroll’), written around 50 BC and the 1st century AD, may also count as amongst the earliest mentions that we have of his name. Saint Michael is the ‘Prince of the Heavenly Host’, the leader of all the angels.

St Michael, whose forces cast down Lucifer and the evil spirits into Hell, is invoked for protection against Satan and all evil. Pope Leo XIII, in 1899, having had a prophetic vision of the evil that would be inflicted upon the Church and the world in the 20th century, instituted a prayer

asking for Saint Michael's protection to be said at the end of every Mass. During a visit to the Sanctuary of St Michael the Archangel, Pope John Paul II said, "The battle against the Devil ... is the principal task of St Michael the archangel." Scripture relates such a truth: "Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. Although the dragon and his angels fought back, they were overpowered and lost their place in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent known as the Devil or Satan, the seducer of the whole world, was driven out; he was hurled down to earth and his minions with him" (Rev 12:7-9).

St Michael the Archangel said to the three children at Fatima, "Fear not. I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me." Then he prostrated himself, and repeated three times: "My God; I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love Thee! I beg Thee forgiveness for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love Thee!" This prayer of St Michael shows the serious nature of this committed warrior who strives after peace with all his being. God in his love for us has given us a magnificent protector.

St Gabriel

St Gabriel means 'God is my strength' and he is mentioned four times in the Bible. "I am Gabriel, who stand before God" (Lk 1, 19). The angel Gabriel first appeared in the Old Testament in the prophesies of Daniel, he announced the prophecy of 70 weeks (Dn 9:21-27). One other early occurrence we have of Gabriel also comes from Daniel (8:15-17). Enoch also mentions him (9:1-2; 10:13; 20:7; 40:9).



Most significant are St Gabriel's two mentions in the New Testament: to announce the birth of John the Baptist to his father Zacharias, and at the Incarnation of the Word in the womb of Mary. He was sent from God to Nazareth, "to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, ... and the virgin's name was Mary". Moreover, coming to her, he said,

"Hail, favoured one! The Lord is with you" (Lk 1:27-28). Christian tradition suggests that it is he who appeared to St Joseph and to the shepherds, and also that it was he who 'strengthened' Jesus during his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Pope St Gregory the Great wrote: "He [Gabriel] came to announce the One who appeared as a humble man ▶

► to quell the cosmic powers. Thus God's strength announced the coming of the Lord of the heavenly powers, mighty in battle" (excerpt from Hom. 34, 8-9).

St Gabriel is the angel of the power of God, the Incarnation and of consolation in Christian tradition. Gabriel is ever the angel of mercy while Michael is rather the angel of judgment.

St Raphael

Raphael means 'God is my health'. "I am the angel Raphael, one of the seven, who stand before the Lord" (Tob 12:15). St Raphael's name also means 'God has healed' because of his healing of Tobias' blindness in the Book of Tobit. Tobit is the only book in which he is mentioned. His office is therefore known for healing and acts of mercy. St Raphael is also identified with the angels in John 5:1-4, who descended upon the pond and bestowed healing powers upon it so that the first to enter it after it moved would be healed of whatever infirmity he was suffering.

God in His wondrous mercy is so good in giving us such three vigilant and magnificent archangels. We should call very often on Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael to help us and intercede for us before the throne of God.

Pray daily to St Gabriel for consolation, to St Raphael for healing and to St Michael for protection against the snares and wickedness of the Devil.

Noreen Bavister, UK

Brief introduction to the Nine Choirs of Angels

1. Seraphim

The Seraphim is said to be the highest order of angels who guard God's throne. They are often depicted as 'burning angels' to represent them on fire with love for God. In the Bible Isaiah saw them as six winged beings. These heavenly creatures praise God.

2. Cherubim

The word Cherubim is said to mean 'fullness of knowledge'. The Cherubim have the honour of observing and keeping the records of God's creative powers. Cherubims are said to have four wings and four faces. The Cherubims also act as heavenly counselors and are the seekers of the eternal truth.

3. Thrones

Throne angels represent the divine majesty and are associated with the power of judgement. They carry out God's justice according to spiritual and universal laws. The Thrones also act as angels who are friends of all the planets. It is the Thrones who will drive forward God's chariot, often they are portrayed as angels who carry the scales of justice.

4. Dominions

The Dominions are angels of leadership and are said to ensure that God's will is carried out by other angels. They help balance the force of creation and of the material and spiritual worlds. The Dominions represent the superiority of wisdom over intellect and govern the natural world and the elements.

5. Virtues

Virtues are known as angels who watch over the heavenly bodies and nature. The Virtues are often associated with miracles

performed on earth. Shining bright and often depicted with swords, shields or sceptres, these wonderful angels will assist you in your darkest hour.

6. Powers

Powers are warrior angels who maintain order around planet earth and protect it from being overthrown by Satan, defending the cosmos and human souls. They fight against evil spirits who attempt to wreak chaos through human beings.

7. Principalities

The Principalities are a realm of angels who keep a watchful eye of the nations of planet earth and its leaders. They are protectors of religion, giving strength in times of hardship.

8. Archangels

The Archangels are the most frequently mentioned throughout the Bible. They are the leaders of the angelic armies and are holy messengers of God. There are only three archangels acknowledged by the Catholic faith, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. They also command God's armies and act as guardian angels to leaders of world movements. They may be of this or other hierarchies like St Michael the Archangel.

9. Angels

These include guardian angels who are assigned by God to every human being at the moment of conception. Angels are closest to the material world and human beings. They deliver our prayers to God and return with God's answers. Guardian angels have the capacity to access all other angels at any time, their role is to watch over us during our lives. They are also the most caring and social of beings who assist those who ask for help.

A wonderful experience of St Michael the Archangel

20 years ago, my mother had an wonderful experience of St Michael the Archangel; little did either of us know, at that time, the impact it would have on us and on so many others. I am a devout Catholic and obedient to the teachings of the Catholic Church. I always pray and seek God's guidance before giving permission for my mother's story to be reproduced.

(Part 1)



Two things strike me when I look back over the years since then:

- how those 20 years have flown! Where have they gone and, more importantly, what have I done with them/how have I used them?
- how can such things happen to ordinary people like us? The answer can only be: by the Grace of God.

During the years since my mother's experience there have been times when interest in the story has been very high, other times when it has gone fairly quiet. I had never expected to be involved in it the way that I have and had even begun to wonder, in this 20th year, if

perhaps it had run its course; again, little did I know...

Not once, in all those years did I ever imagine that I would one day visit Monte Sant' Angelo in Italy, the shrine to St Michael the Archangel (I did not even know that such a place existed!) nor that it would turn out to be so memorable for me – but, that is what happened September 2012. When, last year, some friends invited me to join the first English speaking pilgrimage to Italy, led by Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA. I accepted because I had attended a retreat led by Fr Peter a couple of years earlier and he had very kindly printed my mum's story in *The Angels* magazine. I love going to Rome and "it felt right"! I had

not realised, even then, that the pilgrimage would include Monte Sant' Angelo; how little did I know – and I am reminded of what God says in Jer 29:11 "I know the plans I have for you" – He certainly is a God of surprises! – but I cannot describe my own experience without first telling my mother's story and something of what happened afterwards.

"Oh St Michael, protect me"

My mother, Norah Threader, was a practising and a devout Catholic all her life, but had, nevertheless, always been terrified of dying and going to ▶

hell. This fear really took hold of her when she became ill. A few days before Christmas 1991, my mother was told that she had a large tumour on her brain. She went into Manchester Royal Infirmary on 26th December. A scan showed the tumour was much bigger than had been thought; without major brain surgery she would not live – but there was grave concern whether she could survive such an operation. She was so, so frightened. Then, on December 27th, mum had her “experience of St Michael” and she was transformed. This is her testimony in her own words as she told it to me:

“It was late at night. I was completely alone and it was dark and very quiet. I was very much on edge and, to settle myself, I started to pray for all my old friends – people I had not seen for a while and, as I prayed, I pictured their faces before me. Suddenly, their faces changed and they became horrible, like gargoyles, or those terrible masks that people wear at Halloween. They were ugly, evil, sneering and leering at me and I was afraid. I knew it was the Devil taunting me – and, almost without thinking, I said “Oh St Michael, protect me” – and, do you know, he came – he came right down to me. He did not make a lot of noise – you know how a big bird makes a noise when it flaps its wings? – well, he did not – I just heard the faintest sound like the softest of sighs – almost like a whisper – sss..., sss... – and there he was and I was not in the least bit frightened. Oh, he was so beautiful – the most beautiful thing I have ever seen in my life. He was about 8ft tall, with ash blond hair (not golden) to just above his shoulders. He was wearing a full length cream coloured gown. The gown was edged at the

neck with gold and the colour of the gown blended into peach at the hem. His feet were bare. Although he was wearing a gown and had longish hair and was so beautiful, he was not at all feminine. He was so strong and so masculine – but with the most beautiful face I have ever seen in my life.

Oh, he was beautiful. There are no words that could do him justice.

In his hand he held a magnificent sword, of a metal I had never seen before. The sword was enormous and it looked very heavy (it had a round guard on the handle) and yet he raised it as if it weighed no more than a feather. He wielded the sword from side to side and the evil faces all disappeared. He never smiled at me but he was not stern either, just very firm and so very strong and, all the time, his eyes were watching, as if he scanning the horizon, on the alert to see where next he was needed and I felt he could see to the ends of the earth. He never spoke to me but, when the faces had gone, he gestured to me with his hand (to go) behind him and then he opened his beautiful wings slightly (the feathers of which were like the softest down imaginable, not at all prickly or hard and his wings were cream, edged with apricot) and closed his wings around me and I knew I was safe. And then he went – but since that night, I have never been frightened and I have felt full of peace. It was a wonderful experience and it was real. It really happened – I was not dreaming or anything like that. I know that, if I ever need him again, he will come and, if anyone is ever in trouble or afraid – pray to God to send St Michael and remember how he helped me. He will not let you down. He drove the Devil out

of heaven and he stands in God’s presence, ready to do His bidding.”

She was not afraid

Following this experience, my mum had no fear at all and she was able to place herself totally in God’s hands. Her only tears then were tears of joy because she really believed that, whatever happened, whether she lived or died – it would be wonderful and she was ready for it. The morning of her operation (New Year’s Eve), we went with her to the operating theatre. She needed no pre-medication, she was calm and full of peace – that peace that can only come from God – and she was happy; she smiled and waved to us as we left her. She survived the seven hour operation. I was with her when she came round. She woke up praising God and His Holy Mother! Despite the technical success of the operation, the brain tumour was found to be malignant and we were told there was nothing more to be done. Mum was dying of cancer. But, after her experience of St Michael, she never again in her life, knew fear. Almighty God, in His loving kindness and mercy had, in one moment, removed from my mum all fear, all terror, forever. Mum had her experience of St Michael on 27th December 1991. She died on 9th April 1992. I was with her every day during that time – she was not afraid. There was a peacefulness and a sweetness about her that had not been there before. Everyone who saw her came away enriched. Of course, there were times she was sad, sad at being parted from those

that she loved so much and then she did weep – but not from fear. She reached a point where she was able to say to me “I have always loved life and I have always lived it to the full. Now, I am dying and I am happier than I have ever been in my life.” I was privileged to be with my mum when she died – she smiled.

The truth touches people

My mum told her story to everyone she saw. She must have told it dozens of times. It never altered – it was the same on 9th April as it had been on 27th December. My mother's stories were notorious for “growing in the telling” – but this story never grew – because it is the truth – and the truth does not need to grow. And, it is the truth that touches people and so many have been touched by this experience which was given to my mum and, please God, they will continue to be so.

Very soon so after my mum's experience there was a letter in the Catholic Universe from a wife of an Anglican Vicar who is very traditional and mainstream with a strong sound Christian faith called Hope Price, asking for stories of “angel experiences” for a book she was writing. My mum felt very strongly that the experience she had had was not just for herself but that she was meant to share it with others – to encourage them, especially if they were afraid – of anything, so we wrote to Hope and that's how the story came to be in the book “Angels: True stories of how they touch our lives”. After my mum died, Hope rang me and asked if I would go on national

television with her and tell mum's story! I was stunned! My immediate response was “No way!” but then Hope asked me what my mother would say... I knew then I would have to do it. My love for my mum and for my God was stronger and bigger than my fear... So I went on the “This Morning” programme presented by Richard & Judy from the studios at the Albert Dock in Liverpool. A chauffeur-driven car was sent to my house in Macclesfield to take me there and then bring me back afterwards; it was quite an experience and turned out to be really enjoyable. Amazingly, I was not at all nervous – but then, we did pray together just before the programme started! Later on, I was asked to go on Radio 4 to tell the story- it was broadcast the following Christmas Day, which was rather nice. I understand from other people that it is still repeated

occasionally. After that, mum's story was printed in the Catholic papers, in several of the daily papers, in magazines and then it began to travel further afield. I have had cuttings and letters from the USA & Australia and many European countries. I mention all of this not to boast – about my mum or myself, but to show how amazing our God is and also to make clear that the spreading of this story is the work of God's Holy Spirit. There is no way I could or would ever have done it. Even now, I sometimes stop and ask myself if it all really happened – how could something like that happen to ordinary people like us? The answer I know is because God is so good and nothing is impossible to Him and His ways are truly amazing.

Catherine Mossey

Macclesfield, England

To be continued in next issue

26th October – 2nd November 2013 English speaking Pilgrimage to Italy lead by the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel

**St Peter's Square Rome
Monte Sant Angelo • San Giovanni Rotondo
Lanciano • Manoppello • Pulsano**
The pilgrimage is lead
by Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA

Price £495 / €599 / \$780 USD + flight to Rome

Includes seven nights B&B

With continental breakfast (non Italian) and evening meals for three nights at hotel in Rome and four nights at hotel in Monte Sant Angelo.

Single Room supplement £12 / €15 / \$20

Further information:

Noreen Bavister, PO Box 4332, Harlington, Dunstable Beds LU6 9DG.UK

Phone: 0044 1525 873918, Phone: 0044 7795 318605

Email: holyangelsinfo@gmail.com



■ Three Marys at The Tomb by Annibale Carracci, 1600



The feast of an angel

We are celebrating the second day of the Easter Octave. Yesterday we rejoiced Easter, today we are solemnising the Easter Monday. In Italy this day is called Pasquetta or the feast of an angel.

It is a beautiful tradition deeply rooted in the Bible. This reminds us of the women going to Jesus' tomb and finding it empty. Naturally the women had thought it would be impossible to enter the tomb because previously it had been covered by a huge stone. Instead, on finding it open they heard a voice from within: "He is not here" (Luke 24:6).

For the first time in the history of the world the words "He has risen" had been said aloud and they were said by

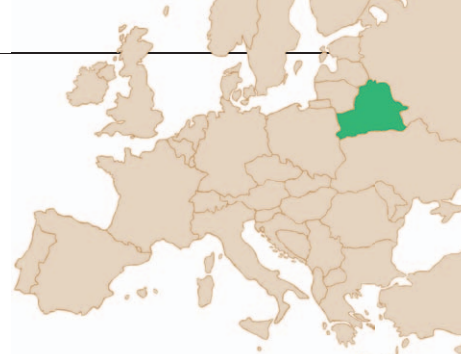
angels. It is very significant that the two most important events in the Bible were heralded by heavenly messengers: The Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the Archangel Gabriel and at the Resurrection of Christ by angels at the empty tomb. Those words "he has risen" could not have been proclaimed by human beings because people would not have been able to understand it. The truth was both too shocking and unbelievable for people to say it. Only a being with a superior intellect could declare it. For

me, the feast of an angel seems to be a complement of the Easter Octave.

Although angels are mentioned in many passages of the Holy Scripture, the text about the resurrection of the Lord emphasised the angelic presence and their role in the event. The discovery of an empty tomb made by human beings needed supernatural authentication: "Yes He is risen."

Pope John Paul II
Rome, 1st April, 1991

Belarus Project



Through the grace of God your good and generous hearts is bearing much fruit for my project. Helping the disadvantaged children by building a pastoral centre where the youth have a place to go, play, read books and receive assistance with their education.

With your kind donations via the Global Children's Foundation work is going steadily on building the centre. However, I still need help as money is still required to finish the building and to furnish it. This will be a warm, secure and loving centre full of life for the youth. There they will find peace and friendship. Every child deserves a chance in life.

Mary Doogan wants to support my project and all profits from her two CD's which are a collection of hymns **Queen of Peace** and **Here is Love** will help the children and bring much joy and peace to all listeners.

If you wish to purchase a CD please send a donation + £3.00 P&P to the Global Children's Foundation.

No donation is too small to help make a difference. There are three easy ways to pay, please make all donations via the Global Children's Foundation.

Donate by Post

Please make your cheques payable to **Global Children's Foundation** and post to: **Belarus Project Global Children's Foundation PO Box 4332, Harlington, Dunstable, Beds LU6 9DG. England.**

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You can transfer money directly into the GCF bank account.

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Please visit the GCF site:

www.globalchildrensfoundation.org.uk to find the link to our Just Giving page to make a one-off or monthly donation.

I am very grateful for your generosity and support. Every Tuesday (the day of St Michael the Archangel) I celebrate a Mass for all the donors of this project.

Special thanks to Father Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA, the chief editor of The Angels magazine, who is the patron of this work.

With my gift of prayer and a grateful heart. God bless you.

Father **Christopher Poświata** CSMA

Belarus Project

Global Children's Foundation

PO Box 4332, Harlington,

Dunstable, Beds LU5 6NR UK



ENGLAND

3rd April 2012

6.00pm Holy Mass

Advanced talk on The Divine Mercy

The Little Oratory,
Brompton Road,
London SW7 2RP.

Contact: Elizabeth Forrester

Phone+ 44 (0) 7588-406-290

4th April 2013

6.30pm Rosary

7.00pm Holy Mass

Advanced Divine Mercy Talk

Talk 2 Holy Angels and Padre Pio

St John Fisher RC Church

Tiverton Road, Wyken

Coventry, West Midlands

CV2 3DL England

Contact: Luise Ivens

Phone: +44 (0) 789-505-8661

Phone: +44 (0) 247-644-0569

Email: bridconmy@hotmail.com

5th April 2013

7.00pm Holy Mass and Talk

on Divine Mercy & Holy Angels

Our Lady of Lincoln

Laughton Way,

Lincoln LN2 2HE

Contact: Canon Colin Taylor

Phone: (0) 1522-522971

Fax: (0) 1522-539008

Email: parish@ourladyoflincoln.com

6th April 2013

2.00pm – 7.30pm

Confession 5.30pm

Holy Mass at 6.30pm

Advanced Divine Mercy Talks,

Pope John Paul II and St Faustina

St John Bosco Catholic Church

58 Western Avenue

Woodley, Reading RG5 3BH

Email: divinemercyreading@gmail.com

Contact: Maria Gomez

Phone number: +44-7970-662-905

7th April 2013, 2-5.00pm

Holy Mass 2.00pm

Advanced Divine Mercy Talks,

Pope John Paul II and St Faustina

Elmore Abbey

Church Lane,

Speen Newbury Berkshire

RG14 1SA

Contact: Pauline Mason

Phone: +44 (0) 1635-230-883

Phone: +44 (0) 7767-078-642

8th April 2013, 2.00pm Holy Mass

Advanced Divine Mercy Talks

St Philip and St James Church

2 Seven Way, Bedford, MK41 7BX

Contact: Maggie Soloman

Phone: +44 (0) 1234-272-917

Email: moslomo@sky.com

9th April 2013

9.00am & 12.30pm Holy Masses

Divine Mercy & Holy Angels Talks

Saint Peter the Apostle RC Church

103 Woolwich New Road

London SE18 6EF

Contact: Fr. Michael Branch, BTh

Phone: +44 (0) 20-8854-0359

Phone: +44 (0) 20-8333-8954

SCOTLAND

3 – 5th May 2013

The life and mission of St Faustina's

Confessor Bl. Michael Sopocko

Craig Lodge

Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1AR

Phone: +44 (0) 1838 200 216

www.craiglodge.org

5th May 2013, 7pm Talk

The Holy Eucharist / The Divine Mercy

St Patrick's Church

Strathleven Place,

Dumbarton G82 1BA

Contact Lilian Barclay

Phone: +44 (0)138-9603-632

6th May 2013, Holy Mass at 7pm

The Angels and The Divine Mercy

St Monica's Church

Sharp Avenue, Coatbridge,

North Lanarkshire ML5 5RP

Contact Ann Mc Millan

Phone: +44 (0)123- 660-1275

8 –12 July 2013

New Dawn

Catholic Family Conference

St Andrews, Madras College

Fife, Scotland.

www.newdawnninscotland.com

15th – 17th November 2013

Angels in the lives of the saints

Craig Lodge

Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1AR

Phone: +44 (0) 1838 200 216

www.craiglodge.org

IRELAND

27th July 2013, 2 – 5.30pm

Holy Mass 2.00pm

Talk 1 Advanced Divine Mercy

Talk 2 St Michael the Archangel

St Michael the Archangel House

Church Road, Glann, nr Kilkelly.

Co Mayo. Eire

(5 minutes from Knock airport)

Contact: Noreen Bavister

Phone: +44 (0) 779-531-8605

WALES

11-13 October 2013

Divine Mercy & Angels in the Bible (New)

Franciscan Friary,

Monastery Road, Pantasaph, Holywell.

Flintshire CH8 8PE

Contact: Br Keith Windsor (OFM)

Phone office: +44-1352-711-053

13th – 20th September 2013 English speaking Pilgrimage to Italy lead by the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel

St Peter's Square Rome

Monte Sant Angelo • San Giovanni Rotondo

Lanciano • Manopello • Pulsano

The pilgrimage is lead by Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA

Price £495 / €599 / \$780 USD + flight to Rome

Includes seven nights B&B

With continental breakfast (non Italian) and evening meals for three nights at hotel in Rome and four nights at hotel in Monte Sant Angelo.

Single Room supplement £12 / €15 / \$20

Further information:

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Phone: +44(0)7999-868-412, Email: catholicolyangels@hotmail.com

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Goodwood
Cape Town 7459,
South Africa
Contact: Alfons Van Craeynest
Email: dmbookstore@telkomsa.net
Phone: +27-845-236-078

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Av. Del Libertador 2424
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C1425AAX,
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Email: chminniti@gmail.com
Phone: +54-911-3911-7191

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Holy Spirit Catholic Church
2 Cooney St North Ryde
NSW 2113
Australia
Contact: Fr Stan Kluk CSMA
Phone: +61-298-882-569
Email: stankluk66@gmail.com

Sonia Starc
20 Field St, Craigieburn
Victoria 3064,
Australia
Email: starcsonia@hotmail.com
Phone: +61-413-314-718

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Divine Mercy Center
Near Traffic Roundabout
Medjugorje,
Bosnia and Herzegovina
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Chaplet of St Michael

L. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A. *Amen*

Say the following prayer on the medal:

O God, come to my assistance.

O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

1. 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.

(1 Our Father on the first large bead, 3 Hail Marys on the next three small beads)

2. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Cherubim, may the Lord vouchsafe to grant us grace to leave the ways of wickedness, to run in the paths of Christian perfection. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

3. 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.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

4. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Dominions, may the Lord give us grace to govern our senses and subdue our unruly passions. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

5. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Powers, may the Lord vouchsafe to protect our souls against the snares and temptations of the Devil. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

6. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Virtues, may the Lord deliver us from evil and suffer us not to fall into temptation. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

7. By the intercession of St Michael and the Celestial Choir of Principalities, may God fill our souls with a true spirit of obedience. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

8. 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 gain the glory of Paradise. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

9. 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 hereafter to eternal glory. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

Recite on the next four beads:

1 Our Father in honour of St Michael

1 Our Father in honour of St Gabriel

1 Our Father in honour of St Raphael

1 Our Father in honour of our Guardian Angel

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

Prayer of Pope Leo XIII

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 Divine Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.