

# The Angels

Messengers from a loving God



Saved  
by St Joseph

Every prayer is good

St Michael  
the great prince

I decided to  
fight testimony

Amid coronavirus  
think of heaven

Christ speaks through  
saints and suffering



# God loves man and wants man to love Him and to trust Him

Sometimes we look around at all the evil things in the world and we may ask: "Where is God? He should be here and bang His fist on the table and restore order. He should punish bad people severely." But God is also patient and merciful. He has eternity at His disposal. Here on earth He gives us time to correct our mistakes and repent for our sins. He prolongs the time of mercy because of His patience.

Many people may have a fear of a just and omnipotent God who has power over wind, water, gravity, physics, etc. God's power is infinite or limitless. He is all-knowing in the sense that he is aware of the past, present and future. People go to church and obey the Commandments out of fear instead of out of love. God is also LOVE. Love is His greatest attribute. He loves man and wants man to love Him and to trust Him. His love is for free. Justice is for something, for good or bad, but not love.

God loves you and He won't stop loving you even if tomorrow you're going to be ten times worse than today. His love does not depend on your



moods and actions. God is love and you are His child.

God loved you so much that He gave His only Son to die for you and me. My name is Peter and I am a sinner. I should hang on the cross but Jesus took my place. He died instead of me, instead of each single person on this planet. Jesus proves you are worthy to die for.

I can approach His cross and wash my hands, heart, soul and mind in His most holy and precious blood that washes away all my sins. You can do the same.

Jesus, I know You are here. Embrace us with Your love. Increase our faith. St Michael the Archangel, lead us to God. Amen.

I assure you of the constant daily prayers of the priests of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel for all our readers and their families.

God bless you,

Fr **Peter Prusakiewicz** CSMA  
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## The Angels

Messengers from a loving God

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■ The miraculous painting of the Holy Family in the Shrine of St Joseph, Kalisz, Poland

# Saved by St Joseph

**The Shrine of St Joseph in Kalisz, Poland, is the world's oldest sanctuary dedicated to the Spouse of Our Lady and the second largest one after the Shrine of St Joseph in Montreal, Canada.**

The beginnings of the shrine are traced back to 1670 when a man of the Szulec village was healed from paralysis, thanks to an intercession of St Joseph. He instituted a picture of the Holy Family as a votive offering in the Kalisz Collegiate Church. Soon people received so many graces that the picture was recognised as miraculous. Numerous pilgrims and their testimonies made the devotion to St Joseph flourish over the centuries.

In 1962 Pope John XXIII donated a ring to the Shrine of St Joseph and introduced the name of Joseph into the Canon of the Holy Mass.

In 1995 Poland celebrated fifty years of peace after World War II. The main thanksgiving events gathered fifty-seven bishops and thousands of the faithful in the Kalisz Shrine.

In 1997 Pope John Paul II visited the Shrine of St Joseph. During the Holy Mass, the Pope entrusted all Polish families and all unborn children in the world to St Joseph.

There is one story of the powerful intercession of St Joseph that deserves to be spread. Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1945, will always be remembered by the priests imprisoned in the Dachau concentration camp. On that day they were to be slaughtered, yet they survived. They owed their survival to St Joseph's intercession.

## The story of Dachau

By the order of Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler the first concentration camp was set up in Dachau near Munich, Germany, in 1933. It became a penal labour camp for over thirty

thousand prisoners, three thousand of whom were clergymen. The largest group consisted of 1,773 priests of Polish origin. Those priests who were claimed to be handicapped were sent to the gas chambers and then their bodies were taken to crematoria.

## Horrific daily routine

Hunger, toil, typhoid and death were the prisoners' everyday companions at the camp. After six hours of sleep and a roll call the prisoners had to stand all day at the camp square or carry cauldrons which weighed 100 kilograms with food for the whole camp. Even the convalescents released from hospital were not allowed to stay in the block. Every day workers were chosen to do casual work: shovelling off snow in winter;



distributing linen at the store; moving beds; as well as loading. The prisoners were beaten and humiliated.

They were forced to fall down into the mud, which was called “doing sport”. The Nazis would bludgeon them on their heads and trample over those who while prostrating themselves did not keep their face deep enough in the mud. They used mainly priests for pseudo medical experiments carried out by Prof. Claus Schilling. In the early days of the camp refusal meant death. They were infected with malaria in order to trial new treatments for German soldiers. They were exposed to low temperature and low air pressure to establish how high it was possible for airmen to fly. The situation slightly changed after the Nazi defeat at Stalingrad in 1943 when young SS men were sent to the Eastern Front. The new staff consisting of older Germans were more humane. The hard discipline code was softened and the prisoners were allowed to receive food parcels.



■ Young and old survivors in Dachau cheer approaching U.S. troops on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1945

## The strength that came from the Eucharist

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1941, for the purpose of Hitler’s propaganda, clergymen were allowed to access a chapel in block 26. The Holy Mass

was celebrated there and the prisoners could take communion every day. As the survivors claim, on numerous occasions it helped to withstand the hardships at the camp.

However, it lasted only until September 17<sup>th</sup> when all the German priests were separated from the rest of the clergymen and moved to block 26. From that moment the chapel stayed closed for Poles. Sometimes the German priests secretly shared their host and wine to enable Polish priests to celebrate the Holy Mass in the barracks between bunk beds. Some priests had a chance to celebrate the Mass in this way at least once during their few years’ stay in Dachau. The host was broken into twenty or more pieces so that everyone was given at least a bit. The Eucharist was delivered stealthily to those who were ill in the camp hospital, as well as to those dying of typhoid. Jesus, present in the Holy Communion, gave them the strength to survive, or helped them to die with dignity. Although it was forbidden, they



■ Map of Nazi Germany



gathered for prayer, sermons and lectures. Rev. Franciszek Korszyński (later vicar general in the Diocese of Włocławek) even managed to organize a divinity school at the camp.

## Trusting in St Joseph

Polish priests helped and supported other prisoners. They initiated the prayer to St Joseph since it was he who had protected the Son of God from death. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1940, in the chapel of Sachsenhausen camp, a group of priests from block 18 entrusted their lives to St Joseph of Kalisz. Priests from other blocks were to do the same, but on December 13<sup>th</sup> they were brought to Dachau where they renewed the act in their personal prayers. They also entrusted their lives to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

## The convicts' prayer

By the end of the war the SS men took several groups of people outside the camp to kill them. As a result, the prisoners became afraid of extermination again. That is why they repeated the act of entrustment to St Joseph. This time both clergymen and laymen were being prepared spiritually for this event. There was even a committee headed by Rev. Canon Franciszek Jedwabski to supervise the preparations (e.g. talks and conferences). However, what seems to have been the most significant was that the convicts said the novena to St Joseph for the intentions of saving their homeland, their families, and themselves. The

Polish prisoners gathered for nine days in the German priests' chapel asking the saint for the miracle of liberation from bondage. During two Holy Masses on the last day of the novena, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1945, about eight hundred people surrendered themselves to the guardianship of St Joseph of Kalisz. What is more, the priests pledged to spread the devotion to St Joseph, and after being saved - to pay homage to him during a pilgrimage to the Kalisz collegiate church. Moreover, they promised to contribute to the work of God's Mercy through his intercession.

According to Bishop Franciszek Korszyński: "We were the largest group at the camp who gathered in public to pray for the miracle of liberation". At that time the priests did not know that in a secret order Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler had planned the annihilation of the camp. By that order no prisoner was to be taken by the enemy alive. Seven days later, on 29<sup>th</sup> April, at 9 p.m. a fire was supposed to be set as a signal for the SS "Wiking" division, which was stationed nearby, to raze the camp to the ground.

## Miraculous liberation

However, four hours before the order was to be carried out, the camp guarded by armed men was taken over by a handful of allied soldiers. They belonged to General Patton's Army which was heading for Munich. As soon as the prisoners got to know about the American soldiers, thirty-two thousand of them fearlessly and happily ran out of the barracks. One of the sentinels on the tower opened fire. Not realizing the

fact that the Germans outnumbered the allied soldiers by one to six, the Americans fired back. Right after the liberation the American commander summoned everyone to say the "Our Father" as a thanksgiving prayer and they sang the "Te Deum" hymn in the chapel. In the meantime, the forces of the SS "Wiking" division were defeated by the American army. For the priests it became clear that they owed their deliverance to the intercession of St Joseph. They believed he was the intercessor to God on their behalf. 856 priests were at the camp on that day.

## Pilgrimage to Kalisz

As they had promised, in 1948 the survivors came to the Shrine of Saint Joseph of Kalisz on a thanksgiving pilgrimage. Every year they renew their pledge. The Chapel of Martyrdom and Gratitude and the Institute of Family Studies in Lomianki were created as a votive offering. When visiting Kalisz in 1997 John Paul II thanked the priests (former prisoners of the Dachau concentration camp) for "the initiative that originated in the dreadful days of the camp", and for the fact that "they continue to show gratitude after being saved" and "on their pilgrimage to the Shrine of St Joseph of Kalisz to pray for their persecutors and those brothers who did not survive the camp".

**Agata Pawłowska**  
CSMA Office, Poland

The testimony taken from the official website of the Shrine of St Joseph in Kalisz: [www.swietyjozef.kalisz.pl](http://www.swietyjozef.kalisz.pl)



# St Joseph grants Divine graces



www.commonswiki.org

■ St Joseph the Carpenter by Georges de La Tour, 1640s

**The gift of special Indulgences is granted on the occasion of the Year of Saint Joseph, announced by Pope Francis to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the universal Church.**

Today marks 150 years since the Decree *Quemadmodum Deus*, with which Bl. Pius IX, moved by the grave and sorrowful circumstances in which the Church was threatened by mankind's hostility, declared Saint Joseph the Patron of the Catholic Church.

In order to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Guardian of Jesus, Pope Francis has established that, from today's date, the anniversary of the Decree of the proclamation as well as a day sacred to the Blessed Immaculate Virgin and Bride of Joseph most chaste, until 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021, a special Year of Saint Joseph will be celebrated, in which all faithful, after his example, may daily reinforce their own life of faith in complete fulfilment of God's will.

All the faithful will thus have the opportunity to commit themselves, with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of St Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today.

Devotion to the Guardian of the Redeemer has developed abundantly in the course of the history of the Church, which not only attributes to him among the loftiest worship, after that of his Bride, the Mother of God, but has also conferred many patronages upon him. The Magisterium of the Church continues to reveal great things, old and new, in this treasure that is Saint Joseph, like the householder of the Gospel of Matthew "who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old" (Mt 13:52).

The gift of the Indulgences that the Apostolic Penitentiary kindly bestows during the Year of Saint Joseph, through this Decree issued according to Pope Francis' wish, will contribute greatly to the perfect accomplishment of the designated purpose.

The *Plenary Indulgence* is granted under the customary conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayers according to the Holy Father's intentions) to the faithful who, with a soul detached from any sin, shall participate in the Year of Saint Joseph, in the occasions and with the modalities indicated by this Apostolic Penitentiary.

**a.** Saint Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew our devotion to prayer, to dispose ourselves to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God's will. **The Plenary Indulgence is granted to those who shall contemplate the Lord's Prayer for at least 30 minutes, or participate in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day which involves a meditation on Saint Joseph;**

**b.** The Gospel attributes to Saint Joseph the appellation "just man" (cf. Mt 1:19): he, guardian of the intimate secret that lies right at the bottom of the heart and soul, depository of the mystery of God and therefore an ideal patron of the internal forum, spur us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and integrity in carrying out our duties. The virtue of justice practiced by Saint Joseph in an exemplary manner is full adherence to divine law, which is the law of mercy, for it is the very mercy of God that brings true justice to fulfilment. **Therefore those who, after the example of Saint Joseph, shall fulfil a work of corporal or spiritual work of mercy, will likewise be able to attain the gift of the Plenary Indulgence;**

**c.** The primary aspect of Saint Joseph's vocation was that of being guardian of the Holy Family of Nazareth, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and legal father of Jesus. In order that all Christian families may be inspired to recreate the same atmosphere



of intimate communion, love and prayer that was lived by the Holy Family, **the Plenary Indulgence is granted for the recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among betrothed;**

d. The Servant of God Pius XII, on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1955 instituted the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties. **Therefore the Plenary Indulgence may be obtained by those who shall daily entrust their life to the protection of Saint Joseph, and all faithful who shall invoke through prayer the intercession of the Worker of Nazareth, so that those in search of work may find employment and the work of all people may be more dignified;**

e. The flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment. **The Plenary Indulgence is granted to the faithful who shall recite the Litanies to Saint Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the Akathistos to Saint Joseph, in their entirety or at least some part of it (for the Byzantine tradition), or some other prayer to Saint Joseph, proper to other liturgical traditions, in favour of the Church persecuted *ad intra* and *ad extra* and for the relief of all Christians who suffer any form of persecution.**

St Teresa of Ávila recognized in Saint Joseph the protector for all the circumstances of life: "To other saints, the Lord seems to have given grace to help us in some of our necessities. But my experience is that Saint Joseph helps us in them all". More recently, St John Paul II emphasized that the figure of St Joseph has acquired "a renewed relevance for

the Church of our time, in relation to the new Christian millennium".

To reaffirm the universality of Saint Joseph's patronage over the Church, in addition to the aforementioned occasions **the Apostolic Penitentiary grants the Plenary Indulgence to the faithful who shall recite any prayer legitimately approved or act of piety in honour of Saint Joseph, for example, "To you, O Blessed Joseph", especially on the occasions of 19<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> May, on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on the Sunday of Saint Joseph (according to the Byzantine tradition), on the 19<sup>th</sup> of every month and every Wednesday, the day dedicated to the Saint's memory, according to the Latin tradition.**

In the current context of the health emergency, **the gift of the Plenary Indulgence extends particularly to the elderly, the sick, the suffering and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave the house, and who with a soul detached from any sin and with the intention to fulfil, as soon as possible, the three customary**

**conditions in their own home or wherever the impediment detains them, shall recite an act of piety in honour of Saint Joseph, Comfort of the Sick and Patron of a Happy Death, faithfully offering to God their suffering and the hardships of their life.**

In order to pastorally facilitate the attainment of divine grace through the power of the Keys, this Penitentiary prays earnestly that all priests endowed with the appropriate faculties may offer themselves with a willing and generous soul to the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and often administer Holy Communion to the infirm.

This Decree is valid for the Year of Saint Joseph, notwithstanding any disposition to the contrary.

Given in Rome, from the See of the Apostolic Penitentiary, on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Cardinal **Mauro Piacenza**  
*Major Penitentiary*

Taken from [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

## Act of Consecration to St Joseph

Saint Joseph, my beloved Father, dearest to my heart after Jesus and Mary, I entrust myself to You, as the Son of God and His Most Pure Mother entrusted themselves to Your protection. Accept me as your child, because for the rest of my life I choose you as a Father, Guardian, Protector and Guide of my soul. O my best Father, Saint Joseph, lead me straight to Jesus and Mary. Teach me to love everyone with pure love and to be ready to make sacrifices for my neighbours. Teach me to fight the temptations of the flesh, the world and Satan and to bear silently every cross that meets me. Teach me humility and obedience to God's will. O dearest Saint Joseph, be the Guardian of my soul, redeemed by the Blood of Christ. Watch over me, as you guarded the Child Jesus, and I promise You faithfulness, love and total obedience, because I trust that through Your intercession I will be saved. Do not look at my misery, but for the love of Jesus and Mary, take me under your fatherly protection. Amen.



# St Faustina and St Joseph

**On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of St Joseph to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of making Joseph the patron saint of the Catholic Church.**

**I**t reminds us that a devotion towards the Guardian of the Redeemer has flourished in the history of the Church which grants him a unique place in heaven and entrusted him with numerous patronages. Christians are encouraged not only to read about their unique patron, but also to pray fervently to him for the great benefit to themselves and to the whole Church.

## A special guardian

There are two passages in the Diary that shows the relationship between St Faustina and St Joseph. The first one reads as follows: “Saint Joseph urged me to have a constant devotion to him. He himself told me to recite three prayers [the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be] and the Memorare once every day. He looked at me with great kindness and gave me to know how much he is supporting this work [of mercy]. He has promised me this special help and protection. I recite the requested prayers every day and feel his special protection” (Diary 1203).

Let us pay attention to the five verbs appearing in the quoted text: urged; told; looked; gave me to know; promised. The first two verbs made St Faustina aware of the duty of daily prayers to St Joseph.

However, she had prayed these three prayers before, because the prayer

“Remember, O most chaste spouse of Mary” was present in the daily prayers of the Congregation of Our Lady of Mercy. St Faustina loved prayer so we cannot have the slightest doubt that after this meeting she fulfilled the request of St Joseph with new enthusiasm and even greater zeal.

The next three verbs refers to her mission to spread Divine Mercy throughout the world. St Joseph looked from heaven at St Faustina and her work carried out gradually, patiently and effectively. With great care and kindness he looked at the extraordinary work of Divine Mercy. St Faustina was made to know how much St Joseph supported this work. During his earthly life St Joseph was deeply devoted to Mary and Jesus entrusted to him by God as His greatest treasures. Now in heaven he is the very same devoted to the work of the Divine Mercy and treats it as the greatest treasure because it is Jesus’ work. In the Diary Jesus emphasised it many times: “Tell the confessor that this work is Mine and that I am using you as a lowly instrument” (Diary 645); “Apostle of My mercy, proclaim to the whole world My unfathomable mercy. Do not be discouraged by the difficulties you encounter in proclaiming My mercy. These difficulties that affect you so painfully are needed for your sanctification and as evidence that this work is Mine” (Diary 1142); “Do as much as is in your power, and don’t worry

about the rest. These difficulties prove that this work is Mine. Be at peace so long as you do all that is in your power” (Diary 1295); “Be at peace about what concerns My work” (Diary 1408); “[t]hat work which is directly Mine – the work of Redemption” (Diary 1643).

In the Apostolic Exhortation “Redemptoris Custos on the person and mission of Saint Joseph in the life of Christ and of the Church” Pope John Paul II wrote: “St Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood. It is precisely in this way that, as the Church’s liturgy teaches, he cooperated in the fullness of time in the great mystery of salvation and is truly a minister of salvation. His fatherhood is expressed concretely in his having made his life a service, a sacrifice to the mystery of the Incarnation and to the redemptive mission connected with it; in having used the legal authority which was his over the Holy Family in order to make a total gift of self, of his life and work; in having turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of self, an oblation of his heart and all his abilities into love placed at the service of the Messiah growing up in his house” (RC 8).

Jesus’ mission goes on and so does the never ending love of St Joseph dedicated to the service of the Messiah. St Joseph participates in the great mystery

of the Redemption, taking care of St Faustina and rushing to help her. He, as we express it in the litany, is the terror of the spirits of hell that try to stop and destroy the Divine Mercy work throughout the world.

## The master of prayer

The second passage of the Diary that mentions St Joseph refers to Christmas time: “When I arrived at Midnight Mass, from the very beginning I steeped myself in deep recollection, during which time I saw the stable of Bethlehem filled with great radiance. The Blessed Virgin, all lost in the deepest of love, was wrapping Jesus in swaddling clothes, but Saint Joseph was still asleep. Only after the Mother of God put Jesus in the manger, did the light of God awaken Joseph, who was also praying” (Diary 1442).

What did Mother Mary do when She finished all the care that needed to be done for the new-born baby? She looked at Her Son with love. She contemplated the God-Man. What did Joseph do? He slept – a Christian joke tells that Joseph liked sleeping a lot because an angel always found him sleeping. But after he was awake, he prayed and contemplated Jesus like Mary.

St Teresa of Avila called him the master of a perfect prayer. St John Paul II indicated his silence. The atmosphere of silence accompanies everything that related to St Joseph. Silence reveals his character – he did a lot but his deeds resulted from his deep silent

contemplative prayer. From an early childhood St Joseph and Mary were taught the importance of prayer; first, by their parents, secondly, by patriarchs and prophets of their nation. St Joseph prayed because he had many reasons to do so.

## Prayer paves the way for good

Let us not waste the Year of St Joseph. This is a great occasion to know St Joseph more closely and to turn to him for any help to obtain comfort and relief in the heavy human troubles. The modern world is tormented and so is man. Only prayer can lead you through an increasingly difficult life, because prayer paves the way for good and helps to overcome evil. So let us pray like St Joseph did.



■ St Joseph's Dream by Daniele Crespi, circa 1620-1630

When the fullness of time had come (Gal 4: 4), relating to the ineffable mystery of the incarnation of the Word, God gave Joseph to Mary, Mother of His Son. Today the Church points anew to Joseph of Nazareth, her Patron.

In the Apostolic Letter “*Patris Corde* on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church”: Pope Francis proposes two prayers to St Joseph: *Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us, too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

The second prayer is more personal. Pope Francis writes: “Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds I have recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary. It expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to St Joseph: *Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome.*

*My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen”.*

**Fr Karol Dąbrowski**





Yannick Pulver, www.unsplash.com

# I have chosen you for that office

**St Maria Faustina Kowalska, known today the world over as the “Apostle of the Divine Mercy,” is numbered by theologians among the outstanding mystics of the Church.**

She was the third of ten children born into a poor and pious peasant family in Głogowiec, a village in the heart of Poland. At her baptism in the nearby parish church of Świnice Warckie she was given the name “Helena”. From childhood she distinguished herself by her piety, love of prayer, industriousness and obedience as well as by her great sensitivity to human misery. She had hardly three years of schooling, and at the age of fourteen she left the family hearth to help her parents and to earn her own livelihood serving as a domestic in the nearby cities of Aleksandrów and Łódź.

When she was only seven (two years before her First Holy Communion), Helen already sensed in her soul the call to embrace the religious life. When later she made her desire known to her parents, they categorically did not acquiesce in her entering a convent. Because of this situation Helen strove to stifle this divine call within her. Pressed on, however, by a vision of the suffering Christ and by the words of His reproach: “How long shall I put up with you and how long will you keep putting Me off?” (*Diary*, 9), she began to search for a convent to join. She knocked on many a convent door,

but nowhere was she accepted. Finally on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1925, Helen crossed the threshold of the cloister in the convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy on Żytnia Street in Warsaw. In her *Diary* she declared: “It seemed to me that I had stepped into the life of Paradise. A single prayer was bursting forth from my heart, one of thanksgiving” (*Diary*, 17).

After a few weeks she experienced nonetheless a strong temptation to transfer to a different congregation in which there would be more time for prayer. It was then the Lord Jesus, manifesting to her His wounded and

tortured face, said: “It is you who will cause Me this pain if you leave this convent. It is to this place that I called you and nowhere else, and [it is here] I have prepared many graces for you” (*Diary*, 19).

Upon her entrance to the Congregation Helen received the name Sr Maria Faustina. Her novitiate she spent in Cracow, and there, in the presence of Bishop Stanislaus Rospond, she pronounced her first religious vows, and five years later, she made her perpetual profession of the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. She was assigned to work in a number of the Congregation’s houses, but for a longer period in those of Cracow, Plock and Vilnius, fulfilling the duties of cook, gardener and doorkeeper.

To all external appearances nothing betrayed her extraordinarily rich mystical life. She zealously went about her duties, she faithfully observed all the religious rules, she was recollected and kept silent, all the while being natural, cheerful, full of kindness and of unselfish love of neighbour.

Her entire life was concentrated on constant striving for an even fuller union with God and on self-sacrificing cooperation with Jesus in the work of saving souls. “My Jesus” – she avowed in her *Diary* – “You know that from my earliest years I have wanted to become a great saint; that is to say, I have wanted to love You with a love so great that there would be no soul who has hitherto loved You so” (*Diary*, 1372).

It is her *Diary* that reveals to us the depths of her spiritual life. An attentive reading of these records offers a picture of the high degree of her soul’s union with God – the great extent of God’s company keeping with her soul, as well as her efforts and struggles on the way to Christian perfection. The

Lord endowed her with great graces – with the gift of contemplation, with a deep knowledge of the mystery of the mercy of God, with visions, revelations, the hidden stigmata, with the gift of prophecy and of reading into human souls, and also with the rare gift of mystical espousals. As lavishly gifted as she was, this is what she wrote: “Neither graces, nor revelations, nor raptures, nor gifts granted to a soul make it perfect, but rather the intimate union of the soul with God. My sanctity and perfection is based upon the



■ St Maria Faustina Kowalska

close union of my will with the will of God” (*Diary*, 1107).

The austere lifestyle and exhausting fasts that she imposed upon herself even before joining the Congregation, weakened her organism to such an extent that already during her postulanship it became necessary to send her to Skolimów near Warsaw to restore her to health. Towards the end of her first year of novitiate, she was visited by unusually painful mystical experiences of the so-called dark night, and later by the spiritual and moral sufferings related to the accomplishment of the

mission she was receiving from Christ the Lord. [St] Faustina laid down her life in sacrifice for sinners and on this account she also sustained diverse sufferings, in order by means of them to come to the aid of their souls. During the last years of her life, inner sufferings of the so-called “passive night” of the soul and bodily diseases grew in intensity. The spreading tuberculosis attached her lungs and alimentary canal. For this reason, twice she underwent several months’ treatment in the hospital on Prądnik Street in Cracow.

Physically ravaged, but fully mature spiritually, she died in the opinion of sanctity, mystically united with God, on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1938, hardly 33 years old, having been a religious for 13 years. Her mortal remains were laid to rest in the common tomb in the convent’s cemetery in Cracow-Łagiewniki. In 1966, during the informative process towards Sister Faustina’s beatification, they were transferred to the convent chapel.

To this simple, uneducated, but courageous woman religious, who trusted Him without limit, Our Lord Jesus con-signed the great mission to proclaim His message of mercy directed to the whole world: **“Today,”** He told her, **“I am sending you with My mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to My merciful Heart”** (*Diary*, 1588). **You are the secretary of My mercy; I have chosen you for that office in this and the next life** (*Diary*, 1605) ... **“to make known to souls the great mercy that I have for them, and to exhort them to trust in the bottomless depth of My mercy”** (*Diary*, 1567).

Introduction in “*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, Divine Mercy in My Soul*”





Dan Meyers, www.unsplash.com

# Christ speaks through His saints and our suffering

**“Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed and feverish, and at once they told him about her. He went in to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to serve them” (Mark 1:30-31).**

**B**est if we do not focus on all the bad news regarding the virus spreading throughout the world. Let us focus on the Good News about loving Jesus.

## We are precious

God does not create second class citizens. We are unique and exceptional in His eyes.

Each of us is so precious that He died for us. We were redeemed by His precious Blood, not by dollars, euros or pounds. God wants us to be happy and healthy.

We may and should ask the Lord about the grace of health; it is a very up-to-date request these days when the world is paralyzed with the pandemic. Health is a great gift of God. He does not want us to shorten our lives by diseases, addictions or bad habits. He wants us to finish our lives through to old age after fulfilling the life tasks He gave us.

Here on earth we are given time to do particular tasks God designed for us. St Faustina lived only 33 years but it was enough for her to fulfil God’s will to tell the world about the Divine Mercy.

Each of us has tasks to do on earth. There are big ones and small daily tasks. If He gives us another hour, day, week, month, year, it means He needs us here. He wants our prayers, our talents and suffering to build the Kingdom of God here among the people we live nearby.

## Health is God’s gift

The gift of health is so important that God protected it with two commandments. One of them is “Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you.

Labour for six days, doing all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath for the Lord your God. You must not do any work that day, neither you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servants male or female nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your animals, nor the foreigner who has made his home with you so that your servants, male and female, may rest, as you do" (Deut 5: 12-15).

We can tend to forget about this commandment. Once I met a man who said, "Father, you do not understand me, I have to work on Sundays as I am paid three times more."

"No, you do not have to do it." I replied.

"You don't understand me. I have to", said the man.

Now, he cannot work at all because overworking caused his exhaustion and ill health. All the money he earned, the man now spends on medicines and medical bills.

God is right. If He says "No" it is always for the sake of our good.

The second commandment protecting life and health is this "You must not kill" (Deut 5:17). Not only does it refer to abortion or euthanasia but also to the respect of human health both mental and physical. God encourages us to take care of ourselves with good meals, proper sleep, some sport or recreation to lower the stress level. Sometimes a small change is enough to get better.

We often shorten our lives by bad habits and addictions. There is no point complaining to God about our sleeplessness if we worry and keep thinking endlessly about things in life. There is no point complaining to God about our lungs if we have smoked for years. There is no point complaining to God about our problems with drugs,

alcohol or other -holisms if we do not want to stop and accept help. At times a big change is required to get better.

## The value of acceptance

Blessed are the ill and suffering because God is with them. There are very few people without some sort of ailment, needing pills and ointments.

Through the grace of God it is helpful if we can accept the reality.

Of course, there are incurable diseases. Sometimes it may be defeated but then it just comes back knocking at our door again. Then, we need to learn how to live with it.

If the disease is incurable, we need to remember that it does not come to our doors alone – it comes together with Jesus Christ. If we accept only the disease without Christ, sooner or later we may become frightened and discouraged. If we accept both Christ and the disease - these two may transform our life completely.

Christ knows all the diseases in the world. He himself had a lot of wounds. Only Christ knows exactly what you are going through right now. Only Christ is able to transform your disease into a valuable treasure for the whole world. Provided you let Him.

## Disease teaches wisdom

If we stop denying we have a disease and accept it, it may become a great teacher of wisdom. We get a chance to revalue our priorities and see life from a different perspective:

A priest with gullet cancer eats breakfast from 8 a.m. till 4 p.m. He is grateful he can chew and swallow food.

A woman after recovery from a serious illness comes back home, turns

the TV on, watches it and says, "Gosh, it is all so shallow. They're so far away from real life."

A nun asks a child when he is most happy. "I like being unwell. When I am ill mum and dad are there for me. When I'm ok, they are so busy," the child answers.

A sister decides to give a part of her liver to a brother suffering from cancer.

Those are just a few examples but look what spiritual good may come from a difficult situation. This is the real Gospel.

Let us thank God for medicines' inventors and researchers who work to help cure diseases.

Let us thank God for doctors, nurses, all the people working in the public health. It is not only their job; it is a vocation. Such people often get stressed working under such great pressure of responsibility for human life. They may have difficult situations at home but they still care for patients and do their best. Today we may watch nurses and doctors looking like astronauts in special suits. We need to remember that under the costumes there are real people, often sweating, tired, with loss of oxygen.

Medical staff often pray for their patients. In their prayers they invite Jesus to hospital to pray for a successful operation.

## Prayer is our strength

In the Scriptures Jesus mentions it many times: man, woman, you are healed, go in peace, your faith and your prayer healed you. Following His words, the first way for healing is prayer. We need to ask God for healing. Prayer is our strength. Prayer is like an oxygen for the faithful.



We need to pray for our own healing and the healing of our beloved ones, friends, colleagues, co-operatives. The list is endless. There are many reasons for prayer. The most beautiful prayer for the ill that I found is this: "Lord, the man you love is ill" (John 11:3). It is a short, simple prayer and to the point.

We may pray alone or together with relatives at home or online. There are many Holy Masses, services and prayers via the Internet.

We may ask saints for intercession. Christ speaks through the saints and our suffering. Saint Faustina was often given the grace to know when a certain dying person desired or needed prayer; she would be alerted to the moment, by her guardian angel or by our Lord Himself. At those times she would pray until she no longer felt the need to pray, or a sense of peace came upon her, or she learned that the person had died, or heard the soul say, "Thank you!" She wrote: "Oh, dying souls are in such great need of prayer! O Jesus, inspire souls to pray often for the dying" (Diary, 1015).

Remember St Michael the Archangel, he is an intercessor of great power and possibilities. Why not turn to him especially when he is ready to help right now, even when you are reading this article.

Let us ask the Lord for healing.

Lord Jesus, fulfil your promise and heal us. St Michael, pray for us. Amen.

Fr **Peter Prusakiewicz** CSMA  
Homily during the Warsaw mission, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

# Amid coronavirus think of heaven

**In times of great suffering like ours, it does us good to think about heavenly things. Such considerations are constant reminders that our greatest concerns should be our union with God in this world and the next. Indeed, in times past, people commonly raised their hearts to heaven, which made all their woes seem small.**

Such thoughts are far from our normal self-centred lives. We live in a shallow, materialistic culture that avoids these supernatural topics. Worse yet, we cannot conceive heaven because our minds are darkened by vice and worldly pleasures. We do not want to see anything beyond our petty concerns.

What makes it even more difficult is that we do not know the goal we should seek. At best, the common idea of heaven is a boring cherub-filled place and nothing more. If only we believed what makes the joys of heaven palpable and attractive. We must learn to fear hell and lament the loss of celestial bliss.

Because we do not concentrate on heaven our postmodern world is the home of restless souls unaccustomed to thinking of a place of rest where our happiness is perfect. We generally think in terms of experiencing fleeting joys, drop by drop, limited as they are by time. In heaven, the blessed will always feel infinite joy for all eternity. Heaven will satisfy all desires and longings. The coronavirus crisis has turned

this world upside down and invites us to change perspectives. Would that we might think about heavenly things!

St Augustine (354–430), bishop of Hippo, would preach to his flock on the happiness of heaven amid his troubled times. All who heard him would become inflamed with the love of God.

One day, he delivered a sermon charged with deep passion and emotion in which he described the marvels of heaven. Those who witnessed what he said thought that it was not a man, but an angel who spoke, such was his golden eloquence.

With each word that came from his lips, the people became more captivated by his descriptions. It was as if they were transported to the magnificent feast of heaven and enjoying the celestial beatitude, so compelling was his account. They were enthralled by this vision of the rewards that would be theirs should they be faithful to God's Word.

Suddenly, his hearers broke out into cries and groans of wonder. All eyes filled with tears. The people lost all inhibitions and loudly implored



■ Vision of St Augustine by Vittore Carpaccio, 1502

that they might see the day when they would drink abundantly of the waters of Eternal Life.

Moreover, all trembled for fear that they might be led astray by weakness and seductions, and thus be deprived of heaven. Everywhere, they cried out, "O Heaven of great beauty, when shall I see you! Shall I be so foolish as to prefer the pleasures and fortunes of this day to you? Who would not consent to purchase you at the price of the heavenly sacrifices and labours?"

St Augustine was astonished by the exclamations and sighs provoked by his sermon. He also was moved like the enraptured crowd. When he tried to continue his description of the heavenly Jerusalem, he found the sobbing of the multitude, and his emotions stifled his words. His tears and theirs mingled into a single flow. They were overcome by sorrow for our earthly exile and the beauty of our magnificent and heavenly home.

Our problems today would seem so small if we had preachers like St

Augustine, who might inflame us with the love of God and heaven. Alas, we need not only heaven but those heavenly times when people thought about heaven.

Few souls can admire and love all that is heavenly. We lack a culture that thirsts for what St Paul describes when he says, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Phil. 4:8).

However, our shortcomings can change. Times of crisis are often the occasions when people turn their hearts and minds to God. When earthly pleasures and human solutions fail, people begin to see the futility of trusting in ourselves. Suffering opens us up to the consideration of heavenly things.

Now is the time to contemplate heaven and heavenly things. The Church has a vast treasury of literature that deals with heaven. In the

present distress, these words will be like a balm. We will see the earth for what it is - a land of exile. We will realize, like those who heard St Augustine's sermon, what madness it is to lose heaven for the sake of sin and pleasure.

In these days of desolation, let us turn our thoughts to heaven. We will then see our problems in their real perspective and hope in the vast eternity that God has promised us. Indeed, as St Augustine so beautifully describes it, "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee!"

Holy Spirit, make us conscious that You are inviting us to reform our lives. We must fight against the evils of this world. Our contemplation of heaven should serve as the basis of constructing that society where people believe in a heaven where You live and a home that You have prepared for us.

**Fr Francis Maple O.F.M Cap.**  
Franciscan Friary, 15 Cuppin Street  
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# St Michael the Great Prince

**He is commander of the angels.**



■ St Michael the Archangel from the Shrine in Monte Sant'Angelo, Italy

**W**e wish to penetrate deeper into the mystery of St Michael the Archangel. He is the most important and the greatest of the angels but he is also a mystery to us, humans. We know very little about him.

Our founder, Blessed Fr Bronisław Markiewicz wrote, "After the Lord Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Michael is the greatest benefactor of humanity and he is a guide for the erring, consolation and comfort for the fallen, protector for distressed souls, a brave slayer of hellish spirits and corrupters on earth. He is the guardian and friend of people coming down from this world and even after leaving this earth.

After the victorious test St Michael obtained a greater grace than before: he shone with an unexpected spiritual radiance, becoming the most beautiful, the most powerful and pre-eminent among all the angelic Hosts. The holiness of St Michael during the battle with proud Lucifer was surpassed and remained unsurpassed. Only the Queen of the Angels, The Blessed

Virgin Mary alone surpasses him in holiness."

These are very important, – the most beautiful, most powerful, and second only to the Mother of God. He has the second place in Heaven. He is the commander of the angels. Our Lady is his Queen and Queen of all the angels.

Who is the Archangel Michael? Although he is a mysterious being, we can find some details of his character by the titles he is given in the litany: Filled with the wisdom of God; Most Powerful Prince of the armies of the Lord; Standard bearer of the Most Holy Trinity; Light of Angels; Splendour and Fortress of the Church Militant; Honour and Joy of the Church Triumphant.

We then discover his role as an intercessor: Bulwark of orthodox believers; Strength of those who fight under the banner of the Cross; Light and confidence of souls at the hour of death; Our most sure aid; Our Prince and Our Advocate. Such are the functions St Michael has and fulfils with great power.

## God's salvific plan for human beings

The angels always accompany God and us. They are always at God's side and at our side. The angels stand forever before God, whom they glorify and contemplate. At the same time, they accompany and serve people. It is the expression of the greatest intimacy and connection with God and human beings. The more they serve God, the more they are able to serve human beings. Likewise, when we as human beings open ourselves to God, the more we are capable of serving others. This is what St Michael the Archangel teaches us.

St John Paul II wrote: "The angels participate in the life of the Holy Trinity by means of the light they obtain and at particular moments decided by the Divine Providence they are invited to participate in God's salvific plan for human beings. The good angels' task is the protection of human beings and concern for their salvation. Their

particular mission is to proclaim God's plans from far and near and to serve the fulfilment of the Divine will." God needs angels. They have not been created by chance, but have a particular role to play with regard to God and to us. They are happy. The holy angels are in heaven where they are close to God, but also want to help people enjoy the same happiness.

## Extraordinary power of angels

Angels are powerful. They have power over matter, as we know from various passages in the Bible. They are capable of extraordinary acts in the material world. They possess a deeper understanding of the power of nature, they are able to make use of it better than us. They have power over the human imagination, over our feelings, forming new ideas, inspiring pleasant or unpleasant emotions. They can affect our senses by extraordinary means, such as sounds or illusions and the like.

Such examples of the extraordinary powers of the angels, including St Michael, in the material world are described in the Bible, for instance, the deliverance of three young men from the flames. Who saved them? An angel. Who contributed to the miraculous healing of Tobias? St Raphael the Archangel. Who gave the effect of the healing powers of the waters of the pool at Bethesda (a story in the Gospel of St John)? An angel. Who rolled away the stone from Christ's tomb? An angel. Who freed Peter from prison? An angel. We can imagine the scene: Peter is sleeping and an angel suddenly breaks the chains from his wrists and ankles, opens all the prison

doors and leads him out, unnoticed by all of the guards. This shows the great power of angels.

## Angelic protection

People often testify how once in their life they are delivered from a fall, from the tragic consequences of a road accident, when someone was incapable of taking a step in front of them and were halted as if by an unseen force although there was nobody in front of them or, of when they were protected from being hit by a speeding vehicle which barely avoided them. Someone else tells how they have just moved from the very spot where a large icicle crashes down a moment later. These are all the actions of the angels.

The Lord Jesus tells us that angels influence the physical world and are capable of protecting Him. When He was arrested on the Mount of Olives, God the Father was able to send legions of angels to save Christ, but did not do so. It is a great mystery why God allows certain circumstances and defends people from others. We know, that in Christ's case, the Will of the Father was being realised. Perhaps some people have experienced the power which St Michael exercises over the natural world. In the editorial office of "Who is like God" and "The Angels" magazine, we receive many testimonies from readers of his protection from spiritual and often from physical dangers.

## A knight and our advocate

St Michael is the chief commander of battle for all times. We see this in the

above picture. He is frequently represented as a knight in armour, with a sword. He is not an aggressor, but a protector and defender. He is not an accuser or a procurator, but an advocate.

We read in the Book of Revelation that the Devil is an accuser of people before God and accuses us as if he was placing us in the dock and saying to God: "See, God, here's a human being. You see how much you have loved him. You died for him on the Cross. You gave Your life for him and yet he wastes Your graces and does not deserve Your presence. Let him join the fallen angels instead". Such are the accusing words of the fallen angel to human beings, whom he accuses.

St Michael, however, is always on our side. He asks God to give us another chance and extend the time of mercy. He never gives up fighting a person's corner. He is our advocate and always a friend to us. He is the enemy of the Devil but is always helpful towards us as human beings. He is on our side. He wishes us to call on him. That is very important.

## Call on your guardian angel

St Padre Pio taught his spiritual children to call on their guardian angels at least five times a day. St Michael wants the very same. It is as if he is telling people; "Call on me, as he who asks, receives, not only twice a day. Call on me more often, not only when you are in trouble. Call on me unceasingly and I will come to help you and others."

We call on St Michael in an official manner during Holy Mass or other devotions or reciting the prayer of



Pope Leo XIII. We can also call on him spontaneously: “St Michael, save me!”; “St Michael, help and enlighten me, give me strength in the fight against temptation”; “Lead me by the right path”. He is ready to serve us, but is a gentleman and will do nothing by force. He invites us to befriend him. He invites us to a bond which will not enslave us but which leads us to the freedom of children of God.

## The crown of St Michael

Look at the picture of the statue of St Michael the Archangel from Gargano, Italy. He is wearing a crown. Why does he wear a crown? To answer this, we need to turn to the Bible. The Bible refers to St Michael only five times, three times in the Book of Daniel, once in the Letter of St Jude and lastly, in the Book of Revelation. I will refer to these texts in this and the following reflections in the next issue.

We will look briefly at a passage from the Book of Daniel. The prophet has a meeting with an angel who gives him a momentous message (Daniel 10:12-14). We read: “He then said, ‘Daniel, do not be afraid: from that first day when, the better to understand, you resolved to mortify yourself before God, your words have been heard; and your words are the reason why I have come. The Prince of the kingdom of Persia has been resisting me for twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the Chief Princes, came to my assistance. I have left him confronting the kings of Persia and have come to tell you what will happen to your people in the final days. For here is a new vision about these days.’”

What does the angel say? He first draws Daniel’s attention to the fact that, because he has mortified himself before God, the angel was sent to help him. If God sends us an angel (and this is also true of St Michael) it is an answer to our humility and our request: “your words are the reason why I have come”. An angel, whose name we don’t know tells Daniel of his failure to defeat the King of Persia. Therefore, he needed St Michael: “one of the Chief Princes came to my assistance.” The angel needed the help of a greater angel to resolve a difficult situation. So, if an angel needs the help of another angel, what about us? We’re only humans, not angels. We, too, face difficult situations we cannot resolve on our own. We, too, need the help of St Michael. We, too, need St Michael’s assistance.

## Who keeps control?

Who was the Prince of the kingdom of Persia? Biblical scholars say that the title referred to a fallen angel who ruled the kingdom of Persia. The good angel was sent by God to defeat him but he couldn’t fulfil the mission. The Prince of the kingdom of Persia resisted for twenty-one days. And this was the moment St Michael came to his aid. The angel left St Michael “confronting the kings of Persia” and rushed to speak to Daniel. It turned out that it was St Michael who helped him fulfil God’s will. St Michael stayed there to keep the fallen angel under control.

In the picture look at the statue at the sanctuary in Monte Sant’Angelo, Gargano, Italy: the evil spirit is kept under control, like a dog on a leash and can move about only at a certain distance. To mind us, St Michael acts not only on one occasion, but has

continual control over the situation. This is why it is worth our while to entrust ourselves and any situation requiring continual and effective assistance, to him.

## St Michael the Great Prince

We read further: “but Michael, one of the Chief Princes, came to my assistance.” The word *Prince* is used here. We find this same term later, in chapter 10, verses 20-21. We read: “He then said, ‘Do you know why I have come to you? It is to tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. I must now go back to fight the Prince of Persia; when I have overcome him, the Prince of Javan will come next. In all this there is no one to lend me support except Michael your Prince.’” Such beautiful and entirely logical words. There is no other angel as strong as St Michael the Archangel. If there was any other, he would not be capable of offering assistance. Only he alone. In other words, he must be an exceptional angel within the whole angelic family, the hierarchy of creatures, the great host, as he commands such extraordinary power, which is emphasised so very clearly in the Bible.

At the beginning of chapter 12, we then read: “At that time Michael will arise – the great Prince, defender of your People. That will be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came in to existence.” This is a vision of the future.

So, what do we learn from this fragment from the Book of Daniel? St Michael is more than just a prince, he is a great prince! He enters the stage in the history of redemption

because great events are taking place. St Gregory the Great said that St Michael enters the history of salvation when exceptional events occur, events which have never occurred in the past. St Michael, the Great Prince!

Let us examine the concept of a prince in more detail. The word *prince* is associated with a royal family, such as that of Great Britain, for instance. A prince is not a king. But a prince is always close to a king and queen. St Michael is not a king. Christ is a king. Our Blessed Mother is a queen. St Michael the Archangel, thanks to his humility and obedience, was joined to the Divine royal family and now wears a crown that shows this belonging. The Divine royal family has one ultimate aim: to bring people to salvation and introduce the Divine Kingdom on earth as it is already in heaven.

St Michael made this aim his own and now puts all his power and efforts to bring the Kingdom of God, that is, justice, love, peace, joy in the Holy Spirit. He leads us all, as the people of God, in this direction. We are the Church of God and the Church was entrusted to St Michael's protection and assistance.

## Live as children of God

In one of the apparitions in Gargano St Michael left his footprint in the grotto, and it is the footprint of a child. It is as if he reminds us that we are not slaves but sons, as we are called to live as children of God. We do not belong to those forced to succumb to the actions of the Devil. St Michael leads us to new freedom and this freedom comes from Christ, our Redeemer.



## The scapular

Now let's consider the scapular of St Michael. It is a sacramental shaped like a shield. It is as if we are vested in a protective scapular. The scapular indicates the real presence of St Michael. Whosoever entrusts him or herself to him is protected by him. We can say that he creates a protective shield against the activity of the Evil One. It is he who gives us particular inner strength to fight temptations. This is why whoever wears the scapular should always do so with faith. Sacramentals have power when joined with our faith. The scapular is one thing St Michael invites us to wear. The other thing is to call on him on a daily basis. St Michael wants us to turn to him in our needs and fears. That is why the wearing of the scapular is associated with the daily duty of recitation of the exorcism prayer of Pope Leo XIII.

Recall what St Michael has done for us, of how he has permitted you to know him, what difficulties he has saved you from, what prayers he has answered. Perhaps he has been a shield in temptations or has come to your aid in hopeless situations? Just as we read in the Book of Daniel, there are situations in which no one can help, in which no one possesses the necessary power with the exception of our Great Prince, Michael.

Let us therefore call out to him together: 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.

Who is like God!

Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA



## I decided to fight

**M**y name is Mirek and I am 38 years old. Half a year ago I was a man that hit the bottle pretty hard. But one day I had a dream in which Christ came to me: he grabbed my hand and we said a prayer together. The next day I decided to fight my nasty addiction, the evil that caught up with me a long time ago.

I have been maintaining abstinence for over half a year. I regained the trust and happiness of my wife and children.

I regularly go to church and pray. The prayer that I have been saying since the beginning of my fight, which I am saying to this day and I will say until the end of my days, is the one to St Michael the Archangel. Every day I become stronger and wiser, recovering the forgotten feeling of freedom and love.

**Mirek, Poland**



Sergio Alves Santos, www.unsplash.com

## St Michael on the road

**P**raised be Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary. I would like to share my story about St Michael's intervention on the road. My family and I were returning from a winter holiday when we had a serious accident. The car was a total wreck. Miraculously, none of

the four of us in the car was hurt. During the accident I saw a white figure stopping the car coming directly toward us. I strongly believe it was St Michael the Archangel. I wear his scapular and entrust myself to him every day. I am pretty sure it was his protection. I would like to thank God and St Michael for saving my life and those of my relatives. God bless you.

**Anita**



Mira Kireva, www.unsplash.com

## St Michael brought me to Jesus

**I** first became aware of St Michael the Archangel when I converted to the Catholic faith seven years ago. Through the grace of God St Michael came into my life after ten years of total spiritual misery when I had turned my back on God and got involved in tarot cards, reiki and other New Age rituals. I led a life so bad and far away from God I cannot even talk about it. As a result I met a demon face to face. I experienced his real presence and saw him with my own eyes. That encounter tormented me for years. I bear the consequences of my past bad choices to this day.

What I can say from my experience is that God exists and so does Satan. The presence of God and the Evil One is not a matter of faith or lack of it but rather a matter of knowledge or ignorance as so little

is known about the seduction and dangers of New Age practices.

Among various New Age books there were also books about the angels. I read testimonies when people asked St Michael's help. It encouraged me to pray to him and ask for his protection for the first time in years. When I called on him, St Michael did not forget about me.

St Michael the Archangel answered my prayers very quickly, I remember it was during Lent. What a coincidence! I attended retreats led by a group of Renewal in the Holy Spirit. They prayed for my healing and deliverance, and changes began! A total revolution at home, at work, in my life!

I believe that St Michael brought me to Jesus and to confession which I needed like fresh air. He also showed me the miracle of the Eucharist.

Although he is a great warrior, he is also very modest, not self-centred but God-orientated. Thanks to St Michael and the Michaelite Fathers

I cleaned up my life, my house and threw away everything in my home involving the New Age. Then I had a feeling that St Michael withdrew with humility leaving Jesus at the centre of my heart.

Over the years I have appreciated St Michael and try not to forget him, his icon is at the entrance to my house and reminds me of his discreet protection.

St Michael does not forget about me in my daily spiritual battle.

After a few years I accepted the scapular of St Michael. For me it was very symbolic. St Michael stands by my side and I stand by his side. He changed my life completely.

Who is like God!

J.K., Poland



Elia Pellegri, www.unsplash.com

## We changed 'why us?' into 'how to bear it?'

### St Michael helped us understand the meaning of our cross.

We have been married for 23 years, but encountered St Michael only in 2017, when a copy of the Statue of St Michael visited one of the parishes in our town. It was the Blessed Virgin Mary who led us to that encounter, when we called on her assistance in our need. She heard our silent plea, as parents, when all else had failed.

### The prodigal son

We have a 21-year-old son, who has been the source of much suffering and worry. He lost faith, sunk into inappropriate company, alcohol and drugs, gave up on his studies, did not acquire any trade or profession and did not take up any kind of work. In addition to all that, he had casual sexual relationships with a number of partners, whom he would bring home and expect us to accept his right to behave in this way.

Nights spent away from home, negation of spiritual and moral values, difficulties, or rather a total breakdown in communication between us and verbal aggression – all became the norm in our home.

Our younger son also suffered, having lost all support or any normal relationship with his elder brother. We suffered, as parents, watching our son's spiritual decline and the lack of the sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion in his life. We also noticed that his negative behaviour



worsened the day before and during important religious feasts.

As people of faith, we looked for help in prayer. Times were difficult. My husband's six-month absence from home for work reasons, work responsibilities, the whole daily grind, made it all the harder to heal the situation. But Mary kept watch. In our youth, in the Marian Shines in Częstochowa and Loretto, we had dedicated our future as a couple to Her. We had always been 'Marian' and had a great desire for Our Blessed Mother to be present in our lives.

### Bad company as against the company of heaven

For 23 years we had belonged to the Neocatechumenal Way. The decision to leave it took root gradually. We asked for the grace of discernment, instinctively feeling that something was missing. We concluded that we needed a living faith, prayer of thanksgiving, praise and atonement for sin. We felt an unsaid desire to step out deeper in faith and to allow Our Lady and the Holy Spirit to lead us in the service of the Church. We prayed for this intention for two years. This was a period of spiritual dryness, crying out to God with the impression that He was silent.

The cross we had to bear in term of our son intensified this impression even more. Further sleepless nights filled with tears, pleas for help to Our Blessed Mother and to our son's guardian angel, to guard him from evil and lead him away from bad company. One day during intercessory prayer, when we made the Sign of the Cross, one of our son's friends suddenly turned in our direction and burst into horrifying, strident,

mocking laughter, we realised that our son was not alone...

That was the moment when it hit us that we could not cope on our own, but required a spiritual protector and leader. Yet again, we prayed. The answer came quickly. One day at work I saw a leaflet about the visit of the pilgrim statue of St Michael the Archangel to our town. It had come from my wife's work colleague, who was not particularly interested in it herself. Our hearts beat faster, as we now knew what it was that we needed. And so, in October of 2017, in the hitherto unknown to us parish church of St John Bosco, we came face to face for the first time with the archangel. We were very moved, spiritually, when we were vested with scapulars, bought the prayer book and learnt prayers which we had never previously known and which we then began to recite daily.

That was the beginning of our road with St Michael the Archangel and the angels. A few months later and hungry for greater knowledge of the subject, we searched the internet for more information about St Michael and his knights.

### A spiritual breakthrough

Something was pushing us. In June 2018, we came under the care of the nearest host of Knights of St Michael the Archangel in the parish of the Guardian Angels in Poznań. The leader of that host invited us to the angelic retreat, where Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA prayed, among others, the prayer of deliverance.

We had come on the retreat with the intention in our hearts for our son's conversion and his return to the Church, but it was we ourselves who

were delivered... From what? Over nine years of parenting difficulties, hurt and damaged as a family and as individuals, we had been unaware how far sin had damaged us. First came the question: "How had this happened? We had such a strong faith, were so God-fearing... How come our son had turned out like this?"

We had thrown our son out of the house several times, wanting him to grow up and stand on his own two feet. We frequently told him: "You've got your own free will, you're grown up, do what you like, you can't (emotionally) blackmail us any longer." Satan convinced us that we were bad parents, incapable of loving, and that the whole situation with our son was our fault. Add to that my husband's neuroses, fears and pains in his heart. We thought it was time to let go, or else the whole situation would "finish us off".

Then had come rage, hatred and anger, abandonment of our son, coldness and indifference – simple human powerlessness. Our spiritual decline had gone so far that we no longer reacted when our son threatened suicide or to leave home and never return. We wanted "peace at any price". Over time, our hearts had become closed and unfeeling.

All these neglects, failings and inappropriate reactions seemed to us natural and justified from our point of view as exhausted and suffering parents. However, during the prayer for deliverance at the angelic retreat they were made clear to us without excuse or justification. Shaken by our own behaviour, but purified in the Lord, we faced the truth about ourselves. It was a singular experience, as tears of purification flowed of their own accord during the prayer. Shamed souls wept.



Jack Sharp, www.unsplash.com

## A new intention

We returned from Poznań confirmed in the belief that we were on the right road. For us, the retreat had been a breakthrough. Peace of heart returned, together with sincere repentance, confession and reparation for our sins as parents against our son. We apologised to him and asked for his forgiveness. We started to bless our sons instead of complaining about them.

We then attended the National Pilgrimage to Jasna Góra with St Michael the Archangel. We no longer asked: "Why were we given this cross to bear?" One thing we knew: Our Lady and St Michael can bring good out of evil. God did not allow us this cross without good reason. We know, feel and discern it as a source of honour for our family. We started to thank and bless the Lord for granting us this cross. There had been too little thanksgiving in our life before. Through this cross we returned to the promises we had once made to Our Lady at Jasna

Góra, of which She had reminded us. There we consecrated ourselves to Her holy will, trusting that, through Her intercession, the Lord would grant the grace of a host of knights of St Michael the Archangel, to take up the fight against evil in our home town. Had it not been for our son, we would never have asked Her intercession in this intention.

On the Feast of Pentecost, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019, we made our promises and were officially accepted as Knights of St Michael the Archangel. Humbly entreating the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we entrusted ourselves to the Holy Spirit and to St Michael. We received many warm words and promises of prayer for our son and a lot of spiritual guidance during the talks and lectures. We experienced the power of prayer and the assurance that we were not alone.

It is not easy, we continue to fall and make mistakes, but we now know what road to take. Satan did all in his power that we should not attend this retreat. Our coach to Zakopane

was unexpectedly called off, which had never happened before. Our return home was also no bed of roses. During the same night we had spent at a prayer vigil before the Blessed Sacrament in Zakopane, there had been a party in our house, which had been vandalised, our furniture and items which had belonged to my late parents, damaged, and door handles pulled off. Coincidence? I doubt it.

And so, St Michael the Archangel had found us and the words: "Who is like God!" acquired a particular resonance. We wish to accept with humility all that each following day may bring and fulfil God's Holy Will. We're getting to work!!!

We would like to thank all the participants of the retreat for their prayerful support, and the leader of the host of St Michael for the time she has devoted to us and for leading us to St Michael. We also thank Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA for his spiritual direction and guidance.

**Alina and Maciej, Piła, Poland**





■ The Assumption of the Virgin by Francesco Botticini, circa 1475/76

# 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 counsellors 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

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 the 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 the 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.

**Noreen Bavister, UK**

# SCAPULAR INVESTITURE

## Rite of blessing and investiture of the Scapular of St Michael the Archangel.

Any priest or deacon can conduct the ceremony of blessing and bestowing of the Scapular of St Michael the Archangel according to the following ritual.

**V.** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**R.** Who made heaven and earth.

**V.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.

Almighty, everlasting God, who dost graciously defend thy Church from the wiles of the devil through St Michael the Archangel, we humbly implore thee to bless + and sanctify + this scapular introduced for arousing and fostering devotion among thy

faithful toward this great protector. And do thou grant that all who wear it may be strengthened by the same Holy Archangel, so as to vanquish the enemies of body and soul, both in this life and at the hour of death. Through Christ our Lord.

**P.** Let us pray.

Lord, look upon us praying and kindly hear the supplication of your servant dedicated to the special protection of St Michael the Archangel that through his intercession s/he may avoid any offence against you and may reach holiness in this life and after death the prize of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord.

**R.** Amen





# St Raphael cares for travellers and sick

**After returning and healing the blind Tobit, Azarias makes himself known as “the angel Raphael”.**

**F**rom the Book of Tobit, chapter 12 - When the wedding celebration was ended, Azarias called Tobit and his son, Tobias, and said to them, “I will now declare the whole truth to you and will conceal nothing from you. Already I have declared it to you when I said, ‘It is good to conceal the secret of a king, but to reveal with due honour the works of God.’ So now when you and Sarah prayed, it was I who brought and read the record of your prayer before the glory of the Lord, and likewise whenever you would bury the dead. And that time when you did not hesitate to get up and leave your dinner to go and bury the dead, I was sent to you to test you. And at the same time God sent me to heal you and Sarah your daughter-in-law. I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand ready and enter before the glory of the Lord.”

The two of them were shaken; they fell face down, for they were afraid. But he said to them, “Do not be afraid; peace be with you. Bless God forevermore. As for me, when I was with you, I was not acting on my own will, but by the will of God. Bless him each and every day; sing his praises. Although you were watching me, I really did not eat or drink anything - but what



■ Tobias and the Angel, in illustration in Gustave Dore's English Bible, 1866

you saw was a vision. So now get up from the ground and acknowledge God. See, I am ascending to him who sent me. Write down all these things that have happened to you.” And he ascended. Then they stood up, and

could see him no more. They kept blessing God and singing his praises, and they acknowledged God for these marvellous deeds of his, when an angel of God had appeared to them. (Tobias 12:11-22)

## Prayer to your guardian angel

Dear Angel at my side, my good and loyal friend, you have been with me since the moment I was born. You are my own personal guardian, given me by God as my guide and protector, and you will stay with me till I die. He who created you and me gave me to you as your particular charge. You assisted in great joy at my baptism, when I became part of the Mystical Body of Christ, and was made a member of the household of God and an heir of heaven. You saw the dangers that beset my path, and, if I sinned, it was in spite of you. You envied me when Christ came to me in Holy Communion. Even though you probably were there among the angels that adored Him the night that He was born, you have not been able to receive Him as I can.

O, help me to appreciate these gifts! Help me to realize, as you do, with every fibre of my being, that to serve Christ is to be a king! Help me steadfastly to avoid evil and do good and always guard my soul from sin. Protect me as well from physical evils as I go about my daily work.

You will be with me all my life, and at the hour of my death. Help me to face death bravely, patiently, with great love of God, knowing that it is only through death that I can come to Him in heaven! Then, come with me to my Judge, and when the hour of my salvation comes, take me home to my Father, God. Amen.

Taken from [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)

On the Feast of Archangels, next to St Michael and Gabriel, we also remember the Archangel St Raphael. The only biblical book that teaches us about him is a charming and sublime tale from the third or second century BC – the Book of Tobit in the Old Testament.

It contains a story about an Israeli family of the Naphtali tribe, in captivity in Nineveh, the capital of Assyria. Tobit, the head of the family, was a wealthy, respected and pious man. During the persecution of the Jews, he buried the abandoned corpses of those who had been murdered, for which he fell into disfavour with the Assyrian king. Moreover, tragedy came into his own life. He lost not only his property but also his sight. His wife, burdened with concern for supporting the family, treated him with reluctance. The sick Tobit sent his son, young Tobit, to Reges, to his friend Gabael, to bring the money deposited with him.

The second plot leads to Ekbatana, to the home of Raguel, whose daughter Sara lost seven husbands in turn as a result of the sinister action of the demon Asmodeus. Both figures: Tobias, the father, and Sarah, in their despair asked God to let them die (Tobit 3:6; 13-15). In response to their prayer, Raphael is sent to heal both.

At the beginning of his mission he appears in human form, taking the common name of Azarias. He offers himself to young Tobit as the guide and companion for the road from Nineveh to Reges in Media. On the river Tigris Raphael saves Tobit from a big fish and, after killing it, he instructs Tobit to take the bile, heart and liver out of it. Upon arriving in Ekbatana, he advises Tobit to marry Sarah, Raguel's daughter, whom he

frees from the evil spirit. We find here a beautiful scene in which Tobit asks his future wife to pray together with him, asking God for deliverance and blessing.

After the marriage, Tobit asks Raphael to go to Gabael to collect the debt. The archangel advises young Tobit to go home, and upon his return, to smear his father's eyes with the bile of the fish, so that he can regain his sight.

When, finally, the overjoyed father and son wanted to generously reward St Raphael the Archangel, known to them as Azarias, and show him sincere gratitude, the guest introduces himself to them as follows, "I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand ready and enter before the glory of the Lord" (Tb 12:15).

This is how the charming story of St Raphael and the happy family of Tobit ends. It can be included among the great didactic literature of the Middle East. That was where the cult of St Raphael the Archangel developed and from there later came to the West. Quite vague beginnings of this western devotion date back to the time of Pope Sergius (687-701). In the fifteenth century, Raphael's patronage over travellers is clearly visible. This cult developed in the centuries following. From 1969 he is remembered together with the Archangels Michael and Gabriel on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Let the good God, our Father, always send us St Raphael – the patron of travellers and the sick, that he may protect us from all adversities and lead us to the place where the Lord will meet us.

Fr **Rafał Kamiński** CSMA  
Canada



# Blessed Fr Bronisław Markiewicz on love

The Michaelite fathers celebrate the 100th anniversary of establishment of their Congregation of St Michael the Archangel. On this occasion we would like to introduce a spiritual life of its founder, Bl Fr Markiewicz.

## Part of forward

*The purpose of this book is to provide a glimpse into the life of our founding father Blessed Father Bronisław Markiewicz.*

*Throughout his ministry he continually strove to understand and discern the will of God in his life, where it was God wanted him to be and what God him wanted to do.*

*The texts in the book are written in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are taken from his personal journey and, as such, Blessed Bronisław probably never intended them to be made public. In a sense they are a reflection of his spiritual journey, personal prayers and conversations with the Lord seeking guidance and direction.*

*These personal notes that were found are being shared in order to give people a greater insight and understanding of who he was and of his spiritual journey as a priest.*

*The Michaelite Fathers of the North American Vice Province took on this project to share the passion of the founder, on this the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the official recognition of their community by the Church.*

Fr **Andrzej Kowalczyk** CSMA,  
Superior

## Daily reflections on love

Love of God does not consist in accepting gifts from Him. We do not go to say prayers to please our Lord, but to love and serve Him. Consolation in prayer only serves to fortify us in a small way on the road to eternity.

\*\*\*

When we approach God who is infinite perfection and unquenchable love, we must become like Him, grow in fire and zeal and increase in perfection.

\*\*\*

God alone deserves to be better known, loved and served. Only to Him should we give our love completely and without limit.

\*\*\*

The love of God is the greatest treasure through which God Himself remains and dwells in us and we in Him.... When our Creator lives in us, we also have all the things He created and then "I shall delight in the Lord, rejoice that He has saved me" (Psalm 35:9).

\*\*\*

The more God humbled Himself for us, the greater the proof He gave of His love for us. And it is His immeasurable humility and His infinite love that binds us to Him. If faith did not convince us, who would believe that God could deign to become as small as man is, out of love for us.

\*\*\*

To persevere in God's grace, to sanctify ourselves and save our souls, we must be motivated by the love of God as well as by the fear of God. Contemplation of the infinite love of Jesus, we must therefore awake in us a love for Him not only in our hearts but also in our deeds united with external and internal sufferings. By doing this we imitate Christ in carrying our cross.

\*\*\*

Only those who do not know Jesus, do not know Him. Having known our Saviour thoroughly one cannot resist His love.

\*\*\*

Jesus, our Lord loves us more than any son loves his mother and more than any mother loves her son – to



such an extent that he would eagerly die for any soul threatened with condemnation only on condition that it was worthy of accepting the gift of redemption.

\*\*\*

Oh, my Lord, You are my Love. You are everything to me. Give me the grace of perseverance in goodness. Jesus, I trust in You.

\*\*\*

You love me, inconceivable God, You want the Heavenly Father to be worshiped by me, what unheard of kindness. You crave my love and my wretched and miserable heart; you want to embrace and enclose it in your heart. I give myself entirely to You and put myself entirely at Your disposition. I know in whom I put my trust.

\*\*\*

For Jesus any cross or suffering is sweet to me. I take it upon myself willingly, not only for the delight He has promised, but much more because I love Him with all my heart as

my only and greatest good, in which any other good is comprised.

\*\*\*

God is the highest good, worthy of all love. I do not, therefore, wish to insult him with any sin because it is the most awful offence against His Sanctity and Excellence.

\*\*\*

Repeat constantly in your heart – “I am nothing, less than nothing” – respect Jesus Christ in your neighbour, rest in the Crucified Jesus, do your best to love the Cross: Oh, Cross, my sweetness!

\*\*\*

God lives in your neighbour, recognise Jesus Christ in each and every person.

\*\*\*

Love is mankind’s greatest strength which can overcome everything.

**Noreen Bavister**

Some quotes from Daily Reflections  
with Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz  
ISBN 978-83-7019-696-7

## Prayer of canonisation of Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz

Lord our God, You choose people to be the instruments of Your unfailing goodness, raise into glory of sainthood Your servant Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz, for his concern for the salvation of people especially abandoned children.

Grant through his intercession the grace of ..... (name your request). In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be to the Father)



## St Michael a powerful ally

Is peace to be found in conflict?  
Is love to be found in hate?  
Can we dismiss other faiths, others' values?  
Has love thy neighbour just come too late?

Is the path that we choose  
constructive?  
Would care start to open some doors?  
Or will we just all be destructive?  
Closed minds and resentment galore?

Could a Pandemic bring us together?  
A focus for all to agree.  
A time to share our resources?  
Set aside all the hate that we see!

Respect for all is essential!  
An open mind, now that is the key.  
Don't look to others to show us the way,  
The change that we need starts with ME.

Is there a time on this earth for love?  
Can our cultures reconcile?  
If we try hard can we do it?  
It's possible, but might take a while!

Could our faith in God be the clue  
With the Angels and Saints on our side?  
Would St Michael just know what to do  
A powerful ally against evil provide.

© John P McGrory, Scotland

## Under the protection of St Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel reveals himself today as a gift of the Merciful Father for the salvation of the whole of mankind. While evil gathers strength, lost and directionless human beings, indifferent to eternal values, retreat into egoism and live for the day, and while false prophets offer a world without God, the Creator once again shows His boundless love for His children, sending them the protection of the Great Archangel. His uncompromising stand for God holds back and disables the powers of evil, restoring order to creation, is a source of strength and enthusiasm for the faithful, enabling them to shape the world according to the Will of the Creator.

His love of and awareness of the significance of his mission to the whole of humanity has caused St Michael the Archangel, in the form of the copy of the figure from the miraculous grotto in Monte Sant' Angelo in Italy, using the Michaelites as his agents, to set out on a journey to meet people. Poland, where he has hitherto visited over 800 parishes, has been particularly marked out in his mission. By means of his presence in particular places in our country, he stands close to each person and intercedes for them: grounding them in the faith, making them aware of the good, supports them in prioritising right values in their lives, convinces the doubtful, strengthens the weak, brings unity to married couples and families, extricates souls mired in sin, restoring the purity of their hearts, frees people from captivity. Over 375,000 people, convinced of the effectiveness of

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heavenly intervention and the constant protection of the archangel, have been invested with the scapular of St Michael. The number of those with a devotion to the archangel, as well as Knights of St Michael the Archangel, is constantly growing.

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Part of the foreword by Fr **Dariusz Wilk**  
Superior General of the Congregation of  
St Michael the Archangel

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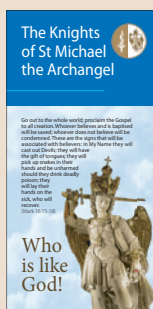
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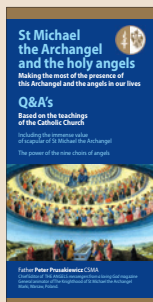
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St Faustina is full of wonder, respect, reverence and admiration for St Michael the Archangel. The fundamental and only reason behind such an attitude is, as she is at pains to stress, the fact that he did the will of God. He is for her the angel resplendent in his wonder and boundless humility towards the Creator. He is the angel who gazes at God with love, who learns the will of God and courageously carries it out.



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form inside middle of magazine**



# 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

## 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.

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.



■ Figure of St Michael the Archangel