



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021

WHAT DOES OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL DO AFTER WE DIE?

Fr. Antonio Maria Cardenas, ORC

www.aleteia.org

"A guardian angel's mission does not end with death; it continues until we achieve union with God"

Regarding guardian angels, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches in number 336 that "from infancy to death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession."

It is clear from this text that we enjoy the protection and vigilance of our guardian angels even at the moment of death. These angels don't only accompany us in this earthly life; their action extends into the next life.



In order to understand the relationship that continues to exist between angels and human beings during our passing from this life to the next, we must understand that angels have been "sent to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation" (Hebrews 1:14). Similarly, Saint Basil the Great teaches that no one can deny that "beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life" (CCC 336).

That is to say the primary mission of guardian angels is the salvation of mankind: that each of us enters the life of union with God. This mission includes the assistance that guardian angels give to souls at the moment when they present themselves before God.

The Fathers of the Church speak of this mission when they say that guardian angels are present with the soul at the moment of death, and protect it from the last attacks of demons.

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga (1568–1591) taught that at the moment when the soul leaves the body, it is accompanied and consoled by its guardian angel so that the soul can present itself confidently before the Judgment Seat of God. The angel, according to this saint, presents the merits of Christ so that the soul can find support in them at the moment of its particular judgment. Once the Divine Judge has pronounced his sentence, if the soul is sent to purgatory, it will be visited frequently by its guardian, who will comfort and console it, bringing the prayers that have been offered for it, and assuring the soul of its future liberation.

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FEASTS FOR OCTOBER

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of October are:

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| 1 Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Memorial | 18 Feast of Luke, Evangelist, Feast |
| 2 Holy Guardian Angels, Memorial | 19 John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues and Companions (USA), Memorial |
| 3 Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 20 Paul of the Cross, Opt. Mem. |
| 4 Francis of Assisi, Memorial | 22 John Paul II, Opt. Mem. |
| 5 Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos, priest; St. Faustina Kowalska, virgin, Opt. Mem. | 23 John of Capistrano, Opt. Mem. |
| 6 Bruno; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher (USA), Opt. Mem. | 24 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday |
| 7 Our Lady of the Rosary, Memorial | 28 Feast of Simon and Jude, Apostles, Feast |
| 10 Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 31 Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday |
| 11 St. John XXIII, Opt. Mem. | |
| 14 Callistus I, Opt. Mem. | |
| 15 Teresa of Jesus, Memorial | |
| 16 Hedwig; Margaret Mary Alacoque; Marguerite d'Youville (Canada), Opt. Mem. | |
| 17 Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | |

The feasts of St. Ignatius of Antioch (October 17) and St. Anthony Mary Claret (October 24) are superseded by the Sunday liturgy. ☐

THANK YOU

... a small and simple phrase that comes from a grateful heart!

Psalm 106:2

*Lord God, thank you for the gift of life and thank you for blessing us every day.
I am very grateful for everything you have given my family.
Linda M.*

*Abba Father, thank you for guiding me, and restoring me!
Hold me close, Father, and help me fulfill your will for me and through me.
I want to glorify and honor You!
Marcella Anne*

OUR CENACLE CORNER

Seeking a deeper relationship with God
through meditation of passages from Holy Scriptures

Angels & Levels of Hell

GOD TOUCHED ME

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.
Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. — 1 Chronicles 16:24*

BY THE POWER OF GOD, YOU ARE HEALED THROUGH FAITH

JOHN 17:11-12

By Vic B., a devotee

I endeavor to write a complete account of my spiritual journey but it may be unlikely to do so, partially because I do not wish to lose focus on my intentions; and partially because in such a relatively short period of time, I have witnessed many wonderful sacred events. I hope that the things I do write will present an accurate rendition of the events that were most critical in changing my life. And most of all, I pray that this account be one of the means by which another soul can come to the truths and joys that I have experienced.

I was raised a Catholic and I thought at that time that I was being a good practicing Catholic. Although, I did not go to a Catholic school, I went to church every Sunday and every Holy Day of Obligation; and even attended the Nine days of "Simbang Gabi" – waking up at 4:00 a.m. so I can be in church for the 5:00 a.m. mass. I would tie a string around my big toe and let the string hung outside the window so that my friends could pull the string and wake me up for the mass at dawn. My intentions at that time were just to bond with my friends, flirt with the girls and enjoy the Filipino delicacies such as puto bumbong, suman, bibingka, etc. which were sold by hawking vendors outside the church premises. I got married in a Catholic church; and attended some church services I was invited to. This was the gist of my Catholic life.

My spiritual journey changed a few years after my wife and I moved to Las Vegas, Nevada. Who would have thought that it would have turned for the better in, of all places, Las Vegas! Sin City!

One day, Mila, my wife's nurse manager, invited us to attend the 2000 Hail Mary devotional prayers she was hosting. My wife accepted but she could only go for a short time because she was scheduled to work the swing shift that day. 2000 Hail Mary's? Noooo, that's impossible. I thought, praying one rosary is already long. 2000 Hail Mary's seemed impossible. I could not fathom how they could count the 2000 Hail Mary's while praying. For me, when praying one rosary, I would lose count. With some hesitation, I took my wife there because she does not drive

far. I went in and carried the food to the kitchen. I stood in the back feeling quite uncomfortable and was just observing.

When it was time for my wife to leave for work, we both left. Mila asked me to come back. I just said "Yes" with no intention of going back. After dropping off my wife, I went home, watched TV, took a nap and planned to go to the casino to have a drink or two with my friends. Close to 4:00 p.m., I felt that I should go back to Mila's house. I was not sure if it was just for curiosity, but it seemed like someone was telling me to go back.

At Mila's house, I stood close to the door thinking to myself that it was the best place to be so I can leave whenever I wanted without a lot of people noticing. This time, holding the 100 beads, I joined in the prayers. I was asked to lead but I refused as I was feeling awkward. Up to this time, I still cannot understand what happened, but I stayed till the end of the prayers. The devotees asked me to join them again and I said yes. In retrospect, I was feeling very receptive to their invitations.

The next 2000 Hail Mary was at the Cenacle House at the Enclave on Sahara, and I was there at 5:00 a.m. and the first to arrive. From that time on, everything seemed to move on fast forward. I found myself driving with Mila and another couple to Laughlin for the First Saturday devotion, driving back to Las Vegas in time for the Las Vegas First Saturday Devotion at Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church and for religious study at the Cenacle House. Every First Saturday and 2000 Hail Mary prayer days are now dedicated to God and Mother Mary – leaving the house at 4:00 a.m. and going home at 9:00 p.m.

Another turning point came when Mila advised me to attend mass every morning. St. Francis de Sales Church is just next door to me yet for three years of living in Las Vegas, I never thought of attending mass daily. Following Mila's advice, I attended daily mass. One morning after mass, a Filipino sacristan named Gerry, approached me and asked if I would like to help out. I readily accepted. They trained me to be a Sacristan, Eucharistic Minister and

finally, Minister for the Homebound at Lifecare Center, a nursing home facility that caters mostly to the elderly – some with Alzheimer’s disease. Needless to say, Gerry and I have become best friends; and now, I have a key to St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church. Every day, I am at the church at 5:30 a.m. to open it and prepare it for the 7:30 a.m. Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

During these times, I was touched and impressed by many of the devotees’ sharing of their spiritual journey and how they have overcome their trials and tribulations. In this regard, I feel it is time for me to bear my own testimony of a great miracle from God. It was during the 2008 Infant Jesus Celebration in Las Vegas when I was called in to go inside the little chapel of the church where the celebration was held. A man, who I will refer to as The Helper, prayed over me. Months before this, my ophthalmologist told me that I needed retina surgery as my vision was going bad. I was afraid to drive especially at night because I could hardly see. The doctor further advised me not to go to the Philippines because the high altitude on the plane could burst the veins in my eyes and would worsen my situation. The Helper, however, told me that I could proceed with my plans to go to the Philippines. He even told me to go to a store in the mall to buy the statue of The Infant Jesus. I think of malls as places to shop for clothes, shoes, etc. Who would have thought that a shop in the mall would

carry a religious statue! But there it was and so I bought it. We always bring this Baby Jesus on First Saturdays both to Laughlin and Las Vegas; and on 2000 Hail Mary devotion days.

Several days after the pray over, I was on the plane to the Philippines. Upon my return, I had my scheduled appointment with my ophthalmologist and after examining me, he said that I don’t need surgery anymore. My vision was 20/20 and upon further examination, he declared that my retina was normal. He told me to continue doing what I have been doing. I know for a fact that it was God’s healing miracle that did it. I could not thank God enough. I immediately prayed and thanked Him profusely.

I have had experienced many miracles in my life but this one I wrote about has propelled me to greater heights in my spiritual journey. I know I still have to work on many aspects of my life, and I am trying hard. I keep praying to God through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, our Lady of First Saturday, of the angels and saints to give me the grace and strength to carry on, and overcome my trials and tribulations. I pray that I may be diligent in my life’s mission that I have before me, that I continue to grow spiritually, to trust in God and to truly endure. I pray that I may move forward towards the greater glory of God.☐

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

MY GUARDIAN ANGEL WHO PROTECTS

BY VICTOR ARANETA

When we're born, God assigns an Angel to protect us. This Angel will be our best friend who always designs our path toward the righteous so it will be easier for us to meet our Creator in heaven. Our guardian angels are meant to protect us and aid humans to give us spiritual help in time of needs. 1 Cor 4-9



These angels are in direct communication with God and are very conspicuous when and where they are needed most. During the Exodus, God instructed Moses that an Angel will be assigned their way and as they move through the desert, this Angel will instruct them what to do. Be very obedient to this angel because not following the instructions would

resort to an unforgiving move and angels cannot accept forgiveness from humans. Exodus 23:20-23.

So, let's all be obedient to the promptings of our guardian Angel for only through this are we assured of our flight into the heavenly kingdom of God.

Prayer: Angel of God my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen. ☐

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

1ST FRIDAY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 1, 2021 @ 9:30 PM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM

IN LAS VEGAS:
AT THE CENACLE HOUSE

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 2, 2021

MASS AT 10:00 AM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM

IN LAS VEGAS:
AT THE CENACLE HOUSE

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 3, 2021

IN LOS ANGELES:

THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS BEGIN
AT 10:15 AM

IN LAS VEGAS –
ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
LAS VEGAS, NV 89183

MASS AT 9:30 AM

FOLLOWED BY DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS
AT THE CHAPEL

2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

IN LAS VEGAS:

OCTOBER 16, 2021

AT THE CENACLE HOUSE

IN LOS ANGELES:
OCTOBER 16, 2021, VIA ZOOM

WHAT DOES OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL DO AFTER WE DIE?

“... if the soul is sent to purgatory, it will be visited frequently by its guardian, who will comfort and console it, bringing the prayers that have been offered for it, and assuring the soul of its future liberation.

In this way it is understandable that the help and mission of the guardian angel does not end with the death of those the angels protect. This mission continues until the soul reaches union with God.

Nonetheless, we must remember that after death we must face a particular judgment in which the soul in God’s presence may choose between opening itself to God’s love or definitively rejecting his love and forgiveness, thus renouncing joyful communion with him forever (see John Paul II, General Audience, August 4, 1999).

If the soul decides to enter communion with God, it joins its angel in praising the One and Triune God for all eternity.

Nonetheless, if it happens that the soul is “in a condition of being open to God, but still imperfectly, the journey toward full beatitude requires a purification, which the faith of the Church illustrates in the doctrine of ‘purgatory’” (John Paul II, General Audience, August 4, 1999).

In this case the angel, which is holy and pure and lives in the presence of God, neither needs nor can participate in the purification of its ward’s soul. What the guardian angel can and does do is intercede for its protected soul before the throne of God and seek help among the people on earth so as to bring prayers to its ward, in order that it may thus leave purgatory.

Those souls who decide to reject definitively the love and forgiveness of God, thus renouncing joyful communion with him for all time (John Paul II, General Audience, July 21, 1999), also renounce and reject the joyful friendship with their guardian angel. In this terrible situation the angel praises God’s divine justice and holiness.

In any of these three possible scenarios (heaven, purgatory or hell) the holy angel will always rejoice at God’s judgment, because the angel is perfectly and totally united to the divine will.

During these days, let us remember that we can join the guardian angels of those we love who have died, so the angels may take our prayers to God, and he may show his mercy. □



“I am your Mother Mary.

Everything has to happen. Many will fall into the trap of falsehood and deceit.

My children, God’s timing is precise, and it will happen and bring back the blessings to America. Those days of prosperity will come to America even before the chastisement.

Continue to pray. Pray. Pray my beads. Pray unceasingly my children. Unceasingly my children, for God is listening. Pray.

*Your Lady of the Rosary”
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