

OCTOBER 2, 2021
Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels
Matthew 18: 1-5, 10

“ANGEL OF GOD, MY GUARDIAN DEAR.”

If we really believe in God, we know that He will protect us always. He will use all means for us to be safe. We just need to do our part and believe. Guardian angels are protectors sent by God. In our Catholic belief, we are all guarded by angels. According to St. Jerome, a doctor of the Church, feast we celebrated last September 30, wrote in his commentary on the gospel of Matthew: “How great the dignity of the soul, since each one has from birth an angel commissioned to guard it.”¹ There is an angel assigned to each one of us, willing to lead, guide, and drive us to God. They are beside or in-front to shield and safeguard us from danger or evil.

“Belief in guardian angels was common among many cultures in ancient times. In the Old Testament the evidence of protecting angels is frequent. Some examples: an angel led Lot to safety before the destruction of Sodom; during the Exodus an angel is appointed as leader of the Israelites and God tells Moses, ‘My angel will go before you’ (today’s First Reading). There is the lovely story of the angel (Raphael) who took protective care of Tobias as he went in search of a bride and for medicine to heal his blind father (Book of Tobit). In Psalm 90:11 we read: ‘For to his angels he has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways.’ (Ironically, words used by Satan tempting Jesus to jump from the top of the Temple.) In the Book of Daniel (chap. 10) angels are entrusted to take care of particular districts. It is clear the Old Testament understood God’s angels as messengers carrying out his will, including the protection of people. In the New Testament angels are frequently the links between God and his people. So we have Jesus say: ‘See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that

¹ livingspace.sacredspace.ie

their angels in heaven always look up on the face of my heavenly Father, our gospel today (Matthew 18:10). There is the angel who consoled Jesus during his Agony in the Garden; it was an angel who delivered Peter from prison (Acts 12:6-10). And in the Letter to the Hebrews we read: 'Are they not all ministering spirits sent to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?' (Heb 1:14)²

My sisters and brothers,, the angels are God's own army for us to be safe from any evil forces. They will be with us everyday, we just need to acknowledge and follow them through our conscience and insights. As angels always help us, let us do the same to one another: be an angel, a guide, protector and instrument of good for others. When I was a child, I was taught by this prayer, and we are encourage to teach this prayer to our children. So, we pray:

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

Holy Guardian Angels, pray for us.

² ibid