



God Guides Us

Through the Holy Angels

This is the fifth in a series that examines the ways in which God guides us, with our focus here on the holy angels. In our culture, we tend to think of angels usually as small, ornamental cherubs, whereas in reality, they are powerful, brilliant beings.

Based upon numerous historical events in the Bible and our Catholic Tradition handed down from the Apostles, the Church teaches that we are surrounded by the watchful care and intercession of angels. Angels glorify God without ceasing and serve His saving plans uniquely in providing guardianship and guidance for each person.

Angels are spiritual beings; they are persons, but without bodies. Angels are servants and messengers of God. “Beside each believer stands a guardian angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* – hereafter CCC, paragraph 336). God desires nothing more than that we receive His boundless love and be saved by Him. Angels have served and continue to serve this accomplishment of God’s plan, aiding us in our journey – to guide and keep us on track.

Here is one example from the New Testament: “On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. There was a violent earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and rolled back the stone. His appearance was like lightning,

and his clothes were white as snow. For fear of him, the guards trembled and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. Go quickly and tell His disciples: He has risen from the dead and is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him” (Mat. 28:1 -7).

It is helpful to understand that there are good angels and bad angels and how this came to be. “The Church teaches that Satan was at first a good angel, made by God: The devil and the other demons were created naturally good by God, but they became evil by their own doing,” by freely choosing, with clear and full understanding, to reject God. Satan and the fallen angels are creatures, powerful from the fact that they are pure spirits, but still creatures,” subject to the Creator God (CCC 391, 395). The fallen angels seek to **mislead** us; they accuse us, they lie to us and tempt us to reject and hate God in an effort to draw us away from Jesus and His desire for our destiny with Him forever. With the help of God’s grace and through the **guidance** and assistance He provides us through His holy angels, we are strengthened to engage in this continuous battle for our souls.

A good way to keep an awareness of the reality of the presence of our Guardian Angel is to pray the “Angel of God” prayer often. We can ask for

light that allows us to see God’s good way (rather than darkness); to be guarded (rather than being left defenseless); to be ruled by being in line with the Word of God (rather than wandering aimlessly); and to be guided with specific directions for personal circumstances.

We will know that we are following the direction of good angels because their guidance will always be in sync with God’s Word in the Scriptures and teachings of the Church and will bring peace, joy and the confirmation of other faithful Christians. We see this through a true story of a healing experience of Brother Andrew, a Dutchman who spent much of his life smuggling Bibles behind the Iron Curtain. Despite all the good he had done, Brother Andrew couldn’t shake the shame he felt for his part in having been among the Dutch soldiers sent to fight the people of Indonesia. It took an encounter with an angel to free him from that burden. To read the complete story and another true story regarding the guidance of angels, go to diolc.org/catechesis/bulletin-inserts.

What an incredible gift it is that throughout the span of our lives, we have the watchful care and intercession of angels. Let us be open to receiving the guidance of these angels whom God has assigned to us!

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