

Angel of God called to Agar from Heaven, saying, "What art thou doing, Agar? Fear not, for God hath heard the voice of the boy."—*Gen. XXI*, 17. Again, "an Angel of the Lord from Heaven called to him, saying, Abraham, Abraham, lay not thy hand upon the boy, neither do thou anything to him. . . ."—*Gen. XXII*, 11, 12. Now we see the matter becoming more interesting and encouraging; for here we have the Bible witnessing two instances of Heaven's inhabitants engaged in active service for the benefit of people on earth. Cannot the Saints, who are like the Angels, assist us too? May not our friends in Heaven, who, as we have seen, are looking at us with loving sympathy, also be able to assist us by their prayers? Why not? They share "the ministry of Angel power;" and: "The Angel of the Lord answered and said, O Lord of Hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Juda, with which Thou hast been angry? This is now the seventieth year."—*Zach. I*, 12. And *Tobias XII*, 12: "When thou didst pray with tears, and didst bury the dead by night, I offered thy prayer to the Lord." It was the Archangel Raphael that said this to Tobias.

The Fathers of the Church are unanimous in the propagation and defense of this touching doctrine. Only a few can be cited, but their testimony, apart from their authority as teachers, shows the teaching of the Church in her earliest history. Origen says expressly that "all the Angels and blessed souls befriend those that serve God, and they know who are in His favour."—*Against Celsus*, p. 949. Hear Saint Gregory the Great in *Dial.*, C. 33: "Because all the Saints see God, what is it they do not know there, where they know Him who knows all things." Though we might cite many others, we claim all the Fathers, and seal our claim with the apostrophe of the great Augustine to one of our most illustrious saints and martyrs, Paul, with a reference to his participation in the death of the Proto-martyr, St. Stephen.—*Serm.* 316, *Sect.* 5. "You reign with Christ together with him whom you stoned. You both now see us, you both hear this, my discourse. I desire you both to pray for us." And St. Asterius, Bishop of