

Angels! St. Bernard sums them up in three pithy sentences. First, we owe them *respect for their presence*. "Wherever you are," he adds, "remote from the eyes of men, in an inn or on the public thoroughfare, reverence your Angel's presence. Dare not to do before him what you would not dare do before me." By respecting the presence of your good Angel you worship the presence of God, "for their Angels always see the face of my Father in Heaven."

Secondly, we owe them *gratitude for their favors*. What evils, both of soul and body, do they not protect us against! How many escapes from temptation, accidents, mistakes in life, dark and ruinous paths, do we not owe to them! What blessings have we not reaped from their care and intercession! We should not forget their kindness nor fail to give them marks of our thankfulness, especially on their feast-day.

Thirdly, we owe them *confidence for their protection*. With an Angel of Heaven watching beside us day and night, defending us from our invisible foes, always praying for us before the face of God, why should we fear? They are true, wary and powerful, why should we tremble? "The Angel of the Lord shall encamp round about them that fear Him." Let us place our trust in them, and "we shall dwell in the protection of the God of Jacob."

The Church gives a special feast on October 2nd to the Guardian Angels that we may pay them our loving homage, and the whole month to all the Angels that we may cherish devotion to them.