

## OUR GUARDIAN ANGELS

St Bernard says there are three ways by which we ought to honour our guardian angels: " by reverence, by devotion, by confidence. "

By reverence, because these holy spirits and princes of heaven are always present with us, and assist us in all our actions. Out of regard to our guardian angels, we ought carefully to refrain from every action which can displease them. St Frances, widow of Rome saw that the angel who attended her in a human form, covered his face with his hands, every time that he observed any improper action or word in any one in conversation. O my guardian angel, how many times have I, by my sins, obliged you to cover your face ! I ask your forgiveness, I am resolved to offend neither God nor you any more by my negligences.

In the second place, we ought to honour our guardian angels by devotion to them, on account of the respect which they deserve, and the love they have for us. No love of father, brother, or friend, can equal the love they have for each one of us. No motive of interest, our guardian angels love us solely from motives of charity; and hence, when we are in difficulties, they assist us and cease not to help us after we have rebelled against God. Then they will endeavour to enlighten us; in order that we may soon return to God by repentance. Oh, how much do I thank you, my holy guardian, for the lights which you have communicated to me! Continue to enlighten me, and do not forsake me unto the last moment of my life.

In the third place, we ought to have great confidence in the assistance of our good angels. God's love for us was not satisfied with giving us His Son, Jesus, for our redeemer, and Mary for our advocate; He has been pleased to give us also His angels to be our guardians, and has communicated them to assist us during the course of our lives. O God of infinite mercy, what more canst Thou do for me that I may be saved ? I thank Thee, O my Lord; and I thank you also, O Prince of Paradise, my good angel, who for so many years hast assisted and protected me. O my good angel, guide me in the way to Heaven, and cease not to assist me, until you dehold me become your eternal companion in the kingdom of Heaven.