

## Month of the Guardian Angels.

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ANGELS are pure spirits employed by the Creator to direct His other creatures and to carry out His orders. God, in His great love for man, has not only delegated His holy angels to be the protectors of cities, provinces and kingdoms, but He has also given to each human being in particular a prince of the heavenly court to guide him on the path of life, to relieve his wants and to protect him from his enemies. This protector is the Guardian Angel.

What tenderness and what solicitude God shows to us! He has commissioned one of those heavenly spirits to accompany us at all times and in all places, day and night, at home and abroad; to be with us constantly, even when we commit sin, at which he shudders, when we are unfaithful to his inspirations and rebel against his guidance. What goodness on God's part! What an honor for us! And at the same time what an advantage such a companionship is for us!

This angel's mission is to guard our interests as he would his own, and to do for us a thousand acts of kindness. When we pray he bears our requests to God, and brings back God's gifts to us. When we are in sorrow he consoles us with the good thoughts he pours into our souls. No matter what state we are in he watches over us as over a brother; he bears us in his arms as a loving mother does her child; snatches us from the perils of life and finds a way for us out of the most difficult situations; he is for us what the guide is for the traveller, the physician for the sick man, the shepherd for his sheep, the father for his children, the faithful friend for the one he loves.

Whence come those lights which enliven our faith, those movements which impel us to do good, those blissful moments when the heart feels the need of giving itself all to God? Ah! that is the work of God's angels, and when they have been successful they rejoice in Heaven. In the "Dream of Gerontius" the angel sings a song of thanksgiving when the soul entrusted to his care has been faithful to the end.

My work is done,  
My task is o'er;  
And so I come,  
Taking it home,  
For the crown is won,  
Alleluia!  
For evermore.

My Father gave  
In charge to me  
This child of earth,  
E'en from its birth,  
To serve and save,  
Alleluia!  
And saved is he.

We should then accept most gladly the kindnesses of the angels, listen to their good inspirations, and dread, as a great misfortune, resistance to them.

If the Guardian Angels have a mission to fulfil towards us, we in turn owe duties to them.

We should respect our Guardian Angel. The great ones of this world and holy men and women have a right to our respect; how much more then ought we to respect the princes of Heaven and the officers of God's house. How grievous a fault it is to be heedless of their presence. How much more grievous to do before them what we would not do before a respectable person. Since our good angel is with us everywhere, we should remember it everywhere; and that thought should keep us within the bounds of duty and make us avoid every word and every deed that would be unworthy of so august a presence. We should love our Guardian Angel. And why not love such a benefactor, such a friend so devoted, so holy, so perfect? Why not declare to him a thousand times a day our love? Why not thank him for his company, for his kindness, for the good thoughts he gives us and for the good sentiments with which he inspires us.

We should speak to him. When we really love a friend and have the happiness to live with him, we salute him and speak to him; we tell him of our joys and sorrows, we pour our heart into his. We do not love our Guardian Angel if we pass whole days and nights and do not speak to him, or lay our hearts open to him, or pay our respects to him; or, again, if we do not salute him in the morning on waking, or in the evening before going to sleep, to ask him to love and adore God during the night in our stead; if in our difficulties and in our moments of languor and vexation, in our struggles and our illnesses, both of mind and body, we do not call on him for aid; if, finally, in our journeys we do not salute the Guardian Angels of the places through which we pass, and in our dealings with others do not perform some act of honor to their Guardian Angels.

We should imitate our good Angel: at church we should imitate his profound reverence before the tabernacle; at prayer his recollection and piety; at work his union with God; in our temptations his glorious combats against the evil one; in the practice of charity his support of the wrongs and of the defects of our neighbors, his patience, his sweetness, his eagerness to render service, his devotedness in all things; his conformity to the will of God, his rectitude of intention, his purity and spotlessness of life.

*Indulgent Prayer.*—O Angel of God, who, through Divine goodness and charity, has been constituted my guardian, enlighten and protect, direct and govern me. Amen.