

July 24, 2016

But Nobody Ever Told Me... XX

Tradition is surprisingly fragile. Once a link of the chain is broken, it is extremely difficult to reattach—and if it effects a second link—almost impossible. What often happens in many disciplines is that an older generation assumes that the younger generation knows how and why certain things are done. We can see this in everything from sports practices to cooking recipes.

The Enemy and spiritual warfare

This part of our “But Nobody Ever Told Me...” series has been about the Devil and his crew and their intentions toward you. “Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for (someone) to devour. Resist him, steadfast in faith, knowing that your fellow believers throughout the world undergo the same sufferings. (1Pt 5:8,9)

He (the Enemy) is a formidable foe. In fact, purely in the order of our Natures human and angelic, he is absolutely invincible to us. He is practically infinitely more intelligent, more powerful, and is not limited by a physical body—much less a mortal one. It is not an even or fair fight. Nevertheless, this does not mean that we cannot fight. The fact of the matter is that we must fight. So how do we?

St. Michael the Archangel is usually depicted as Conan the Barbarian with wings. That is misleading. His strength is not physical or force of will. When he resisted Satan and cast him out of Heaven, it was not an even or fair fight. (Rv 12:7,8)

Lucifer was the highest (most powerful) Seraph. The Seraphim are the highest of the nine Choirs of Angels. Michael was a member of the lowest Choir. However, despite the unevenness (like an ant challenging a planet) the strength for victory was given to him by God because of his love of and trust in God. Michael means “Who is like God?!” which is what St. Michael said to Lucifer when his rebellion was openly declared. St. Michael stepped forward with great confidence because of his love of God (defending His honor) and trust in Him. The victory was very similar to that of David and Goliath. (1Sam 17:23-47)

Our fight must be fought with those same parameters. We must love God, hate evil and trust that God will be with us when we must fight. We don’t go around picking fights, but neither ought we to flee them.

Our weapons and allies: all Holy Angels (especially St. Michael and our Guardian Angel(s); the Blessed Mother (who is Queen of all Angels—including complete authority over fallen angels); St. Joseph and many other saints; the Virtues of humility, obedience, and love; sacramentals like Holy Water, Rosary, Brown Scapular; and prayer(s).

Familiarize yourself with the “Prayer to St. Michael” and the “Storm Prayer to Mary, Mistress Over all Darkness.” Look them up on-line.

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