

July 31, 2016

But Nobody Ever Told Me... XXI

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

Last week we spoke briefly about weapons and allies: all Holy Angels (especially St. Michael and our Guardian Angel(s); the Blessed Mother; St. Joseph and many other saints; the Virtues of humility, obedience, and love; sacramentals like Holy Water, Rosary, Brown Scapular; and prayer(s). Let's look at this a bit more closely.

It is the mission of Holy Angels to be of assistance to us (humans) in this world, to facilitate the 'running' of Creation, and to give constant praise and adoration to God in Heaven. There are nine Choirs of Angels, each with their particular 'realm'. The lowest of these are referred to simply as Angels. They are closest to and most like us and it is their specific mission to assist us. They are enormously helpful.

We each have a specific Holy Angel assigned to us called our Guardian Angel. Our Guardian Angel is assigned to us for the whole of our life and is our constant companion from our conception to death. They assist, guide, and protect.

Our strongest ally is our Blessed Mother. By virtue of her unparalleled humility and Grace, she is the opposite and victor over Lucifer. In fact she is his Queen and has both victory (Gn 3:15) and complete authority over him and his legions.

After Mary, the most powerful human ally is our father, protector, and guardian, St. Joseph. One of his titles is 'Terror of Demons'. Part of his mission was to be protector of the Holy Family, and so he is also protector of the Church—the Mystical Body of Christ, and all of its members.

The Enemy can and does imitate all virtues and charisms in order to infiltrate us and the Church. The only ones he **will not** ever imitate are humility, obedience, and sacrificial love. He cannot abide them. These can then be used both as a discernment of spirits in others as well as personal protection from his influence.

Finally, sacramentals are of great assistance, but they are not amulets of power. When you bless your self with Holy Water say: May the Blood of Christ cover us and wash away our sins. When you are invested in the Brown Scapular and wear it with devotion to Our Lady, you proclaim that you belong to her and anything done to you must be submitted to her authority. When you pray the Rosary, you release the power of the very words of the Incarnation (Lk 1:28; 42) and His Love into the world.

Fr. Michael