

FROM THE PASTOR
SEPTEMBER 25, 2022
TENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH PICNIC: Last Sunday, September 18th was our annual parish picnic. The picnic is a way of saying “thank you” to all our parishioners. We had a beautiful day weatherwise and close to 200 parishioners enjoyed an afternoon of good food, games, music, and, of course, the Mr. Softee truck with “endless” ice cream. I am most grateful to Deacon Ray, Mrs. Louise Shannon, the Knights of Columbus and Squires, the Marian Guild, and all who worked so diligently for this happy event. We are most grateful to Mr. Joe Palumbo who each year provides the Mr. Softee truck which is such a treat for the children (and the adults too). We are grateful to God Our Lord who blessed us with sunshine and a cool breeze.

THE HOLY ANGELS: This week I would like to write on an important truth of our Catholic faith, the Holy Angels. I do so because Thursday is the Feast of the Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. And October 2nd is the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels.

Each Sunday when we come to Holy Mass, we pray the Nicene Creed or the Profession of Faith. This prayer goes back to the year 325 and we should all rejoice in the fact that we profess the same faith that our ancestors have professed for centuries before us. In fact, many in our Church today may count among their ancestors the Holy Martyrs who shed their blood for the faith which we now profess.

Each week we say that *I believe in One God, the Father almighty maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.* What is meant by the phrase *invisible*? We know that God Our Lord has made everything that we see...all the animals, plants, and minerals of the visible order. But he has also created a vast creation that is invisible, that we cannot see. This is the order of the Angels.

Angles are intelligent creatures of the spiritual order. They do not have bodies and thus do not change. They are pure intelligence. They are purely spiritual and thus are invisible. That angels exist we are certain. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament speak constantly of the presence and work of the angels. God promised Moses that he need not fear about leading the Chosen People from Egypt, because *My angel will go before you.* And it was the Holy Angels who ministered to Our Divine Savior during His fast of forty days in the desert.

Since the angles are pure spirits without a body they may not be seen. The Holy Angels are invisible but when God gives them a mission on earth they appear in a visible form. Often, they are seen as young men as they were at the tomb of Our Lord on the first Easter morning. In art they are pictured with wings simply to remind us of how they may travel in speed from one place to another. Since the angels cannot change, they were not given the grace of the redemption as was the human race. The wonder of our glorious human nature is that we can change; we can repent. The angels cannot change and thus once they chose between Good and evil their choice

was final. The devils are angles, but evil angels who are forever in rebellion against the goodness of God.

To each of us has God assigned a Guardian Angel. The guardian angel is our dearest friend who inspires us with good thoughts and protects us both in body and soul. Not only do individuals have angels but God has assigned guardian angels to protect cities, villages, nations and parishes. (Please pardon the personal reference,). On April 29, 2013, I arrived for the first time at St. Paul. I had been appointed Pastor only the previous week and it would be my first visit ever to St. Paul and to visit my beloved predecessor Monsignor Clerkin. Monsignor had invited me for lunch at noon (which was delicious). But I arrived at 11.30 to walk the grounds and to invoke the Guardian Angel of St. Paul' Parish and of all our beloved parishioners, especially the Guardian Angels of our dear young people, of the sick, and of the elderly. Only then was I ready to ring the bell of the parish office. (I no longer ring the bell since I now have a key).

May I encourage all of you to be on intimate and friendly terms with your guardian angel. The Holy Angels will do great services for us both in the material and spiritual order. Parents should invoke the Guardian Angels of their children so that the Angels may watch over and protect them. *Holy Guardian Angels pray for us and protect us.*

One of the great services of the Guardian Angles is that they serve as ambassadors. If we are not getting along with anyone, we should invoke the Guardian Angel of that person and ask him to sort things out. We may ask our own Guardian Angel to work in concert with the other's Guardian Angel to make peace and relieve tension, friction, and strife.

2022 MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE APPEAL: Next weekend (October 2nd and 3rd) we will welcome Father Anthony Sebamalai of the Diocese of Mannar, Sri Lanka. Father will preach at all the Masses about the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka and south India and make an appeal for our financial assistance.

In Jesus and Mary,

Monsignor James F. Pereda