

CALLING ALL ANGELS...

Recently I tuned into an oldies radio station, "WMTR" when I was driving. I am partial to the "Oldies." Well, the D.J. played a catchy little tune from the early 1960's titled, "Trouble in Paradise." The song was performed by Johnny Maestro and the Crests. The initial verse begins this way, "Calling all Angels, Calling all Angels!"

That song reminded me that in our church calendar we celebrated two Feasts of the Angels-the Archangels-Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael celebrated on September 29th and the Feast of the Guardian Angels which is commemorated on October 2nd.

Now while our modern world routinely consigns angels to the realm of fantasy and fiction, the Church teaches that angels really do exist. The Catechism of the Church states, "The whole life of the Church benefits from the mysterious and powerful help of the angels."

We might ask a pertinent question, "What is an angel?" Well, an angel is a spirit created by God that has an intelligence and will. The nature of angel is that is a spirit. Whenever we see angels in the movies or in paintings and pictures, they are usually portrayed as having "Wings." The reason is that it is very hard to depict what a spirit exactly looks like!

Being a spiritual entity, an angel does not have a physical body that limits it. The function of an angel really is to be a messenger of God. Archangels are angels who have a supreme message of importance to bring the world. Thus, the Angel Gabriel brought the message of humanity's salvation to Mary who was asked to consent to be the Mother of God. The name Gabriel means "The strength of God."

The Archangel Michael is mentioned in the very last book of the Bible-the Book of Revelation. In the scripture, St. Michael is depicted as the angel who successfully conquered the devil and his minions. The name Michael means, "Who is like God?"

Finally, there is the angel Raphael. This angel is presented to us in the Old Testament book of Tobit. Through the healing touch of the Archangel Raphael, Tobit was cured of his blindness. Raphael's name means, "God's remedy."

Besides the archangels there are the guardian angels. A guardian angel is a celestial spirit assigned by the Lord to watch over us during our lives. The role of the guardian angel is to both guide us and guard each one of us during our human journey. There is that old prayer that many of us might remember from grammar school: "Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom his love commits me here; ever this day be at my side to light and guard to rule and guide."

I suppose that some people's guardian angels have much more work to do than others as they guide them on the right paths! Remember "Clarence" the cherubic angel from that old classic film, "It's a Wonderful Life?" He has a great deal of work to do!

The truth is that we all need the powerful intercession of the angels in this life to protect us and lead us on the right road to heaven. As we honor these heavenly messengers of God, let us invoke their assistance in our prayers. May we follow the advice of that old Johnny Maestro

song, by "Calling all angels, Calling all Angels, Calling all Angels!"

*Sincerely in Christ,
Father Jerome*