

OCTOBER 2 2024 DEACON MIKE WALSH

So is pretty clear in our gospel today about the wisdom of children and the importance of having faith like a child. What do children say about angels? I looked this up and found a couple of quotes that I'd like to share with you.

The first is from Gregory, who was five years old. He said, "I only know the names of two angels: Hark and Herald." Mitchell said, "Angels work for God, and they watch over kids when God has to go and do something else." I think there is some wisdom in these quotes. My favorite comes from Henry, who stated, "My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good at science."

These are insights about angels from the wisdom of children, especially fitting on this feast day of the Guardian Angels.

Now, let me share some brief history about angels. They were created by God, as we know. Saint Augustine said that these angels were made and infused with knowledge. In other words, unlike us, who learn things as we grow older, they were created with the knowledge that God intended for them. Then, God allowed them to make a choice: "Who do you want to serve? Do you want to serve me, your God, or do you want to serve yourself?" As we know, a number of angels chose to serve themselves instead of God, leading to the creation of evil spirits.

The devil, the most notable of these spirits, first appears in the Garden of Eden as a snake, tempting Adam and Eve to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. From that moment, human history has become a battle between good and evil. However, many, if not most, of the angels chose to serve God, and they have important roles, especially the role of Guardian Angels.

I have taken insights from Father Mike Schmidt, who has created a beautiful short video about Guardian Angels. He explains the roles of Guardian Angels: first, the angel acts as a messenger. We see this in the beautiful Annunciation story, where Gabriel announces to Mary that she will conceive a child. Angels also praise and glorify God, as we see in the Nativity scene with the shepherds and the angels in the sky.

Each of us has a Guardian Angel assigned to us at the moment of our conception. At the moment of our creation, God assigns a Guardian Angel to be with us to intercede for us and to always be by our side. This reminds us that we are never alone and that our Guardian Angel serves as our protector. Father Mike mentioned something interesting: it won't be until we die and enter Heaven that we will truly understand how much our Guardian Angels have protected us. Finally, they are our wise guides.

However, it's important to recognize that, even though our Guardian Angels are with us to guide us, we do not always take their advice. To further demonstrate that angels are indeed real, we have our readings from today. In Exodus, God tells the people of Israel, "I am going to send an angel in front of you to guard you as a protector on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared." Jesus also makes it clear in today's reading from Matthew that we must take care not to despise these little ones, stating, "For I tell you, in Heaven, their angels continually see the face of my Father."

We are all blessed with angels in our lives. Here's a quick question for you: Have you ever thought of yourself as a Guardian Angel to others who come into your life? A human Guardian Angel is different from the ones from Heaven, but is there a role for us to serve as human Guardian Angels?

What are the job requirements for that? What do you need to do to say, “Yes, I am a human Guardian Angel to others”? The first requirement is simple. If you know this, please join me: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen. If you truly believe in this sign of the cross, then you already have all the qualifications needed to be a Guardian Angel. By believing in God, you praise Him every time you come to celebrate mass, whether it's with us at the Daily TV Community Mass, or out in your parishes.

However, the requirements after that become a little more challenging. Are you willing to act as a go-between? Are you ready to be a protector, especially a spiritual protector for those who enter your life? Are you willing to be a guide, sharing your wisdom and knowledge, even knowing that it may often be rejected, just as Jesus was? Perhaps most importantly, are you willing to provide evidence that you are a Guardian Angel by the way you choose to live your life?

I've often thought of the Daily TV Mass community as a community of Guardian Angels because we are a community of prayer. And this is where I want to ask for your help.

You might notice that there is a website and our email address has been up most of the time that I've been talking because I want to encourage you to join us for a week of masses for Prayers for Life. We are joining with the Catholic Register, which is publishing a magazine on October 6th called "Lives Lived for Life." In this magazine, they are going to profile a number of Guardian Angels—human Guardian Angels here on earth—who have dedicated themselves to the ministry of respecting life.

So we are going to join that effort, and as a community, I'm going to invite you to join us for the masses from Sunday, October 6th, through Saturday, October 12th. I would love for you to send us your prayer intentions for life, for inclusion in our prayer intentions book. This can be a general intention or a very specific intention for someone in your life who you know is struggling. These are prayers for courage and strength.

Here is the prayer that we will be praying. It comes from the Archdiocese of Vancouver, whom we thank, and it is a prayer for the respect for life. Each day during that week, we will pray for life in the womb, coming from Your creative power. One day, we will pray for the life of children, making us glad with their freshness and their promise. We will pray for the life of young people, hoping for a better world.

These are the ones who really need us as their Guardian Angels. We will pray for the life of people who are disabled, teaching us that every life has value. We will pray for the elderly, witnessing to the ageless values of patience and wisdom. To all of these prayers, we will pray using the model of the one who taught us most about how to pray for these kinds of things.

Here is how the prayer ends: "Like Blessed Mary, may we always say yes to Your gift. May we defend it and promote it from conception to its natural end. And bring us at last, O Father, to the fullness of eternal life. In Jesus Christ, our Lord." The fullness of eternal life.

Now, if you ever attend a funeral, at many Catholic funerals, they will sing a song, and I would like to end with a verse from this song, which is called "May the Songs of the Angels Welcome You." Because we are people who believe in eternal life.

Here is how that song—this verse from the song goes: "May the songs of the angels welcome you and guide you along your way. May the smiles of the martyrs greet you now as darkness turns into day. Every fear will be undone, and death will be no more, as the song of the angels brings you home before the face of God."

Knowing this allows us to go in peace at the end of every mass, glorifying the Lord by being His human Guardian Angel to those we meet along the way, especially those most in need of our prayers. God bless.