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PREPARATION OF

33 DAYS

FOR THE CONSECRATION TO

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

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1st Edition 2022

33-DAY preparation for the

Consecration to Saint Michael the Archangel

Mexico City

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PROLOGUE

Devotion to Saint Michael the Archangel is found throughout the history of the Church. It has existed since the 2nd century AD. Shrines dedicated to Saint Michael the Archangel and Prince of the Heavenly Hosts. Not only did the people of God invoke his protective help, but the Archangel himself, by divine commission, has appeared on many occasions and in many places to exhort, protect, heal, sanctify, and defend the Christian faithful. A devotion to a Saint or an Angel can be formally concluded through a stable commitment, just as, for example, two friends ratify their friendship with a pact or an alliance. The person commits to obey, collaborate, and work for the glory of God. This form of cooperation is called "consecration." Every consecration is an offering made to God, but in a consecration to the Holy Angels, we allow them to participate more consciously in our life and mission. The Catechism of the Catholic Church n. Paragraph 350 states: "The Angels collaborate in all our good works," but, through a commitment such as a consecration to them, we can be more aware of this heavenly assistance, and they can defend us more effectively against evil spirits. Various consecrations to the Holy Angels are known throughout the history of the Church. For example, in 1890 the bishops of France consecrated the country to the protection of Saint Michael the Archangel.

Especially in our present time, when fallen angels and demons seem to have so much influence over our world and humanity, we need the help of the Holy Angels more than ever. For this reason, we recommend true Catholic devotion to the Holy Angels and consecration to them, especially consecration to Saint Michael the Archangel, so that we may overcome temptations and be protected against the many dangers that threaten the Church and humanity today.

P. Cornelius Pfeifer ORC

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PRESENTATION

Saint Michael the Archangel

(Hebrew “Who is like God?”)

Saint Michael is one of the principal Archangels; his name was the battle cry of the good angels in the battle fought in heaven against the enemy and his followers. His name appears four times in Scripture:

(1) Daniel 10:13-21: Gabriel tells Daniel, when he asks God to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem: "The Angel (BD, prince) of the Kingdom of Persia has resisted me… but Michael, one of the Chief Princes, has come to my aid… No one helps me in this except Michael, your Prince."
(2) Daniel 12: The Angel, speaking of the end of the world and the Antichrist, says: “At that time Michael, the great Prince who defends the children of your people, will arise.”
(3) In the Catholic Epistle of Jude 1:9: “But the Archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, etc.” Jude alludes to the ancient Jewish tradition of a dispute between Michael and Satan over the body of Moses, an account of which can also be found in the apocryphal Book of the Assumption of Moses (Origen, "De principiis," III.2.2). Michael hid the tomb of Moses; however, when Satan uncovered it, he tried to seduce the Jewish people into the sin of hero worship. Michael also guards the body of Eve, according to the “Revelation of Moses” (“Apocryphal Gospels,” etc., ed. A. Walker, Edinburgh, p. 647).

(4) Revelation 12:7: “Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon.” St. John speaks of the great conflict at the end of time, which also reflects the battle in heaven at the beginning of time. According to the Fathers , there is often controversy about St. Michael in Scripture where his name is not mentioned. They say that he was the cherub who stood at the gate of Paradise, “to guard the way to the tree of life” (Gen. 3:24), the angel through whom God published the Decalogue for his chosen people, the angel who stood in the way to hinder Balaam (Num. 22:22ff.), and the angel who routed Sennacherib’s army (2 Kings 19:35).

According to these biblical passages, Christian tradition gives Saint Michael the Archangel four offices:

• To fight against Satan.

• To rescue the souls of the faithful from the power of the enemy, especially at the hour of death.

• To be the champion of God's people: the Jews in the Old Law, the Christians in the New Testament; therefore he was the patron of the Church, and of the order of knights during the Middle Ages.

• To call from the earth and bring the souls of men to judgment *(signifer S. Michael repraesentet eas in lucam sanctam,* Offert. Miss Defunct. "Constituit eum principem super animas suscipiendas", Antiph. off. Cf. The Shepherd of Hermas, III, Simil. 7, 3).

Opinions vary regarding his rank in the celestial hierarchy. St. Basil (Hom. de angelis) and other Greek Fathers, as well as Salmeron, Bellarmine, and others, place St. Michael above all the Angels; they say he is called “Archangel” because he is the prince of the other Angels. Others (cf. St. Bonaventure, op. cit.) believe he is the prince of the Seraphim, the first of the nine Angelic Orders. But, according to St. Thomas Aquinas (Summa Theologica, Ia:113:3), he is the prince of the last and lowest choir, the Archangels. The Roman liturgy seems to follow the Greek Fathers; it calls him *Princeps militiae coelestis quem honorificant angelorum cives (Prince of the Heavenly Hosts whom citizens of the angels honor).*
The hymn in the Mozarabic Breviary places Saint Michael even above the twenty-four elders. The Greek liturgy calls him *Archistrategos,* "most high general" (cf. Menaea, Nov. 8 and Sept. 6).

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VENERATION TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

It would have been natural for Saint Michael, defender of the Jewish people, to be the defender of the Christians, giving them victory in the war against their enemies.

However, the early Christians recognized certain martyrs as their military patrons: Saint George, Saint Theodore, Saint Demetrius, Saint Sergius, Saint Procopius, Saint Mercurius, and others; but they entrusted Saint Michael the Archangel with the care of their sick. In Phrygia, the place where he was first venerated, his reputation as an angelic healer overshadowed his role in military affairs. From the earliest times , he was the center of true devotion to the Holy Angels. Tradition recounts that in those early days, Saint Michael the Archangel caused a medicinal spring to appear in Chairotopa, near Colossae, where all the sick who bathed there, invoking the Holy Trinity and Saint Michael, were cured.

Even more famous are the springs that St. Michael the Archangel is said to have caused to spring forth from the rock at Colossae (Chonae, modern Khonas, on the Lycus). The pagans directed a stream against St. Michael's sanctuary to destroy it, but the Archangel split the rock with a thunderclap, giving the stream a new course, and forever sanctified the waters that flowed from the ravine. The Greeks claim that this apparition took place in the middle of the first century and celebrate a feast in commemoration of it on September 6 (Analecta Bolland., VIII, 285-328). Also at Pythia in Bithynia and throughout Asia, hot springs were dedicated to St. Michael.

Similarly, in Constantinople, St. Michael the Archangel was regarded as the great heavenly physician. His principal shrine, the Michaelion, was in Sosthenion, nearly 50 miles south of Constantinople; there the Archangel is said to have appeared to Emperor Constantine. The sick would sleep in that church at night, hoping for a manifestation of St. Michael; there his feast was celebrated on June 9. Another famous church was within the city walls, at the thermal baths of Emperor Arcadius; there the synaxis of the Archangel was celebrated on November 8. This feast spread throughout the Greek Church, and the Churches of Syria, Armenia , and Alexandria also adopted it; it is now the principal feast of St. Michael in the East. It may have originated in Phrygia, but its station in Constantinople was the Baths of Arcadius (Martinov, “Annus Graeco-slavicus”, November 8). Other celebrations of Saint Michael the Archangel in Constantinople were: October 27, at the Church “Promotu”; June 18, at the Church of Saint Julian, in the Forum; and December 10 at Athae.

The Christians of Egypt placed the river that gave them life, the Nile, under the protection of Saint Michael; they adopted the Greek festival and celebrated it on November 12; on the 12th of each month, they celebrated a special commemoration of the archangel, but on June 12, when the river began to rise, they kept the festival of Saint Michael as a holiday of obligation "because of the Nile's flooding", *euche eis ten symmetron anabasin ton potamion hydaton.*

In Rome, the Leonine Sacramentary (6th century) has the "Natale Basilicae Angeli via Salaria," September 30; of the five Masses for the celebration, three mention St. Michael. The Gelasian Sacramentary (7th century) gives the feast *of St. Michaelis Archangeli,* and the Gregorian Sacramentary (8th century), *Dedicatio Basilionis S. Angeli Michaelis,* September 29. A manuscript also adds “via salaria” here (Ebner, "Miss. Rom. Iter Italicum", 127). This church on the Via Salaria was six miles north of the city; in the 9th century it was called *Basilica Archangeli in Septimo* (Armellini, "Chiese di Roma", p. 85), which disappeared two hundred years ago. In Rome, St. Michael was also given the role of heavenly physician. It is said that in the 10th century, he appeared above the Moles Hadriani (Castel di Sant'Angelo) in 650, during the procession led by St. Gregory against the plague, which caused the plague to cease. Pope Saint Boniface IV (608-15) built a church in his honor in the Moles Hadriani, which he called *St. Michaelis inter nubes (in summitate circi).*

The apparition of Saint Michael the Archangel (c. 494 or 530-40), as recounted in the Roman Breviary, on May 8, at his famous sanctuary on Mount Gargano, is well known. There, he was restored to his original glory as patron of war. The Lombards of Sipontum (Manfredonia) attributed their victory over the Neapolitan Greeks on May 8, 663, to his intercession. In commemoration of this victory, the Church of Sipontum instituted a special feast in honor of the archangel on May 8, which has since spread throughout the Church .

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Latina, and is now called (since the time of Pius V) "Apparitio S. Michaelis", although originally it did not commemorate the apparition, but the victory.

In Normandy, Saint Michael is the patron saint of sailors at his famous sanctuary of Mont-Saint-Michel, in the diocese of Coutances. He is said to have appeared there in 708 to Saint Aubert, Bishop of Avranches. In Normandy, his feast day, "S. Michaelis in periculo maris" or "at Mont-Saint-Michel," was universally celebrated on October 18, the anniversary of the dedication of the first church on October 16, 710; the feast was later confined to the Diocese of Coutances. In Germany, after its evangelization, Saint Michael the Archangel replaced the pagan god Wotan for Christians , to whom many mountains were consecrated, hence the numerous chapels of Saint Michael throughout Germany.

The hymns of the Roman Office are said to have been composed by Rabanus Maurus of Fulda (d. 856). In art, Saint Michael the Archangel is depicted as an angelic warrior, armed with a helmet, sword, and shield (frequently the armor bears the Latin inscription: Quis ut Deus), standing upon the dragon, which he sometimes pierces with a lance. He also holds a pair of scales on which he weighs the souls of the dead (cf. Rock, “The Church of Our Fathers,” III, 160), or the Book of Life, to show that he takes part in the judgment. His feast day (September 29) was observed as a holy day of obligation in the Middle Ages, but along with other feasts, it was gradually abolished from the 18th century onward. In England and other countries, Saint Michael's Day is one of the regular quarterly days for settling rents and accounts; however, it is no longer notable for the hospitality with which it was formerly celebrated. In some parishes (Isle of Skye) they had a procession on this day and prepared a cake, called St. Michael's loaf.

Source: Holweck, Frederick. "St. Michael the Archangel." The Catholic Encyclopedia. Vol. 10. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1911. <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/10275b.htm>.

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33-Day Preparation for Consecration to Saint Michael the Archangel

The Consecration to Saint Michael the Archangel will preferably take place on a feast day dedicated to Saint Michael the Archangel, with a prior preparation of 33 days.

To the proposed dates, it can also be added that it begins with 33 days of preparation prior to each 12th of the month, according to the veneration that Christians in ancient Egypt gave to the Archangel Saint Michael.

At the end, one will confess beforehand (if possible) and receive communion (if possible) with the intention of consecrating oneself to God through Saint Michael the Archangel.

After Communion (if possible) the formula of consecration is recited and signed on the same day.

It is appropriate that on that day one also perform some work of mercy, a sacrifice, fasting, mortification, almsgiving, etc.

This solemn act is performed in front of the image of Saint Michael the Archangel, before the Blessed Sacrament, or after receiving Holy Communion.

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TABLE OF START DATES AND FESTIVALS OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

It is suggested that the 33 days of preparation be followed in such a way as to conclude on the eve of a Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel. However, any date can always be chosen to begin this consecration.

This table with start dates and San Miguel festivals can help us determine when to begin:

Start of the 33 days	**Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel Day Feast/Consecration**	**(Celebrated in or by)**
March 23	First appearance in San Miguel del Milagro, Mexico	April 25th
April 5th	Sant'Angelo Gargano, Italy, 2nd apparition of Saint Michael of the Miracle Mexico	May 8th
May 7th	Emperor Constantine	June 9th
May 10th	Because of the Nile flooding	June 12
May 16th	Promotu (Church of Saint Julian, in the forum, Constantinople)	June 18th
August 4th	Colossal	September 6th
August 27	Liturgical Feast of Saint Michael, Saint Raphael and Saint Gabriel	September 29th
September 15th	Mont-Saint-Michel, France	October 18
September 24th	Constantinople	October 27
October 6th	Greek Church, Syriac, Armenian Alexandria	November 8th
October 10th	Christians of Egypt	November 12th
October 11	3rd Apparition San Miguel del Milagro, Mexico	November 13th
November 7th	Athae, Constantinople	December 10th

To the proposed dates, it can also be added that it begins with 33 days of preparation prior to each 12th of the month, according to the veneration that Christians in ancient Egypt gave to the Archangel Saint Michael.

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33 DAYS FOR PREPARATION FOR CONSECRATION TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

(Ecclesiastical approval of the Archdiocese of Mexico, 21/03/1942)

From the 1st to the 30th

Having made the sign of the Cross and kneeling, preferably before the Blessed Sacrament or the image of Saint Michael Archangel, lifting your heart to God, who is present, and making a deep reverence in spirit, say every day:

Act of Contrition

My Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true man, I am heartily sorry for having offended you; I firmly resolve never to sin again, to avoid all occasions of sin, to confess my sins, and to do penance. I offer you, Lord, my life, works, and labors in satisfaction for all my sins.
Amen.

Prayer for every day:

Lord God of heaven and earth, God of Angels, Archangels and Principalities; God of Powers, Virtues and Dominions; God of Thrones, Cherubim and Seraphim; who praise and bless without ceasing your Holy name and fulfill the orders of your sovereign Majesty, surrounding your exalted Throne, and offering you as a pleasing aroma, the incense of our prayers, which we now address to you, we humbly beseech you to accept them.
We beseech you, through the glory and intercession of the glorious Saint Michael, to deign to grant us your help, and keep us unharmed from the snares, deceptions, and power of Satan and all infernal spirits.
May God arise and may his enemies be destroyed by Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Meditation (will change each day)

Example (will change every day)

Short prayer

Saint Michael the Archangel, Prince of the heavenly host, defend us in battle, so that we may not perish in the dreadful judgment of God.

Closing prayer for every day

O God, our refuge and strength! We humbly implore your mercy, that through the intercession of the ever-Virgin Immaculate and our Mother, Mary, and of the glorious Saint Michael the Archangel, you may deign to help us against Satan and all other unclean spirits that infest the world for the harm of humankind and the perdition of souls.
Cast them into the abyss and banish them from us forever. Amen.

Three Our Fathers with Hail Mary and Glory Be.

LITANY TO SAINT MICHAEL

Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!
God, Father in Heaven,
Have mercy on us!
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, …have mercy on us!
God the Holy Spirit, …have mercy on us!

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Holy Trinity, who art one God, …have mercy on us!

Holy Mary, Queen of Angels, pray for us!
Saint Michael, Archangel of God, pray for us!
Saint Michael, full of the wisdom of God, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, mirror of humility, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, model of obedience, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, exalted worshipper of the Divine Word, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, crowned with glory and honor, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, mighty Prince of the army of God, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, standard-bearer of the Holy Trinity, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, guardian of Paradise, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, Angel of Peace, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, guide and comfort of the people of Israel, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, splendor and strength of the Church militant, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, joy of the triumphant Church, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, stronghold of Christians, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, light of the Angels, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, protector of true Christians, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, support of those who fight under the banner of the Cross, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, bond of our charity, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, warrior who triumphs over errors, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, light and hope at the hour of death, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, our sure help, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, who assists us in our needs, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, herald of eternal judgment, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, comforter of the souls in Purgatory, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, whom the Lord entrusted with receiving the souls in Purgatory, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, defender of God's rights, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, great and powerful, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, whose prayers lead to the Kingdom of Heaven, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, appointed by God to receive souls at the hour of death, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, Prince of the first princes, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, always on the side of God's children, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, our Advocate, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, victor over Lucifer, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, patron saint of the dying, …pray for us!
Saint Michael, our Patron, …pray for us!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, -
Forgive us, Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world… - Hear us, O Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world… Have mercy on us!
Christ, hear us! Christ, hear us!
Christ, hear us! Christ, hear us!
Lord, have mercy on us! Lord, have mercy on us!
Christ, have mercy on us! Christ, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us! Lord, have mercy on us!
Our Father…
Saint Michael, defend us in battle so that we may not perish on the dreadful day of judgment.
Pray for us, Saint Michael the Archangel, Prince of the Church of Christ, that we may be made worthy of His grace.
promises.

Amen.

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MEDITATION AND EXAMPLE (DAY 1 TO 30)

DAY 1

Meditation

While we live in this world, a valley of misery and temptation, where we are easily endangered because our enemies are so many, we all desire a Patron and Advocate, both to alleviate our suffering and to deliver us from temptation. And although all the Saints and Angels of Heaven have the same purpose when we are truly devoted to them and make use of their intercession, Saint Michael the Archangel plays a particularly important role in this regard.

In the Litany of the Saints, the Church places the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel immediately after that of the Blessed Virgin Mary. God has entrusted him with the care of the faithful, the children of his Church, given him dominion in glory, made him defender of Christians, terror of our enemies, and finally, appointed him judge of our good and evil deeds.

If we wish, therefore, that he be our loving Patron, and that he grant us happiness, we must be his true devotees. and implore, with devotion, his patronage, because the powerful assistance of this glorious Prince to his devotees makes them happy in temporal and spiritual goods.

Example:

The first time the Archangel Saint Michael is mentioned is in the prophecy of Daniel.

This holy prophet mentions Saint Michael four times and lets us know that he is the guardian angel of the Jewish nation. Michael revealed to Daniel the end of his people's captivity and their return to Palestine, their homeland.

From these statements of the Prophet Daniel we know by divine revelation that Saint Michael exercised a true sponsorship in favor of the people of God.

DAY 2

Meditation

Of some excellencies of the great prince Saint Michael the Archangel

Consider the ardent zeal of the Prince of Angels, Saint Michael, God's first minister, Governor of the Holy Church, and Protector of the entire Catholic Religion, who has taken upon himself the patronage of humankind and desires to perform alone, for their good, all the offices that could be performed by all nine choirs. Precisely for this reason, that mighty and great Angel of the Apocalypse, whom important doctors believe to be Saint Michael, wore as his crown the rainbow with its variety of colors, for it is the glory of this supreme Archangel to hold the diverse offices of the three Hierarchies and the three orders within each.

Look how Saint Michael is the first of those seven Spirits so celebrated in the divine letters, by whom Clement of Alexandria says that God presides over men, with Saint Michael receiving orders immediately from God and giving them to others; they also using inferior ministers for the execution of their duties.

By virtue of this universal government, it falls to Saint Michael to assign to each man the Angel who will guard him; and We must give many thanks to Saint Michael for the Angel he has given us.

This pious Prince is not content with assigning a guardian angel to each person to watch over and defend them, but in On several occasions or due to particular needs, or because of the excellent virtues of some pure souls, He points them out and sends more Angels to guard, defend and accompany them.

Grateful, then, for so many favors and such singular graces, which we receive through the intercession of Saint Michael, we must to be very devoted to him, considering his excellences, imitating his virtues, continuing his praises, and increasing the number of his devotees, and invoking him in all our needs with confidence, so that his protection and the great love with which he regards us may be effective.

Example

In one of the oldest literary monuments of early Christianity, we are given an example that undoubtedly reveals the grand idea that the first Christians had of Saint Michael.

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In the book entitled *The Shepherd of Hermas,* he reveals to his Master or Shepherd a heavenly vision he had had.
In this vision, a heavenly messenger appeared to him, armed with an axe, cutting the branches of a very large tree whose height and beauty were not diminished by the pruning. At the same time, he offered a bouquet to those who were sheltered under that tree.

Hermas earnestly asks his Shepherd to tell him the name of that mysterious character.
The Shepherd replies: This character is Saint Michael the Archangel, protector of your people; he is the one who engraves the Divine Law, symbolized by the tree, on hearts, weighs the deeds of men; defends the good with his power; offers the guilty the means to atone for their sins and sends to heaven those who have fought against him.

DAY 3

Meditation

Humility of Saint Michael the Archangel

According to Saint Bernard (followed by many important authors), when God revealed to the Angels that the Eternal Word would become man, and thus one of a nature lesser than angelic would be God and, as such, worshipped by all the Angels, Lucifer was indignant at considering as his superior one who was so inferior to him in nature. But as much as Lucifer became proud, Saint Michael humbled himself, desiring to adore and see this God-Man, to submit to him and throw himself at his feet. And so, because of this desire of Saint Michael, the Lord entrusted him with the patronage of humankind, since He determined to show mercy to Adam and his descendants.

Sister Maria de Agreda says that this Prince of the Heavenly Host was appointed head of the Angels whom God designated to guard Mary, and destined him to attend to the protection of His Most Holy Mother in some ministries, as a special ambassador of Christ Our Lord.
At the time of the Redeemer's birth and after his birth, Saint Michael rendered him many services and gifts, never failing to...
His Most Holy Mother. According to the same servant of God, she came to fulfill all the duties of the choirs and lower orders, which is no less an example of humility in such greatness. Thus she taught us to recognize with docility and submission our most sweet Savior and to offer Him our homage and adoration.

Example

In the first three centuries of the Church, numerous and celebrated apparitions of Saint Michael were recorded. It was a widespread belief among the faithful of those centuries that this Holy Archangel was the first angel to feed the Savior in the desert after the forty days of fasting; as well as that Jesus had entrusted Saint Michael with the guardianship of the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and that he was the one who appeared at the tomb after the Lord's Resurrection and also the one who revealed himself when the Redeemer disappeared into the clouds on the day of the Ascension.
Saint Michael also appeared in those early centuries in the vicinity of Colossae (a Greek colony in Phrygia), in Asia; a temple was built there in his honor, which later became very popular due to the great favors that Saint Michael granted in that place. Simeon Metaphrastes tells us that this apparition to the Colossians was celebrated for a long time among the Greeks because of the great miracles that accompanied it.

DAY 4

Meditation

Saint Michael defends the honor of God

We believe that Saint Michael was horrified to see the impious attempt of the rebel angels, and raising against them the holy banner of fidelity and justice, with the words of *"Quis ut Deus?": Who is like God?,* he fought against the infernal dragon and his rebel angels, banishing them from heaven and casting them into hell, deserving for this noble action the singular title of *Captain General* of the armies of God, which is the first office of Saint Michael, and the most celebrated title given to him by the saints and the Church, which also calls him *Prince of the Heavenly Host.*

What a well-deserved title for such a victory!
And what glory for Saint Michael after such a remarkable triumph!

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David returned in great glory after his victory over the giant, when the women of Israel sang: Saul has slain his thousand, and David his ten thousand. But far more glorious did Saint Michael return to Heaven after having vanquished not a thousand, nor ten thousand, but countless angels, each one a giant of greater strength than all the others.
men.

We too, as children of God, whose honor and glory you defended, rejoice to have you as our Heavenly Prince, our leader and defender; we promise to invoke you morning and night, in public and in private, in temptations and dangers, at all times and in every place.

Example

The historian Nicephorus tells us of another very famous apparition of the Archangel Saint Michael.

This apparition was granted to Emperor Constantine himself. He saw Saint Michael surrounded by glory and majesty and heard the Archangel say to him: " *I am Michael, commander-in-chief of the God of hosts. I am the one who helped you defeat your enemies, who were also enemies of my God."*

Constantine, in gratitude, built two temples near Constantinople in honor of Saint Michael. In one of them, he erected an altar of extraordinary value and magnificence, dedicated to the Prince of the Heavenly Host. This temple became famous for the great miracles performed there by the Archangel Saint Michael.

DAY 5

Meditation

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Consider the greatness and superiority of Saint Michael the Archangel. All the Angels are at his disposal, as seen in the Book of Revelation, where they are called his ministers, and in ecclesiastical offices they are named as his soldiers.

No mind can fully grasp the dignity and primacy that God bestowed upon His Prime Minister for his love and faithfulness. For if we admire someone who reigns over all parts of the world, how can we not marvel at the principality of Saint Michael, who rules over all nine choirs of angels, since even the simplest and least numerous choir surpasses all humankind throughout the world?

Regarding the number of Angels, Saint Bridget said, as Dionysius the Carthusian relates, that even if all men who have existed, exist, and will exist were now alive together, ten Angels could be assigned to each one.
Guard.

This is undoubtedly a magnificent empire, a form of domination and primacy, beyond the grasp of human intelligence. Or is it?
Do you come to understand the quality of the subjects, who comprise thousands of most noble Angels, most glorious Principalities, millions of most powerful Powers, miraculous Virtues, majestic Dominions and billions of sublime Thrones, most wise Cherubim and most holy Seraphim?

All together they are so numerous that some priests and doctors say there are no numbers that can encompass them; and above all They dominate San Miguel.

There is no doubt. It is indeed a great glory to have so many glorious subjects!

Such honor is due to such a great Prince of Heaven, who deserves great veneration and respect from all.
men, thus honoring all the Angels in their Prince Saint Michael.

Let us ask the Lord to make known to us the merits of such a sublime Prince, and grant us the grace to profess true devotion to him by submitting to his obedience and veneration; praising his excellencies and virtues, crying out to him in all our needs, entrusting to him the Holy Church, the exaltation of the Faith and the extirpation of heresies.
Let us ask him to contain and imprison the infernal spirits and to favor us and our benefactor brothers in spiritual and temporal matters.

Example

One of the most famous apparitions of Saint Michael, and the one that most increased his worship and best revealed to us the sublime power of the Prince of Angels, took place at the end of the 5th century in the year 493.

In a town in Apulia (Italy), then called Siponto and now Manfredonia, lived a famous man named Gargano who owned a very large herd of cattle, which he grazed in the mountains near the town, where pastures were abundant. Since he owned the entire mountain range, he named it after himself; that is why it is called *Monte Gargano.* One day, one of his bulls escaped and wandered toward a hill overlooking the Adriatic Sea. Gargano, followed by his servants, set off in pursuit of the bull.

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Unable to catch it, the animal finally took refuge at the entrance of a mountain cave. The enraged owner readied his bow and shot a deadly arrow at the fleeing animal. The arrow flew swiftly from the bow, but instead of wounding the bull, it turned around and pierced the very man who had shot it.

All those present were astonished by this miracle and hastened to consult the Bishop of Siponto. He ordered all the inhabitants of the town to observe three days of fasting and prayer. On the third day, Saint Michael appeared to the Bishop and revealed that the cave where the miracle had occurred was under his protection and that a temple should be built there in his honor. The holy Bishop, followed by all the inhabitants of Siponto, proceeded in procession to the miraculous cave. There he celebrated Mass and gave communion to all the people of Siponto.

Later, a temple was built on that site in honor of Saint Michael. So many miracles were performed there.
Thanks to the apparition of the Holy Archangel, pilgrims from all over the world began arriving at Mount Gargano, making this mountain one of the most celebrated sites in Christendom. The Church attached such importance to this apparition of Saint Michael that it established a special feast day, celebrated throughout the Catholic world on May 8th.

DAY 6

Meditation

WISDOM OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Imagine the wisdom of Saint Michael the Archangel. He is the Prince of those angelic spirits who are at the forefront of the knowledge of divine perfections and works.

They are subject to him, by the privilege of his wisdom, by the superiority of his governance and science, and by his willingness to obey the orders he receives from God; all qualities that enlighten and instruct the Angels.
men.

The same incarnate Word allowed himself to be encouraged by his counsel; according to the opinion of some doctors, this could have been him. sovereign Archangel, who comforted Christ Our Lord in the Garden, bringing him a message from his Father.

And Saint Michael undoubtedly deserved this honor, for the work he did as doctor and teacher of the Angels, to their honor and glory to his God and Lord.

While flattered by her beauty and enamored of her loveliness, Lucifer, vanished with the same gifts that
Having received from the Creator, he demanded for himself the adoration that was due only to God, and sought to incite the entire Angelic republic to rebel. The most wise Archangel Saint Michael proposed to the Angels the greatness of the Divine Being, and his infinite perfections, for which he should be adored, served and loved by all his creatures, saying to them: Who is like God?
And with his zeal, wisdom, and eloquence, he kept most of the Angels in subjection to their Creator, because as some doctors prove: in the same way that Lucifer was the cause of the unfaithful Angels rebelling against God, Saint Michael was the cause of the loyal ones remaining in obedience.

He has taught many of his devotees truths of vital importance for their salvation. What we must ask for
That is, that He may teach us to fear and love God Our Lord and keep us like the faithful Angels, in obedience and submission to the Creator, and after this exile, guide and accompany us to the Heavenly Homeland.

Example

In the year 520, during the papacy of St. Gregory I, Rome was afflicted by terrible calamities. The Tiber had overflowed, destroying numerous buildings; the plague threatened to destroy the Eternal City, claiming many victims; and the fierce Lombards were bloodying Italy and had set their sights on capturing and sacking Rome.

In these terrible circumstances, Saint Gregory, the priests, the faithful, and even the Roman Senate itself implored God's mercy for three days with a solemn procession. At the end of the third day, Pope Saint Gregory saw Saint Michael above the imposing Hadrianic fortress, lowering his sword and sheathing it.

It was a sign that divine punishments were ceasing. Indeed, this happened; the plague stopped and Rome was safe.

In the following century, a temple was built on the site of the apparition, which eventually became the famous Castle of the Angel and citadel of the Papacy.

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DAY 7

Meditation

POWER OF SAINT MICHAEL

Let us consider how Saint Michael has extraordinary power against Lucifer. This cunning enemy trembles and quakes when he hears the name of Saint Michael. This mysterious name is interpreted as: *Who is like God?* With this astonishing voice, he cast countless rebellious angels from Heaven into Hell, and the same powerful virtue has always remained in those mysterious voices. Therefore, when this invocation is made, the heart is filled with courage and Hell with terror. This generous Archangel loves humankind so much that, according to Saint Bruno, Bishop of Seni, he never ceases to fight on their behalf night and day against the infernal dragon. He also calls upon the Angels under his command to fight alongside him, so that we may not be overcome by our enemies.

Saint Pantaleon the deacon assures that Saint Michael not only grants his pious servants the favor and strength to resist the temptations of hell, but also comes to fight personally when he sees one of them strongly attacked by the devil and exposed to the imminent danger of falling into sin.

Oh, and how great must be our hope, considering that when we resist the devil we are not left alone and We are not helpless, but God is with us, and Saint Michael is with us too!

Weak and weak as we are, let us place ourselves under the protection of Saint Michael, let us take refuge under his wings and fight with resolve, bearing in mind that, in this battle with the devil, we defend not only our souls, but also the cause of God. And just as Saint Michael, when he saw this cause outraged by the devil, came out to defend it, let us also defend it, and let us not fear, for the glorious Archangel is ready to come to our aid.

Example

One of the most memorable apparitions of Saint Michael is the one that history tells us about, made to Saint Aubert, Bishop of Avranches, on a rock or reef called *The Tomb* located in his Diocese, in the year 708.

Having received news of a wondrous event at *La Tomb ,* very similar to that of *Monte Gargano,* this holy Bishop, following the example of the Bishop of Siponto, requested fasting and prayers in his diocese so that the Lord might deign to reveal His will to him. But he was not as docile as the other Bishop; for although the Lord manifested it to him through very perceptible signs, he stubbornly refused to believe them, until he was severely punished. This punishment made him wise and docile, and then he recognized that Saint Michael wished to be particularly venerated in that place, and he built a beautiful church on the summit of the same rock, which he solemnly dedicated to the Archangel Saint Michael.

DAY 8

Meditation

CHARITY OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

There are countless occasions in both the Old and New Testaments in which the charity and protection that God Our Lord has for men is mentioned, employing the Angels in their aid.

Saint Michael is the one who intervenes in all this, either by ordering his Angels the benefits they must bestow upon the men, or the dangers from which they must be delivered, or by personally performing these beneficial works of mercy, protection, and charity, especially in the most important and representative situations, in which the Angels command with words of their own authority, or promise in the name of God and Lord Himself, as if He Himself were speaking in person or manifesting Himself. This greatness and excellence belong to Saint Michael, as the first minister of God.

Thus, Saint Michael was the chief of those three Angels whom Abraham invited and who represented God himself and spoke for himself; he is the same one who stopped when they left, after the meal, on the road to Sodom, prolonging his conversation with the Patriarch, and the other two went ahead to carry out the orders they had to free Lot, and burn down Sodom and the other cities of the valley of Pentapolis.

Likewise, this heavenly Prince came to the aid of the other Prince of Israel, the one who guided and went before the people of God, upon leaving slavery, manifested himself on this occasion in the pillar of fire that illuminated them and that, upon crossing the Red Sea, stood between the chosen people and Pharaoh's army, to defend the Israelites.

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He then favored them admirably on their long journey through the desert; and he did the same for many other people.
of the Old Testament.

Let us give thanks to God for the favors He has always bestowed upon mankind through the glorious Prince Saint Michael.

Example

When Saint Aubert, Bishop of Avranches, built the Sanctuary of Saint Michael on the rocky outcrop known as *La Tomb,* there was no drinking water available for the canons who were to care for the Sanctuary. The Saint prayed to Saint Michael to remedy this need. The glorious Archangel, full of charity, appeared to Saint Aubert and revealed to him a spring that no one had ever seen in that place. This spring later became an abundant fountain. Thus the kind Archangel hears those who come to him with faith and true devotion.

DAY 9

Meditation

Saint Michael's Love for God

Realize that the primary concern of this exalted Archangel, whom many important scholars call Seraphim, is to love, bless, and praise the Lord in a sublime manner unknown to humankind. He intones that mysterious chant, which always resounds in the vaults of heaven, called the Trisagion, taught to us by the Prophet Isaiah and which he learned in heaven itself, at the foot of God's throne.

Let us praise the Lord, who created a being of such ability and goodness, and gave him such charity towards the Supreme Deity.
This most excellent charity is what Saint Michael strives to communicate to all men with great dedication. And he demonstrates it ever more in the fulfillment of his office as a Seraph, loving and praising his Creator above all the heavenly spirits.

The venerable Pantaleon says that Saint Michael holds first place among the thousands and tens of thousands of Angels, and
Calmly, before God, in the company of all the Angels, he sings that admirable thrice-holy hymn. This denotes the great excellence of Saint Michael, since the other spirits are as if astonished before the Divine Majesty, while he, it is said, is not overwhelmed before God, which shows his inexplicable greatness and capacity for divine light.

Glory to God Almighty, from whom all good things come, and glory to the invincible and charitable Prince Saint Michael, whom we all promise to love, invoke, and venerate throughout our lives.

Example

As soon as Moses expired, Saint Michael ordered the Holy Angels to take his body and bury it honorably on Mount Sinai, hiding his tomb from the sight of the Jews, so that they would not commit idolatry; to which they were so inclined, worshipping, instead of God, that great leader and benefactor of theirs whom they had seen perform so many wonders.

And even afterwards, this glorious Prince Saint Michael, held a great battle against Lucifer, as recorded in the Catholic Epistle of the Apostle Saint Jude, which says that the devil fought hard to uncover the tomb of Moses so that the Jews would fall into idolatry, offending their Creator and staining their souls with such an execrable sin.
Saint Michael intended the complete opposite; he wanted the worship of men and Angels to be for God alone, his Sovereign Lord and Creator; he wanted men to be just and holy by fulfilling the divine precepts; and he arranged that the body of Moses should be honored and his tomb guarded by the Angels, and ignored by the Jews, because men soon tire of what they have, and want what cannot be granted to them, or what is forbidden by God.

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DAY 10

Meditation

HOW MUCH SAINT MICHAEL LOVES US AND DESIRES OUR HAPPINESS

Jesus Christ Our Lord, speaking in the Holy Gospel of Saint Luke, says that the Angels of God rejoice when even one sinner repents. And He also says that there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who amends his ways than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to amend their ways. Saint Michael is, among all the Angels, the one who
He celebrates these events even more. First, Saint Michael rejoices in the salvation of sinners, because of the benevolence and greatness of his charity. The greatness of his charity makes him rejoice as much in the good of his neighbor as in his own, because Supreme Charity and his glory do not diminish because of the multitude of those who desire and possess eternal happiness; rather, his glory and joy increase because of the eternal happiness and greater reward of each one, and they increase as the number of the blessed who enter heaven grows.

Secondly, Saint Michael rejoices in the conversion and salvation of sinners, because this brings about the repair of the ruins left in Heaven by the apostate and proud angels, whom he cast out of Heaven and whose place is now occupied by these blessed souls.

Saint Michael also rejoiced at the redemption of humankind through the Passion of Jesus Christ. Indeed, the Divine Wisdom, to seek man lost through sin, descended from Heaven to Earth and united Divinity to humanity; He suffered a most bitter Passion and Death and with His Blood found lost man: which was a great joy for the Angels of God, because of the greatness of His perfect charity towards all the chosen ones.
But if this is understood of all the Holy Angels, how much more can be said of Saint Michael the Archangel, superior in virtue and charity to them, and who, like all of them, and much more than all of them, loves us and seeks our good and eternal salvation, and helps us to achieve it by all means and ways.

Let us bless Saint Michael who is so concerned for our salvation and rejoices in it; and let us strive from now on, with all our strength, to have the protection of this Holy and charitable Archangel, being fervent and constant in our devotion.

Example

One of the saints who professed the greatest devotion to the Archangel Saint Michael was the glorious Saint Francis. The reason for this devotion, as the saint often declared, was the zeal with which Saint Michael works for the salvation of souls.

The glorious patriarch of Assisi honored the exalted Archangel every year by fasting rigorously in his honor for forty whole days. This period, which began the day after the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin and ended on the eve of the feast of Saint Michael, September 29th, was called the Lent of Saint Michael by Saint Francis.

During one of these Lenten seasons, the Saint received a remarkable portent: a seraph descended from heaven in the form of a crucifix and He imprinted the five wounds of the Redeemer on the hands, feet and side of Saint Francis.

The seraph who descended from heaven was probably Saint Michael, whom the Saint honored at that time with great fervor. As we have already stated, according to important Doctors of the Church, Saint Michael belongs to the hierarchy of seraphim.

DAY 11

Meditation

Saint Michael helps us to get out of sin.

Let us consider the great confidence that the Holy Church has in Saint Michael. For this reason, she frequently begs him to always remember us and to intercede for us with the Son of God. In the august sacrifice of our altars, in the Holy Mass and in the Divine Office, she reverently invokes him and asks for his help. The Church also teaches us that, to obtain forgiveness of sins, we must first confess our guilt to God, then to the Blessed and Ever-Virgin Mary, and finally to Saint Michael the Archangel. Then the Church instructs us to add: " *Therefore I ask the ever-Virgin Mary, the Blessed Saint Michael the Archangel..."* With these words, we make a special request of the Holy Archangel to help us regain God's grace. We can have the sweet confidence that he will do so, since he is always ready to help those who, having fallen, turn to him imploring his aid, showing them the true path.

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They had left. He, as Saint Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, says, is a guide for those who go astray, and an encouragement to those who have fallen into sin so that they may rise up, encouraging and moving them with wholesome inspirations to get out of the pitiful state in which they find themselves.

He ardently loves our souls, as Saint Pantaleon the Deacon says, and when He sees them fallen into the abyss of sin and exposed to being plunged into hell, He strives by various means to lead them to penance, which is the only way to return to the state of grace.

Far from remaining immersed in sin, let us respond to divine inspirations and the loving solicitude of Saint Michael, repenting of our sins and doing penance for them, so that by this means we may attain grace and then glory.

Example

In The Little Flowers of Saint Francis, the following account of Friar Peter of Monticello is found. Fasting with great devotion, this holy friar, on the last day of Lent, was visited by the most glorious Archangel, who said: *Friar Peter, you have faithfully tormented yourself for me, and in many ways you have afflicted your body; here I am.*
I have come to comfort you. Ask me for any grace, for I wish to obtain it for you from God.

Friar Peter replied: *Most Holy Prince of the Heavenly Host, I ask you to grant me forgiveness for my sins.*

" *Ask me for another favor," replied the Archangel, "because that one will be very easy for me to obtain."*

Friar Pedro dared not ask for anything more than forgiveness for his sins. Then Saint Michael concluded: *Because of the faith and devotion you have for me, I have obtained for you the grace you have asked for and many others.*

Having said this, the Archangel disappeared, leaving Friar Peter very comforted.

DAY 12

Meditation

Saint Michael consoles mortals

Saint Michael the Archangel is, par excellence, the Angel of Comfort. This Sovereign Archangel, both by himself and through his holy companions, has always, from the beginning, been protecting and comforting humankind in their afflictions and needs.

When God's prophet Elijah was fleeing from Jezebel through the deserts of Beersheba, tired, he lay down and remained asleep under a tree; the Angel of the Lord touched him and said to him, " Get *up and eat."*

The Lord is never closer to the righteous to assist them than in affliction and when it seems that all human resources are lacking.

Elijah looked around and saw a loaf of bread baked on hot coals by his head, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came back a second time, touched him, and said, " Get *up and eat, for the journey is too much for you."*
Having gotten up, he ate and drank and was refreshed by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights, until he reached the Mount of God Horeb or Sinai, upon which God gave his law to Moses.

Saint Michael has always been, par excellence, the comforter of his brothers, employing for this purpose ardent charity, power and heavenly gifts with which he was adorned by his Creator for the Glory of his Lord, the good of all, and to be loved and honored by Angels and men in the Church triumphant and in the militant.

This great Prince, by virtue of his humility and goodness, deserved to be sent by God to console the Divine Redeemer when, on the night preceding His sorrowful Passion, He prayed fervently and in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. And this sovereign Lord deigned and wished to be comforted by His loving and faithful minister, so that He might enter into the arduous battle of His Passion.

Let us strive to merit this comfort for our troubled souls, and especially for the dreadful ordeal of death, when they are forced to fight against the devil, the most tenacious and cunning enemy, who, as Saint Peter says, walks around us to see whom he can devour.

Example

Saint Arnulf was deeply afflicted in the year 1087. Prostrate on his sickbed, his painful agony had begun, and he was nearing his final moments. In those dreadful moments, when he least expected it, he suddenly

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His cell is illuminated, and there appears resplendent with glory the illustrious Archangel Saint Michael accompanied by an innumerable army of celestial spirits.

The glorious Archangel comforted the Saint with most sweet words. He then told him that he had come to receive him in his hour of death. death to guide him to Paradise. Immediately Saint Arnulf expired and Saint Michael led his soul to heaven.

DAY 13

Meditation

SAINT MICHAEL DELIVERS FROM DANGERS

God, whose nature is goodness, whose will is power, and whose works are mercy, as Saint Leo the Pope says, has arranged and ordained the Holy Angels to guard and protect men, to help and assist them in the dangers, temptations, and sufferings of this present life, and to inspire and guide them on their paths, so that they may happily reach eternal glory.

But if the Holy Angels perfectly fulfill the commands of Our God and Lord, and communicate with men as much as they are able, Saint Michael the Archangel does this in a special way. He is, like the venerable deacon Pantaleon, who everywhere delivers those who devoutly invoke him from all visible dangers, gladdens the churches of faithful and Catholic peoples, guards Christian kingdoms and kings; makes the faithful victorious; pursues their enemies; preserves his slaves from slander; delivers the good from the troubles of those who persecute them; rescues from the raging waves of the sea those who invoke him; gives fertility to the land; guides those who walk in darkness, defends those who are wronged, comforts those who are afflicted, visits the sick; stands as surety for sinners, repels the impulses of demons; It extinguishes the flames of vice and leads us to practice virtue.

Let us implore, then, his intercession to deliver us from dangers, to keep us from all disorder and all evil spiritual and temporal.

Example

While the blessed virgin Otingia, along with other devout women, was on pilgrimage to *Mount Gargano ,* dedicated to Saint Michael, some wicked men tried to attack them and tempt them to sin against chastity. The Holy Archangel appeared to them, urging them to hurry, for they were in great danger to their souls and bodies; and as they were weary, he comforted them and gave them strength to follow him until he brought them to safety, and then he disappeared.

On the other hand, a devout woman was accustomed to visiting the Church of Saint Michael the Archangel every day very early in the morning, and upon seeing it from afar, she would pray to the Holy Archangel. One day, as she was going to the church and praying with great fervor, feeling encouraged to overcome all obstacles that might prevent her customary visit, she suddenly encountered an obstacle that seemed insurmountable, but she overcame it without difficulty. She then seemed to hear Saint Michael say these words: " *Pass on, do not fear."* She continued on without hesitation, beseeching the Lord to send her two of his guardians, and at once a man appeared who, without saying more than a simple greeting, accompanied her to the church, where the woman devoted to Saint Michael gave thanks to her holy protector for having delivered her from such great danger.

DAY 14

Meditation

Saint Michael 's zeal for men to practice virtue

When God gave his people the Laws they should observe to please him, offering them a thousand blessings from Heaven and Earth if they fulfilled his precepts, threatening with anathemas and punishments those who did not hear his voice and broke them, also promising them the company and protection of the Holy Angels and that of the guardian and protector of the people of Israel, who had been working so many wonders with them.

This Angel was the Archangel Saint Michael, Patron and Guardian of the Ancient Synagogue, as he is currently of the Holy The Catholic Church and its children.
Then the Lord said to him, " See, *I am sending my angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Revere him and listen to his voice. Do not think he will be despised, for when*

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If you sin, it will not be forgiven you, and my name is in him. But if you listen to his voice and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will afflict those who afflict you, whom I will crush, for he speaks and acts in my name.

Interpreters of Holy Scripture say that this Angel who promises is the Archangel Saint Michael, and they also understand that this place refers to the Messiah, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life to illuminate with his light and guide without stumbling the men who live in this world.

This glorious Archangel also wished to communicate this light and guidance to men, with his wholesome advice. and sound doctrine which he has taught his devotees.

Saint Michael appeared to Enofrio, a servant of God, and taught him what he should preach to men, telling him that the topics of preaching should be: virtues and vices, the punishments of sinners, the reward of the righteous; and especially, moderating and restraining the tongue, removing sins from it and what causes them; guarding the bodily senses, and observing the Ten Commandments, especially the first three, which pertain to the honor of God, and which predispose one to keep the others.

Saint Michael said that where men most showed their folly was in turning away from God Our Lord and forgetting his salvation, which must be avoided with the utmost care.

Example

A courtier of Emperor Otto named Ruch built a very rich monastery in honor of Saint Michael, and begged the Holy Archangel to obtain for him the grace and favor of the emperor.

Saint Michael appeared to him on the eve of his feast and said to him: *I do not want the temple you have built for me, because you have made it with the blood of the poor, with the vexations you have caused them; because of the importance you have gained with the favor of the emperor; and for this reason you have long been condemned by God, to Whom I have prayed, that in order for you to be saved, He may turn the heart of the emperor against you, and that He may be angry with you and do justice by ordering you to be beheaded.*

The Lord has granted me that, if you die in this way, you will not be condemned.

Seeing this terrible sentence, the knight vowed to renounce the world, atone for the wrongs done, and become a monk, which he fulfilled to the letter. With this resolution, he managed to have the death he was to suffer at the hands of the executioner changed to the death he himself chose, inflicting upon himself that violence by which the kingdom of God is taken away.

DAY 15

Meditation

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, PERFORMER OF MIRACLES

Consider how illustrious Saint Michael is, for according to Saint Gregory: *whenever miracles are performed in the Church, the executor is Saint Michael.*

Bearing this in mind, the venerable deacon Pantaleon gives a long account of the miracles of this Saint Archangel, and attributes to him all that was done in the Old Testament.

He was the one who performed the wonders of Egypt to rescue God's people; the one who guided them with the pillar of fire through the deserts and the one who parted the seas, freezing their depths in walls of crystal, and drowned Pharaoh's armies; the one who sweetened the bitter waters, and brought forth springs from the rocks and miraculously divided the Jordan; the one who brought down the walls of Jericho, and stopped the sun and the moon in the battle of Gibeon, killed so many thousands of men at Sennacherib and performed all the miracles that are related there.

Consider also, according to the general rule of St. Gregory, that whenever any miracle occurs in the world, it is understood that its execution is the work of St. Michael. God Our Lord has shown us the desire that we turn to His great Prince in all matters of peace, war, justice, and mercy, with the countless favors He bestows through his intercession, granting to those who entrust themselves to him every kind of spiritual and physical good: health, life, honor, riches, children, wisdom, and, in particular, the virtues, which are the true goods, and salvation, which is the sole purpose and necessary aim for which we are in this mortal life.

It is easier to count the stars in the sky and the grains of sand on the seashore than the favors and miracles of Saint Michael the Archangel, especially concerning our salvation and eternal happiness. He provides us with the means to achieve it, inspiring us to do good, helping us in temptations, driving away our enemies, and performing great wonders and miracles for this purpose.

Let us take advantage of these means and follow their wise inspirations.

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Example

The early Christians, in their tremendous struggle to overthrow paganism, always believed that all Christian victories over hell were achieved through the mediation of Saint Michael. Therefore, when they destroyed temples to Mars, the pagan god of war, they built new ones in the same places to Saint Michael. This happened, for example, in Antwerp, Liège, Bonn, Cologne, and elsewhere.

That the Church's great triumph over Lucifer was attributed to Saint Michael, as minister and executor of the divine plans, is also proven by the countless legends on this subject, which are told in most of the ancient Christian nations.

The essence of these legends lies in a monstrous dragon that infests entire countries and causes countless evils with its ferocity and pestilential venom. It is a clear personification of Satan; this dragon, invulnerable to all human weapons, is finally defeated and killed by Saint Michael, who appears miraculously or is invoked with fervor.

These legends exist in Spain, France, Germany, Poland, and many other countries.
Thus, the sovereign power of Saint Michael over all infernal forces was recognized in all Christian nations.

DAY 16

Meditation

SAINT MICHAEL, EXECUTOR OF DIVINE JUDGMENTS

Let us consider that Saint Michael is one of those celestial spirits appointed by the Lord to carry out divine judgments. They are God's tribunals, judges, and the principal ministers of His justice.

Observe with utmost attention how the glorious Saint Michael holds this office, for, as a pious author states, he is the Judge and President who pronounces the sentence of salvation or eternal damnation upon all who die. He is called Prefect of Paradise, for without his decree and judgment, no one will be admitted there.

He is the one who will call all ages with a fearful trumpet to judgment.

This office or dignity of such honor and trust is recognized by the Holy Fathers and Doctors in Saint Michael; this is affirmed by the Church in the ecclesiastical office, and this is also represented by the weight and sword with which he is commonly depicted.
Before Christ, Our Lord, came into the world, Saint Michael was the Delegate Judge of Christ Our Redeemer, King and universal Judge of the ages. Currently, the Redeemer pronounces all sentences through this Holy Archangel until the final day of the Last Judgment, which He will celebrate in His own person, approving and confirming all the sentences that Saint Michael would have given in the particular judgment of each person, which takes place at the end of life.

On the last day, Saint Michael will be the chief minister of Christ, because everything that must be done in the preceding days is attributed by Saint John in the Apocalypse to the glorious Saint Michael, who was represented in that great and mysterious Spirit, who, with one foot on the sea and the other on the land and his sword in his hand, outlined the great works that he had in his care and that all the other Angels and men had to carry out under his orders.
How well the majesty of God knew the piety of Saint Michael, when, in the name of Jesus Christ, His Most Holy Son, and to be His lieutenant and Prime Minister, He entrusted him with the Judiciary of Angels and Men! This most pious Prince desires that all men be saved. That is why it is said in the Apocalypse that he holds the keys of death and hell, desiring that all men enter Heaven and none fall into hell.

Let us beseech the Lord to assist us with his powerful grace, so that, being judges of ourselves and of our own excesses in this life, we may improve it so that Saint Michael, God's Greatest Justice, will find nothing left to judge at the end of it.

Example

A knight devoted to Saint Michael, but very vicious and dissolute, served Don Pedro de Luna, the first Count of Morata and Viceroy of Aragon. Once, the Lord visited him with a dangerous illness, and although he knew he would die, they could not persuade him to confess, because his great sins made him distrust God's mercy. He then remembered Saint Michael, and Saint Michael remembered him, for appearing to the sick man, he encouraged him to trust in the Lord's mercy, and told him that God, through his intercession, had granted him three hours to confess and repent of his sins. Not content with this favor, the Archangel himself went to the Convent of Santo Domingo to ask for a

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The sick man confessed to the priest with many tears and sorrow for his sins; and he told the confessor of the favor he had received from Saint Michael and three hours later he expired, leaving everyone with sure hopes of his eternal salvation.

DAY 17

Meditation

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This office or dignity of such honor and trust is recognized by the Holy Fathers and Doctors in Saint Michael; this is affirmed by the Church in the ecclesiastical office, and this is also represented by the weight and sword with which he is commonly depicted.

Before Christ, Our Lord, came into the world, Saint Michael was the Delegate Judge of Christ Our Redeemer, King and universal Judge of the ages. Currently, the Redeemer pronounces all sentences through this Holy Archangel until the final day of the Last Judgment, which He will celebrate in His own person, approving and confirming all the sentences that Saint Michael would have given in the particular judgment of each person, which takes place at the end of life.

On the last day, Saint Michael will be the chief minister of Christ, because everything that must be done in the preceding days is attributed by Saint John in the Apocalypse to the glorious Saint Michael, who was represented in that great and mysterious Spirit, who, with one foot on the sea and the other on the land and his sword in his hand, outlined the great works that he had in his care and that all the other Angels and men had to carry out under his orders.

How well the majesty of God knew the piety of Saint Michael, when, in the name of Jesus Christ, His Most Holy Son, and to be His lieutenant and Prime Minister, He entrusted him with the Judiciary of Angels and Men! This most pious Prince desires that all men be saved. That is why it is said in the Apocalypse that he holds the keys of death and hell, desiring that all men enter Heaven and none fall into hell.

Let us beseech the Lord to assist us with his powerful grace, so that, being judges of ourselves and of our own excesses in this life, we may improve it so that Saint Michael, God's Greatest Justice, will find nothing left to judge at the end of it.

Example

A knight devoted to Saint Michael, but very dissolute and vicious, served Don Pedro de Luna, the first Count of Morata and Viceroy of Aragon. Once, the Lord visited him with a dangerous illness, and although he knew he would die, they could not persuade him to confess, because his great sins made him distrust God's mercy. He then remembered Saint Michael, and Saint Michael remembered him, for appearing to the sick man, he encouraged him to trust in the Lord's mercy and told him that God, through his intercession, had granted him three hours to confess and repent of his sins. Not content with this favor, the Archangel himself went to the Convent of Santo Domingo to ask for a priest, to whom the sick man confessed with many tears and sorrow for his sins; and he told the confessor of the favor he had received from Saint Michael. After three hours, he expired, leaving everyone with sure hopes of his eternal salvation.

DAY 18

Meditation

Saint Michael places good souls in possession of glory.

Let us consider that Saint Michael, as Chief of those Angelic Hierarchies and Superintendent of all their celestial government, is the one who, incessantly, takes charge of preparing the places and rewards in the celestial Jerusalem or Church Triumphant, for the souls who walk through the militant, in the desert of this world, accompanying them, directing them and advising them so that they become worthy of great palms and crowns.

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Having pronounced the sentence in favor of the predestined in the particular judgment, he presents their souls to the Most Holy Trinity and places them in possession of glory. And so the Church says in her office that Saint Michael comes with a multitude of Angels, to whom God has entrusted the souls, so that they may take them to Paradise.

Saint Michael carried the souls of the Patriarchs and Prophets—Isaac, Jacob, David, Saint Joachim, Saint—to the bosom of Abraham. Anne, Saint Simeon, Saint John the Baptist, Saint Joseph and all the others of the Old Testament who died before Jesus Christ, Our Lord, from Adam and Eve; the innocent Abel, with Job, and the others mentioned in the Holy Books either as righteous or as true penitents.

Saint Michael also leads the Saints to Heaven in the New Testament, after the Resurrection and triumphant Ascension of Our Savior Jesus, who opened the gates for all humankind through His shameful Passion and painful Death. There he took the souls of Saint Stephen, Saint Lawrence, Saint Peter, Saint Paul, Saint James, and all the other Apostles, Evangelists, Martyrs, Popes, Doctors of the Church, Confessors, Virgins, Widows, Anchorites, and Penitents of the Law of Grace.

He first bore the wounds of the innocent children who were martyred by Herod in revenge for the Child God, and he has borne and continues to bear the wounds of all innocent children who die after Baptism, adorned with the theological virtues and gifts of the Holy Spirit, which He Himself infused into them.

And Saint Gregory of Tours affirms that the arms of Saint Michael were the triumphant chariot in which the soul ascended to heaven From the Most Holy Mary, the Son granted the honor to His servant of presenting to the Most Holy Trinity the precious soul of His Most Holy Mother. It was the best and richest gift ever made to God, apart from the soul of His divine Son and His merits. It was worth more than Heaven and Earth with all that they contain.

Let us live in such a way that, finding ourselves in Saint Michael, we are faithful to God and imitators of the virtues of Our Lord May Jesus Christ, His Most Holy Mother, and the saints present our souls with joy before the throne of the Most Blessed Trinity, and may the treasures of our Divine Redeemer be applied to us and adorn us in the mansion of glory.

Example

Around the year 1376, Don Lope Fernández de Luna, Archbishop of Zaragoza, went to visit the miraculous image of Our Lady of the Sierra. On his way to Villa Roya, he dismissed his servants ahead of him and remained with a chaplain.

The devout prelate was praying when, at an unusual hour, before reaching a pine grove, he heard a mournful voice lamenting. The voice repeated its lament, and when he asked his chaplain if he had heard any complaints, the chaplain replied that he had heard a plaintive voice. Once the Archbishop was certain, he told him to follow him, and, tying their horses to some tree trunks that the forest offered them, they set off in search of the voice. Arriving at the place to which the lament had led them, they saw, not without great admiration and astonishment, a severed head from a corpse a few paces away, leaping about on the ground. They were utterly surprised when the head said aloud: " *Archbishop Lope, confession."*

The Archbishop approached the head, heard the confession, and after absolving the man, the man told the Archbishop that the reason God had granted him such a great grace, preserving his soul in his head until he confessed, was because he had been very devoted to Saint Michael. When some of his enemies were about to behead him, he implored the Archangel's favor, and the Holy Archangel appeared to him and promised that he would not die until he confessed his sins. Having said this, he expired, and the Archbishop had his body given ecclesiastical burial. In memory of this miracle, he built the Chapel of Saint Michael in the Cathedral of Zaragoza, where this miracle is recounted.

DAY 19

Meditation

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL SUPPORTS THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

Let us consider that it is a dogma of our Holy Religion, that there is a place where those who die in grace, without having fully satisfied their sins, have to purify themselves and pay every last penny of their debts, not being able to enter Paradise until they have purged all their sins.

The torments of that place are unspeakable, for according to Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas, the most terrible torment Little one of Purgatory, surpasses and exceeds all that can be suffered in this world.

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The desire for some relief, some consolation, amidst so much torment must be very strong. For this relief and consolation will be provided by Saint Michael the Archangel, because this loving protector will not forget his devotees; rather, he will be eager to present to God the prayers offered for them, and he will console them, since he is charged with this task for the souls in Purgatory.

His office states that God has entrusted him with all the souls who are saved, so that he may lead them to Paradise. At the Mass of For the deceased, the Church prays to the Holy Archangel to present to God, in the place of Holy Light, the souls of those who have died. Full of tender concern for the good souls entrusted to him, he never ceases to assist and help them, granting them much relief in the pains of Purgatory. If in this world he consoles those who are afflicted and devoted to him, how much more will he console those poor souls, tormented beyond measure.

It must be most pleasing to the Holy Archangel that his devotees apply themselves to making prayers, offerings, and good works for the souls in Purgatory, so that he may present them to the Lord and lead them as soon as possible to the holy light that God promised to Abraham and his descendants.

Example

Jaime Massi tells us that a priest, one day, was specifically recommending to some souls, pronouncing the words of the Mass: "May Saint Michael, Prince of Angels, lead you into the place of holy light," and at that very moment he saw the glorious Archangel descend from Heaven to Purgatory to deliver them. The same author adds that a monk of Cîteaux, after his death, appeared to a friend of his, a priest, and told him that he was still in Purgatory, but that he would be released if, during Mass, he commended him to Saint Michael. The priest did as the monk wished, and he saw, as did others, his friend's soul being taken to Heaven by the Holy Archangel, the heavenly comforter of Purgatory.

DAY 20

Meditation

THE FIGHT OF SAINT MICHAEL AGAINST LUCIFER AND THE TRIUMPH OF THE ARCHANGEL

First point

Consider the blissful state enjoyed in Heaven by all the Angels of God. His Majesty commanded them to worship His Divine Son, united with humanity, and one of His most beautiful and brilliant Angels, Lucifer, seeing himself so superior to human nature, was filled with pride and refused to obey his Creator's commands. He rose up in a haughty manner and uttered these rebellious words: " *I, so beautiful and so enlightened, must I worship the Son of Man, even though He is united with Divinity? No; I will not serve Him. I will ascend to the throne of the Most High, and I will make myself like Him."* And a third of those blessed spirits heard the voice of pride and followed Lucifer in his rebellion.

See how much vanity and pride can do, even leading the Angels of Heaven astray, and observe the power of bad example that corrupted those so close to Divinity. Examine your heart and see if it is subject to such dangers. Strive to distance yourself from them and cast them far away from you.

Second point

Holyly angered, Michael, another of the most exalted angels in glory, upon hearing of Lucifer's rebellion, cried out, burning with holy zeal: *"Who dares rise up against a command given by the Most High? Who can compare with the Almighty? Who is like God?"* And two-thirds of the angels followed him. Then a dreadful battle broke out between the good and evil angels; some defending God without feeling equal to His greatness, His holiness, His admirable perfections; others trying to combat all the attributes of His Majesty. Michael and his angels fought without wavering for a single instant in their fidelity and cast their adversaries out of glory, achieving the most complete victory over the army of the proud and unfaithful to their God. Learn the steadfastness of Saint Michael, the way in which you must seek the glory of God and resist the snares of the devil.

Example

When Saint Paul of the Cross attempted to establish the Congregation of the Most Holy Cross and Passion of Jesus Christ, the most terrible storm arose against him and his nascent Institute. The demons, seeing in the first

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The convent, a bulwark against his power, was the target of their machinations to overthrow it, and they destroyed by night the work of the day; but a mysterious and superior force paralyzed their evil efforts. The Saint's enemies, irritated by the inadequacy of their slander, resorted to violence and put into practice the plan the demons had attempted before: to demolish the convent, which was already nearly finished.

One dark night, while all around the new building was silent, those wicked men, blinded by passion, silently went to tear down the sacred walls; but the same mysterious power that had defended them against the demons struck the fanatics with fright and terror... A heavenly vision terrified them and then forced them to flee in panic.

Standing upon a globe of fire and holding in his hand a shining sword, they saw the Archangel Saint Michael who
He protected the building; when the Holy Founder learned of the danger and the defense, he dedicated an altar in the new Church to the glorious Archangel, defender of the nascent Congregation.

DAY 21

Meditation

SAINT MICHAEL, PRINCE OF THE ANGELIC MILITIES

First point

Consider and understand the greatness of the Archangel Saint Michael, knowing that he holds the highest rank in the army of Angels dedicated to the service of God. The Holy Spirit tells us in the Book of Daniel that Saint Michael is one of the first Princes. The Holy Church repeats this in the Office of the same Holy Archangel: Prince of the Host of Angels, and adds that the Angels pay him homage. Sacred Scripture, while simply calling the other celestial spirits Angels, refers to Saint Michael, through the words of Saint Paul, *as Archangel,* as if acknowledging the greatness of his dignity and excellence. Invoke him, Christian, with fervor; venerate him, love him, make him your intercessor in the presence of God, and trust in his gracious patronage.

Second point

The Holy Archangel earned this greatness through the zeal with which he, before all others, defended the Lord's adorable name. God desired to be served promptly and loved above all things, and Saint Michael was the first to bear witness to his love and to the will he had consecrated entirely to God, from the very first instant of his creation, humbling himself before the Divine Majesty with complete submission of his will to the exalted will of his God and Creator.

He was also the first to surrender himself completely and without reservation to his Lord. Saint Michael had already been created with greater splendor, beauty, and light than most of the Angels, as had Lucifer; but Lucifer became filled with pride because of his excellent gifts, while Michael subdued the spirit of pride and humbled himself all the more, the higher he was than the other Angels. For this reason, he was exalted above all, because he surpassed them all in virtue, which he practiced by conquering himself and by defeating the rebellious Archangel who, through his fault, had become the Prince of Demons.

Learn, from the example of this glorious Archangel, to resist temptations, to humble yourself and to love God above all things.

Three Our Fathers, Hail Marys and Glory Be.

Example

Another of the principal roles our ancestors recognized in Saint Michael was that of custodian and zealous guardian of our churches. This zealous Archangel often severely punished irreverence and transgressions committed within the temples.

The following story, very well known in the Middle Ages and recorded by different authors, confirms
fully those pious beliefs:

A young man named Coliberto, driven by great curiosity, wanted to spend a night in the Church, to observe what
It happened in the temple during the hours of darkness. The priests tried in vain to dissuade him from his attempt.
Coliberto found a way to hide and lock himself inside the church at night. But then, around midnight, Saint Michael, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Saint Peter appeared in the middle of the church. The Archangel severely rebuked the young man for his audacity. Filled with terror, he felt a cold sweat bathe his body, experienced mortal dread, and

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He tried to hide in a corner. But the Blessed Virgin comforted him, gently rebuking him and allowing him to leave the temple. Upon exiting, he fell to the ground as if dead. He repented of his sin, wept bitterly, and performed rigorous penance.

That's how he avoided being punished more severely by Saint Michael.

DAY 22

Meditation

Saint Michael continues to fight Satan on Earth.

First point

The Prophet Zechariah recounts a vision he had, in which there was a multitude of knights. Sacred texts tell us that these knights were angels and that the one to whom they reported their missions was the Archangel Michael.

The great Archangel, in the manner of a general, distributes the guardians of each nation and each person, and they He communicates his orders, always in accordance with the will of God.

Daniel testifies to the favor he bestows upon us, when he says: *Michael, the great Prince who stands in favor of the children of your people, arose;* and the Church, in accordance with this doctrine, puts this tender invocation on the lips of all Catholics: *Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle.*

With Saint Michael on our side, why fear? How could we have succumbed so many times, fighting supported by So strong, champ?

Let us imitate the glorious Archangel, directing our hearts to God; let us not waver, inclining half to Heaven and half to our passions. Let us say with firmness: *Who is like God?* and we will conquer all the temptations with which the enemy assails us.

Second point

Let us further enliven our confidence, considering the tender interest that animates Saint Michael to come to our defense in the various battles we must wage against Lucifer; the intense love he professes for God made him undertake the defense of His outraged honor; and the same love for God that the devil tries to inflict upon us kindles more and more the zeal of the valiant Archangel, so that we may sustain ourselves and preserve the grace with which we have been adorned by Divine Goodness.

Let us, therefore, abandon all forms of cowardice. Let us not desire to sin, and we shall not sin. He who cast out of Heaven the first who dared to offend God will destroy all his power on earth and cover us with the impenetrable shield of His high protection. Let us make ourselves worthy of such a singular favor, and we shall surely attain it.

Example

The admirable story of Saint Joan of Arc is perhaps the strongest and most prodigious argument for the protection of Saint Michael the Archangel.

When Juana was very young, Saint Michael appeared to her and, in a loving and sweet voice, told her to be good and prudent and He told her to make a point of attending church. He appeared to her again surrounded by a countless army of angels, and the girl was so captivated by his beauty that when he disappeared, she wept bitterly because he hadn't taken her with him to Heaven. After many other apparitions, in 1428, the shepherdess of the Meuse saw the Prince of Angels again in the form of a valiant warrior who told her firmly: " *Joan, get up and go to the aid of the King of France. You must restore his kingdom."*

The humble shepherdess excuses herself by saying that she is a poor girl, who does not know how to ride a horse, much less lead troops. Saint Michael replies even more emphatically: *Go immediately to Captain Robert de Baudricourt of Vaucouleurs, he will give you the troops you must command.*

Joan obeys Saint Michael: she lays siege to Orleans, and achieves a decisive victory on May 8, the feast of the apparition Juana, from San Miguel, was overcome with gratitude to San Miguel, general of the knights of Heaven.

Under the auspices of Saint Michael, he continued his prodigious campaign, leading the French armies from victory to victory, driving the English from their homeland, and succeeding in placing the crown of King of the French on the brow of Charles VII in Reims on July 16, 1429.

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A famous impious man of the last century confesses that Joan of Arc's victories cannot be conceived without the intervention prodigious of San Miguel.

DAY 23

Meditation

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, PROTECTOR OF THE CHURCH

First point

The same Holy Church, moved by the Holy Spirit in the prayer of Saint Michael, tells us of the great Archangel: *The Church venerates him as Guardian and Patron.*

Even in the ancient Church of the Synagogue, it wielded its power and protection to safeguard God's honor and the worship that Satan challenged. Since Lucifer was defeated in Heaven by Michael, the spirit of evil has suffered defeats in all its attacks against the Church.

The infamous one once triumphed, and by deception, over the first man, the head of humanity; but attacking the head of the The Church, the Archangel Saint Michael, has always come to the defense of the Bride of Jesus Christ.

This glorious Archangel, as the Holy Fathers affirm, covered the Hebrew people, chosen by God and destined to keep His promises and offer worthy worship to His adorable Majesty, with his protective wing. And that constant protection which the Holy Archangel bestowed upon the Synagogue, He now likewise delights to extend to the Church, defending and saving her from the many dangers that threaten her and from the terrible assaults directed against her by her enemies.

The Church also invokes him as the head of Paradise to whom God has entrusted the souls of the righteous, and in charge of the defense and protection of his chosen people, and of the Bride of the Lord.

Such is the confidence that the Church places in this Holy Archangel, that today it puts on the lips of all the priests of the world fervent prayers addressed to the Archangel Saint Michael, to beg him to protect Catholicism against the terrible attacks of hell, and of all sectarians.

Give thanks to God, for as a member of the Catholic Church, you are placed under the custody and protection of the glorious Prince of Angels.

Second point

According to the Holy Fathers, Saint Michael was the Angel chosen by God to make our Father Adam conceive the pain and repentance that earned him the most complete forgiveness of his sin.

Saint Michael was sent to confound the languages of those haughty builders of the Tower of Babel, who They intended to clumsily mock God.

Saint Michael spoke to the Patriarch Abraham, prophesying to him a lineage of faithful as numerous as the stars from Heaven, despite Sara's advanced age.

Saint Michael himself appeared to Jacob, guiding him on the road to Haran, promising him his protection, and encouraging him Moses, actively helping him in his attempts to subdue the indecisive Pharaoh and crush his magicians.

The leaders of the Catholic Church have continually experienced his effective help in the incessant battles they must wage against hell and its vile servants. Moreover, the image of the Holy Archangel, erected upon the imposing Hadrian's Basilica next to the residential palace of the Vicar of Rome, the capital city of Catholicism, dominates the landscape.
Christ.

Ask Saint Michael to console the Holy Father and grant you the grace to always be a submissive and obedient son of the Church.

Example

While the life of Saint Joan of Arc offers us admirable proof of the protection of Saint Michael, her death The glorious Saint is a paragon of constant and firm devotion to the great Archangel, guardian of Paradise.

The English, her bitter enemies, managed to take her prisoner in Compiègne, took her to Rouen, and there she was condemned by an unjust court to die burned at the stake.

When her wicked judges questioned her about the apparitions of Saint Michael, the Saint fearlessly replied that she had experienced frequent apparitions of Saint Michael since the age of thirteen. As the judges tried to confuse her with leading questions, Joanna answered with increasing conviction, even though she knew they would condemn her to death: " *I have seen Saint Michael with my own eyes, and I am as certain of his existence as I am of the existence of God."*

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The judges persisted with their leading questions, and Juana answered again: *Yes, I am sure that it was Saint Michael who came to comfort and console me: I have the same certainty and assurance that it was Saint Michael as I have that Our Lord Jesus Christ suffered Death and Passion to free us from the pains of hell.*

Finally, when she knelt before being taken to the stake, she fervently invoked Saint Michael; and when she was surrounded by flames, two venerable religious men who were present heard her invoke the name of Saint Michael aloud.

DAY 24

Meditation

SAINT MICHAEL, MOST ZEALOUS LOVER OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

First point

Consider how, since Saint Michael passed, by divine disposition, from protector of the Synagogue to protector of the Church, he took under his special custody the temples and especially the tabernacles and everything related to the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Since this is the most august and most divine of all the Sacraments, it had to be entrusted to the care and special custody of the most exalted of the Angels.

Consider the displeasure with which Saint Michael will view those who stand before the Blessed Sacrament without devotion and much more so to those who dare to desecrate it.

When you are before the Tabernacle, remember the presence of Saint Michael and try to imitate him in reverence and devotion. the one that guards the Blessed Sacrament.

Second point

The Church's belief in Saint Michael's constant tenderness toward the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist is evident in the prayers placed on the lips of priests during Holy Mass. Twice they invoke Saint Michael at the beginning of the Holy Sacrifice, asking for his help in obtaining forgiveness for their sins. In Requiem Masses, after the Gospel, his intercession is implored to bring the souls in Purgatory to Heaven, and the following is said to Jesus Christ: " *Deliver them from the lion's mouth and from the deep lake; do not let them fall into darkness; rather, may the benevolent Saint Michael present them before the holy light that you once promised to Abraham and his descendants."*

In solemn masses, when blessing the incense, the intercession of Blessed Saint Michael is also invoked. Archangel"

After the consecration, the Church again asks God to deign to accept all that is offered to Him in the Holy Spirit. Sacrifice and that we send it to him through the mediation of his Holy Angel.

Such is the faith that the Holy Church has in the relationship of Saint Michael with the most sacred Eucharist!

Let us also beseech the most zealous Archangel to obtain for us a most fervent devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

Example

The Archangel Saint Michael appeared to a holy man named Didymus and entrusted him with a special respect for the Blessed Sacrament, as all the Angels do in the highest degree.

Saint Michael added that for this reason the Angels greatly respected priests, and that the Mother of God herself, if she were to encounter an Angel or a priest, would show greater honor to the priest. He also made known the reverence with which those celestial spirits attend, prostrate on the ground, the Holy Mass and sovereign sacrifice of the Altar, and there they praise the Lord and adore Jesus Christ, prostrate on their faces, offering to the Eternal Father the sovereign Offering and Divine Victim of His Most Holy Son, for the salvation of the world; and that they are greatly offended by those who do not attend the churches with reverence.

The same reverence for the Blessed Sacrament entrusted to Eutropius, an anchorite, to whom he said that what could most move souls to devotion was the consideration of the Passion of the Lord and the institution of the Blessed Sacrament; whose memory, he affirmed, was for the Holy Archangel himself most sweet and tender.

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DAY 25

Meditation

Devotion to Saint Michael is a sign of predestination.

First point

Remember that during the pilgrimage we are making through this valley of tears, we have to endure fierce battles against our enemies; but these battles must be even stronger at the end of our lives.

The devil, who then has little time left to tempt and lead us astray, will make his greatest efforts. Therefore, the Holy Church urges us to pray to Saint Michael to protect and shelter us at that moment, during the great battle we will have to wage at the hour of death.

Saint Michael, says the Church, *defend us in battle so that we may not perish in the dreadful judgment.* When the dying person arrives to be anointed with holy oil, the minister of the Lord especially asks for the assistance of the Holy Archangel; in the commendation of the soul, in those final prayers, the name of Saint Michael is repeatedly invoked, the Holy Church desiring that all those present pray to the Holy Archangel to take under his protection the soul that is about to depart from this world. And indeed, he will receive it with joy and gladness if, during life, the person has had him as their special advocate, imitating his fidelity and devotion to God.

Let us have special devotion to him and the Holy Archangel will come to meet us, stamping on our foreheads a seal of eternal friendship, and will keep the devil, our cruel enemy, away from our side, defending us from his formidable attacks, so that we do not lose the place that we have prepared in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Second point

Saint Michael ardently desires the salvation of his devotees, and he will not allow a soul that maintains a particular devotion to him to fall into God's disfavor; rather, he will grant it the strength to resist the attacks of hell. And if, unfortunately, that soul has fallen into some grave sin, it will obtain the grace of forgiveness and perseverance.

The Church testifies that when Saint Michael is honored, one participates in his benefits and in the prayers he never ceases to make on behalf of those who serve him, so that he may lead them to the Kingdom of Heaven.

This means that when Saint Michael entrusts a soul to God, it attains eternal salvation. Therefore, Saint Lawrence Justinian exhorts all people to seek the protection of this powerful Archangel through prayers and other pious practices and offerings, so that he may help them in all their needs, for he cannot disdain the supplications addressed to him, nor fail to protect those who trust in his intercession and love him.

Example

Father Engelgrave relates that Ferdinand, Prince of Portugal, had great devotion to Saint Michael, visiting him every day at an altar dedicated to him, and celebrating all his festivities with fasting and receiving Holy Communion.

The Holy Archangel also rewarded his fervor, appearing to him one day and pleading with the Mother of God to deliver him quickly from the dangers of the world and obtain for him the grace of going directly to Heaven. The good Mother accepted the plea of her heavenly servant, and on the day she foretold, Fernando happily departed this life at the age of seventeen, assisted by Saint Michael, who immediately led him into Paradise.

DAY 26

Meditation

Saint Michael will present our prayers to God.

First point

While the Holy Angels, and in particular our Guardian Angel, intercede with God and present our prayers and other good works to Him, it is Saint Michael who, in a special way, offers to the Lord the prayers we offer. This is what the Holy Church teaches us, placing on the lips of priests a beautiful supplication, asking His Divine Majesty that, through the intercession of the Blessed Saint Michael the Archangel, who stands at the right hand of the Altar of Incense, and through the merits of all the elect, the Lord may deign to bless the incense we raise in His presence and accept its sweet fragrance.

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It is known that incense represents the prayers of the Church Militant.

Focus your attention on the joy you have in having the great Archangel accompany your prayers; ignite yourself with ardent zeal for the glory of God and strive to pray with more recollection, with more faith and with more confidence.

Second point

With special affection, the Prince of the Angelic Hosts strives to support our prayers when we address them to our Lord, asking for mercy for our sins. In the humble confession of our sins, and in the supplication we make before confession and Holy Communion, and at the beginning of Holy Mass, we say: *To you, Archangel Saint Michael, we confess that we have greatly sinned in thought, word, and deed; pray to God our Lord that He may deign to grant us pardon.* Oh! How much confidence this great Archangel inspires in our souls, whose greatness in perfection, zeal, and love obtained for him from the Lord such a high mission!

Invoke him frequently, and wait confidently in his holy protection.

Example

Saint Paul of the Cross always professed a fervent devotion to the Archangel Saint Michael. This glorious Saint was persecuted. in a most cruel way by Satan who tormented his body and soul fiercely.

But what most enraged the evil spirit was the Congregation that Saint Paul of the Cross was busy founding. To defend himself against such infernal attacks, the Patriarch of the Passion fervently turned to Saint Michael and exhorted his followers to continually venerate the great vanquisher of Satan. He even declared him one of the principal patrons of the new Congregation. The Prince of the Heavenly Host protected the Saint and the Congregation in a wondrous way, even with manifest miracles. And as if this were not enough, he appeared to the Holy Founder in all the splendor of his glory. The glorious Archangel solemnly promised the Saint that he would always protect him and that he would watch over and defend the Congregation of the Passionists in a most special way. Overwhelmed with consolation and strengthened by this formal promise from Saint Michael, the Saint overcame all the attacks of the devil and carried out his great work under the protection of Saint Michael.

DAY 27

Meditation

Saint Michael the Advocate, Protector for a Good Death

First point

The glorious Saint Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, would lead this prayer to the Archangel Saint Michael every day when preparing to celebrate Holy Mass: *Saint Michael, Archangel of God and Guardian of Heaven, come to my aid in the hour of my death; be my defense against the evil enemy and lead my soul to the Paradise of eternal joys.*

God Himself has appointed the Holy Archangel Prince and *praepositus paradissi,* that is, administrator of the glory of Heaven, in which he orders the place that corresponds to each of the souls who have the joy of flying to the mansion of most blessed happiness. From this we can deduce the zeal with which he works in the last moments of our mortal life, to deliver us from the wiles of Satan. Saint Michael, who so longs to increase the number of God's worshippers and who always seeks the glory of His Majesty.

Strive, through your good works, to merit the sweet protection of Saint Michael for that terrible hour.

What have you done about this so far?

What should you do?

Second point

It is the same Holy Archangel who judges our works according to their worth, that is, according to their goodness and the zeal with which we have done them. The wicked Belshazzar was warned by Daniel that his works had been weighed on the scales of divine justice, and they fell far short of the required weight. Woe to you, Christian, if

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When the great Archangel weighs your deeds and finds you lacking the good qualities necessary to stand before God, prepare yourself in advance, for nothing matters more to you than the salvation of your soul. If you cannot save it, what good will all the world be to you?

Example

A Capuchin friar named Ibo had a great devotion to the glorious Archangel Saint Michael, who appeared to him one day and told him that he should prepare for his impending death. From that moment on, Brother Ibo thought of nothing but preparing himself to die well through many virtuous acts, and he indeed died in the odor of sanctity, as Father Palocci, who wrote his biography, relates.

It is also written in the life of Saint Cajetan that in his last moments demons appeared to him and tormented him with their temptations; but that Saint Michael, to whom he was very devoted, appeared to him in turn and freed him from all the anxieties that the evil spirits accused him of.

DAY 28

Meditation

SAINT MICHAEL AT THE END OF THE WORLD

First point

We read in the Book of Revelation these comforting words concerning the last days of the world: " I *saw another angel ascending from the east, having the mark of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea, saying, 'Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of God.'"* By this angel who forbids harm to God's chosen ones, the saints understand the most glorious Archangel Saint Michael.

Admire the gentle solicitude of this standard-bearer of God, as the Church calls him, who will arrange what is necessary so that the good are not confused with the wicked. On that terrible day, Saint Michael, assisting Elijah, will bring about the conversion of the heretics, the Jews, and all those who allow themselves to be led astray in those last days by the Antichrist and his followers. Until the very last moment, Saint Michael will be the help and protection of God's people.
Rekindle your faith and, through your piety, gain the protection of the great Archangel for the final hour.

Second point

The last wicked one on earth, the son of evil, known as the Antichrist, will be fought and crushed by Saint Michael the Archangel, glorious ruler and victor over the first wicked one who rose up in Heaven against his God and Lord. The Prince of the angelic hosts, who, in defense of the glory of the Lord, the Incarnation of the Word, and the wondrous Motherhood of Mary Immaculate, first uttered in Heaven that enthusiastic cry of *"Who is like God?"* will cause the same triumphant acclamation to resound throughout the earth as the final expression of God's power, an acclamation that will crush Lucifer and all his followers, dragging them once again and forever back to Hell.

Examine your conscience and strive to live in such a way that on that terrible day you will not be confused with the reprobate, but glorified with the elect.

Example

The Holy Doctor of the Church, Bede the Venerable, tells us in his history of England that, when Saint Wilfrid was seriously ill in the year 705, the glorious Saint Michael appeared to him, filling him with heavenly comfort.

The Holy Archangel, moved by Wilfrido's suffering, miraculously cured him of his illness.

To this great favor, he added another no less remarkable. Before parting from Wilfrido, Saint Michael told him: *In four Years later I will return to find your soul and take it with me to Heaven.*

This is exactly what happened. Four years later, Saint Wilfrid died, and Saint Michael came at the hour of their deaths to receive his soul and led her to Paradise.

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DAY 29

Meditation

DEDICATION TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

The Holy Mother Church, grateful for the great benefits that Saint Michael the Archangel and, under his command, the Holy Angels continually distribute and lavish, in favor of the holy faith and all its children, dedicate this day the solemnity and Divine Office, in homage to Saint Michael and his Holy Angels of all the celestial hierarchies, who There are three, divided into nine Angelic Choirs: Angels, Archangels, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Dominions, Thrones, Cherubim, and Seraphim. These names console faithful souls simply by being mentioned, and compel us to remember the many and singular blessings we all receive from their goodness and generous vigilance and care, especially from the glorious Prince Saint Michael.

God has willed, in various places and times, to work wonderful things through the intercession and ministry of this blessed Prince of the Church, so that all the faithful may know that they are under his protection and be very devoted to him, and turn to him in their labors and needs.

In church histories, we read of several apparitions of Saint Michael the Archangel. This is attested to by the many churches. in his memory consecrated to the Lord, both in the East and in the West.

Great miracles and wonders we owe to the heavenly Prince Saint Michael, who, strong in battle, obtained the victory, and continues to exercise the same office, and will do so until the end of the world with all souls, until the end of the life of each one of them.

What would become of these poor souls, in danger of death, if glorious Saint Michael did not protect them in the fierce battle against death? What would become of the many dangers that surround us in life, if Saint Michael and his holy Angels did not favor us and deliver us from them? Not only from those we know, but also from countless others we do not. And Saint Michael does not favor only individual souls, but also communities, towns, cities, religious congregations, universities, and centers of the doctrine of Jesus Christ, which the infernal dragon most frequently attacks to hinder the preservation and growth of the faith and the sanctification of souls and Christian virtues.

How many thanks can we give to our Heavenly Father, who has given us this powerful help, born from the depths of His mercy? How can we thank Him for the immense goodness and charity with which He watches over us and our well-being?

Let us be grateful for so many blessings; and let us take advantage of the powerful help of Saint Michael, by turning to him. with great confidence, and asking him from the bottom of our hearts to come to our aid.

Example

September 29th, the day consecrated by the Church to celebrate the solemn feast of Saint Michael, is also memorable for the great favors that Saint Michael often grants to his devotees on that day. Among them, we will mention the following:

In the year 1568, the Prince of Condé, driven by his pride and ambition, after having deserted from the Catholic ranks, took the lead of the French Calvinists and rose up in war against Charles IX, his sovereign, and against all the Catholics of France.

The struggle looked fierce. The Calvinists, supported by Protestants both inside and outside the city, had the upper hand. Sure. The Catholics were terrified.

In those critical moments, everyone remembered Saint Michael, the vanquisher of Satan and all errors and heresies, and decided to invoke him in a most solemn manner.

On September 29, an unprecedented prayer service was held in Paris in honor of Saint Michael.

The entire Court, a great number of Bishops, the religious orders, and an innumerable multitude of the faithful formed the magnificent Procession. Amidst the authorities, pressed by the crowd, the most illustrious relics from all the churches of the French capital were carried. Piety and fervor filled every breast and every heart.

The most glorious Archangel could not ignore so many fervent prayers. The war began: Saint Michael's patronage of the Catholics was undeniable. Finally, the day of the pitched battle arrived, the battle that would decide the winner. It took place at Jarnac.

There the Catholics annihilated the Calvinists or Huguenots in a brilliant victory that ended the war. Saint Michael gave victory to his devotees.

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DAY 30

Meditation

GLORY OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Consider the immense glory enjoyed by Saint Michael the Archangel, contemplating the face of the Eternal very closely.
Father, for as the divine Savior said, the Angels are always seeing the face of their Heavenly Father.

The Holy Scriptures tell us that countless Angels are in charge of God's ministry and that an even greater number are occupied in assisting Him, courting Him: *Thousands upon thousands ministered to God, says the prophet Daniel, and ten thousand times hundreds of thousands attended Him.*

According to the Holy Scriptures, he who fights valiantly in defense of the law and of justice will be crowned, and no one deserves the crown of glory more than the Archangel Saint Michael, for he leads the hosts of Heaven against the angels who rebelled against their God and Lord. And if the angels who fought under his banner are happy because they always see the face of the Lord, what will be the happiness enjoyed by this generous champion, as a reward for his deeds, whether by vanquishing the dragon in Heaven or by offering his aid and protection to the Lord's Church on earth?

No human understanding, unless illuminated by the light of glory, can comprehend the ineffable sweetness.
that are enjoyed in the mansions of the blessed, and even less can the tongue of a mortal explain those delights that *neither eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor has penetrated the heart of man,* as Saint Paul says.

The Apostle Saint Peter, seeing, even in passing, on Mount Tabor, the glory of the Lord in his Transfiguration, exclaimed
Enthusiastically: *Lord, it is good that we are here.* And if these effects produced a share in an instantaneous and fleeting glory, what
effects will it produce on the Archangel Saint Michael, who is always immersed in an ocean of glory, continually seeing and contemplating the face of the Heavenly Father?

Let us admire such glory, such joy and happiness; but let us not be content with simply being admirers.
Let us imitate the great Archangel in charity toward our neighbors and in zeal for the glory of God. Let us live prepared and ever vigilant to repel the attacks of Satan, and thus we will emerge safely from the many dangers that surround us in this valley of tears, and we will see the peaceful face of the Heavenly Father forever and ever. Amen.

Example

If at any moment the Archangel Saint Michael were to appear before us, full of the majesty and glory that he possesses, we could not help but prostrate ourselves on the ground as the Evangelist Saint John prostrated himself at the feet of the Angel of the Apocalypse, believing that he was God himself.

We would fall on our faces as the Prophet Daniel fell, who expressed it in these terms: *I was at the*
I stood on the banks of the mighty Tigris River and looked up, and I saw an angel dressed in white and girded with a sash of fine gold. His body shone like chrysolite, his face like lightning, and his eyes like two blazing torches. His arms and the rest of his body down to his feet were like gleaming bronze, and the sound of his words was like the roar of a great multitude. When I saw him, my courage failed me, I turned pale, my strength failed me, and I fell face down on the ground.

We must consider that, with this solemn presence, the Archangel Saint Michael will appear when Jesus Christ comes to judge mortals. The Holy Archangel, raising the glorious emblem of the Holy Cross, as the Holy Church tells us in the Mass and the Divine Office, " *Signifer Sanctus Michael ,"* and lifted up by him, will be a great consolation to the good, as well as a great confounding force to the reprobate. Jesus Christ will show it to all people and say: " *Behold my banner. Come to me, all you who have not refused to serve under this glorious standard. This, my Cross, saves all who in life were its followers."* Then the glorious bearer, raising that sacred standard, will call all the souls who have been saved to gather under this triumphal emblem, to lead them into Heaven with all solemnity, and thus present them before the throne of God Our Lord to reign eternally.

Exercise of the Angelic Crown at the end of the thirtieth day.

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LITTLE WREATH IN HONOR

TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

(or rosary to the Nine Choirs)

To make this devout exercise more pleasant and precious, it is enough to keep in mind the great pleasure with which it is done. The glorious Archangel Saint Michael welcomed it, who revealed it to the great Servant of God Antonia of Astona in Portugal, as she relates in her life, and which we reproduce here as a pious and particular belief, totally subject to the judgment of the Holy Church.

When Saint Michael appeared before his fervent devotee, he told her that he wished to be venerated with nine salutations. which correspond to the Nine Choirs of Angels, which consist of the recitation of one Our Father and three Hail Marys in honor of the three Angelic Hierarchies, and are concluded with four Our Fathers, the first in honor of him, the second in honor of Saint Gabriel, the third to Saint Raphael and the fourth to our Guardian Angel.

The Holy Archangel promised his devotee that whoever prays his chaplet daily will enjoy his special protection and that of the Angels during their lifetime, and after death will be delivered from Purgatory. He also added that whoever venerates him in this way before Holy Communion will have an Angel from each of the nine Choirs assigned to them to accompany them to the Holy Table.

How to pray it

While standing, if possible, before the image of Saint Michael the Archangel, the following prayers are recited:
In the name of the Father…

Act of Contrition and Supplication

My God, I repent of having offended you because you are infinitely good and kind; I firmly resolve, through your holy grace, not to offend you again even at the cost of my life.
Lord, by your infinite power and virtue and by the merits of the Passion and Death of your glorious Son, I beseech you to have me cleansed.
May your heart and tongue be under control, and may you do deeds that please you. Amen

Regarding the medal of Saint Michael, it is said:

V. My God, come to my aid!
R. Lord, hasten to my aid.
Glory to the Father…

Next, the first large bead of the Crown is taken, leaving the four beads that follow until the end.
medal.

First Greeting

My God, through the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel and the Celestial Choir of Seraphim, kindle in our hearts the flame of perfect charity.
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle so that we do not perish in the tremendous judgment of God.
One Our Father and three Hail Marys.

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Second Salutation

My God! Through the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel and the celestial Choir of Cherubim, grant us the grace to abandon the path of sin and to follow the path of Christian Perfection.
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle so that we do not perish in the tremendous judgment of God.
One Our Father and three Hail Marys.

Third Salutation

My God! Through the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel and the celestial Choir of Thrones, infuse into our hearts the spirit of true and sincere humility.
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle so that we do not perish in the tremendous judgment of God.
One Our Father and three Hail Marys.

Fourth Salutation

My God! Through the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel and the celestial Choir of Dominions, grant us the grace to tame our senses and correct our passions.
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle so that we do not perish in the tremendous judgment of God.
One Our Father and three Hail Marys.

Fifth Salutation

My God! Through the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel and the Celestial Choir of Powers, deign to protect our souls against the snares and temptations of the devil.
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle so that we do not perish in the tremendous judgment of God.
One Our Father and three Hail Marys.

Sixth Salutation

My God! Through the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel and the Celestial Choir of Virtues, do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle so that we do not perish in the tremendous judgment of God.
One Our Father and three Hail Marys.

Seventh Salutation

My God! Through the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel and the celestial Choir of Principalities, fill our souls with the spirit of true and sincere obedience.
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle so that we do not perish in the tremendous judgment of God.
One Our Father and three Hail Marys.

Eighth Salutation

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My God! Through the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel and the celestial Choir of Archangels, grant us perseverance in faith, hope, charity, piety, prayer, and good works, so that we may attain eternal glory.
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle so that we do not perish in the tremendous judgment of God.
One Our Father and three Hail Marys.

Ninth Salutation

My God! Through the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel and the celestial Choir of Angels, deign to grant that they may protect us in this mortal life and then lead us to the glory of Heaven. Amen.
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle so that we do not perish in the tremendous judgment of God.
One Our Father and three Hail Marys.

Then four Our Fathers are recited. The first to Saint Michael; the second to Saint Gabriel; the third to Saint Raphael; the fourth to our Guardian Angel.

Antiphon

Most glorious Prince Saint Michael, Chief and leader of the celestial armies of , guardian of souls, victor over the rebellious spirits, favorite in the house of God, deign to deliver us, all who turn to you with confidence, from all evil, and grant that through your incomparable protection we may advance every day in the Holy service of God.

V. Pray for us, O most glorious protector of ours, Saint Michael, Prince of the Church of Jesus Christ.
R. So that we may be worthy to receive his promises.

Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who in your wondrous goodness and mercy, for the common salvation of humankind, chose the most glorious Archangel Saint Michael as Prince of your Church: make us worthy, we beseech you, to be delivered, through his powerful protection, from all our enemies, so that at the hour of our death none of them may trouble us, and that we may be led by him into the heavenly mansion, to contemplate eternally your Divine Majesty. Through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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THIRTY-FIRST (31) DAY OF PREPARATION FOR THE CONSECRATION TO SAINT MICHAEL Archangel in honor of Saint Gabriel

Having made the sign of the Cross and kneeling, preferably before the Blessed Sacrament or the image of Saint Gabriel Archangel, lifting your heart to God, who is present, and making a deep reverence in spirit, say:

Act of Contrition

My Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true man, I am heartily sorry for having offended you; I firmly resolve never to sin again, to avoid all occasions of sin, to confess my sins, and to do penance. I offer you, Lord, my life, works, and labors in satisfaction for all my sins.
Amen.

Opening prayer

Almighty and eternal God, you who chose the Archangel Saint Gabriel from among all the Angels to announce the mystery of the incarnation of your son, generously grant that we who honor him here on earth may show the benefits of his patronage in heaven, you who live and reign forever and ever.
O blessed Archangel Gabriel, we beseech you to intercede for us before the throne of Divine Mercy in our present needs, and just as you announced to Mary the mystery of the Incarnation, so too, through your prayers and patronage in heaven, may we obtain the benefits of God's grace and sing God's praise forevermore.
The land of the blessed. Amen.

Meditation

If the Archangel Gabriel was in charge of making the people of Israel (Book of Daniel) aware of the future coming of the Messiah, and the Blessed Virgin Mary herself, in whose most pure womb he would be incarnated (Luke 1:26-38), it is not permissible to think that he was not absent when that blessed dialogue between heaven and earth took place, through which the former

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The same people, represented by the shepherds, learned on Christmas night the good news of the birth of the Lord: Do not be afraid; for I bring you good news of great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, our Lord (Lk 2:10-11).
Are these not almost identical to those heard by the prophet of favoritism in Babylon? Does God not want His commissions, according to the characteristics of each one, to remain
eternally in the hands of the same emissaries, among the eminently spiritual creatures that are the Angels?
Scholars and researchers of angelology have affirmed that each of the angelic choirs possesses specific gifts and a mission to fulfill. If this is so, we reiterate, Gabriel has the unparalleled honor of being the messenger of the New Covenant, whose delights, awaited for centuries, are not reserved only for the most enlightened minds, but are extended to all those called by God to salvation—to all humankind. Moreover, if he is the same one who addresses the shepherds, he would be the leader of a great choir of praise and adoration: “At that very moment a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God…” (Luke 2:13); the supreme leader of an entire choir of angels.

Example

The Archangel Gabriel has also been seen as the protector of the Holy Family, having spoken to Saint Joseph on three occasions: to dispel his fears by explaining that Mary's pregnancy was the work of the Holy Spirit; to warn him of the dangers the child faced due to the Massacre of the Innocents ordered by Herod, the reason for the journey to Egypt; and finally, urging him to return to Judea after Herod's death. Be that as it may, even if other angels might have had this responsibility, for Gabriel, the very essence of his duties was to serve the Son of God and his earthly parents, making explicit the restoration of friendship between God and humankind, which would be consummated with the immolation of his Lord on Calvary.

Short prayer

O exalted Archangel Saint Gabriel, rightly called the Strength of God! Since you were chosen to announce to Mary the mystery of the Incarnation in which the Almighty displayed the power of his arm, make known to us the treasures enclosed in the person of the Son of God, be our advocate with him and his august Mother in heaven, and our guide and protector on earth. Amen.

Closing prayer

God, who among all the Angels chose Saint Gabriel the Archangel to announce the mystery of the Incarnation, grant that we who celebrate his feast on earth may have him as our patron in heaven.
May our humble gifts and the prayer of the Blessed Archangel Gabriel be accepted in Your presence, O Lord, so that he whom we venerate here on earth may be our advocate before You in heaven. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.
Three Our Fathers with Hail Mary and Glory Be.

Litany to Saint Gabriel the Archangel

Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!

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God the Father in heaven, have mercy on us!
God the Father in heaven, have mercy on us!
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us!
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us!
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us!
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us!
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us!
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us!
Jesus, King of Angels, have mercy on us!
Jesus, King of Angels, have mercy on us!
Mary Queen of Angels, pray for us!
Saint Gabriel the Archangel, pray for us!
Power of God, pray for us!
Master of the nations, pray for us! Angel of the
Incarnation, pray for us!
Messenger of God's revelation, pray for us!
Bearer of the Good News of Redemption, pray for us!
Faithful ambassador of God to Zechariah and the Virgin Mary, pray for us!
Faithful servant of the Man of God, pray for us! Angel
of comfort in the agony of the Redeemer, pray for us!
Friend and counselor of the Mother of God, pray for us!
Guide and helper of Saint Joseph, pray for us!
Master and supporter of the prophet Daniel, pray for us!
Patron saint of parents and teachers, pray for us!
Guide to union with Jesus and Mary, pray for us!
Comforter of the afflicted, pray for us!
Strength of the weak, pray for us!
Patron Saint of the media, pray for us!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, forgive us, Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, hear us, Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us!
Christ, hear us!
Christ, hear us!
Christ, hear us!
Christ, hear us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Christ, have mercy on us!
Christ, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!

Our Father….

Pray for us, Saint Gabriel the Archangel,
So that we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray

God, our Father, who wondrously directs the works of angels and men, grant that those who constantly serve you in heaven may keep our lives safe from all harm on earth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

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THIRTY-SECOND (32) DAY OF PREPARATION FOR THE CONSECRATION TO SAINT MICHAEL Archangel in honor of Saint Raphael

Having made the sign of the Cross and kneeling, preferably before the Blessed Sacrament or the image of Saint Raphael Archangel, lifting your heart to God, who is present, and making a deep reverence in spirit, say:

Act of Contrition

My Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true man, I am heartily sorry for having offended you; I firmly resolve never to sin again, to avoid all occasions of sin, to confess my sins, and to do penance. I offer you, Lord, my life, works, and labors in satisfaction for all my sins.
Amen.

Opening prayer

God and Lord of the Principalities, who, through the Angels and Archangels, illuminating, instructing and ordering, take care of the health of men according to the disposition of your Divine Will: I offer you the merits of these most zealous spirits and those of your Archangel Saint Raphael, who instructed the young Tobias so that he might know the medicinal virtue of the entrails of that fish, and indicated to him the perfect and holy behavior that he should have with his wife Sarah, in order to obtain without dangers the fruit of blessing.
I beseech you to grant me the help and light of this Holy Archangel to obtain the special medicine for my soul, and success in the state in which your most holy hand places me, for your greater honor and glory. Amen.

Meditation

Saint Raphael bears the title of physician of the sick, since Raphael means *"Medicine of God."* The Holy Church, tenderly requesting the healing of her sick children, asks the Lord in one of her liturgical signs to send Saint Raphael, the skilled physician, from heaven to cure them of all their ailments.
The Holy Archangel himself revealed his skill in the art of healing when he instructed the young Tobias to preserve the fish's gall, indicating it as a medicine intended to restore sight to anyone suffering from cataracts. The truth of these words was clearly demonstrated when young Tobias applied the remedy upon returning to his father's house.

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Let us now consider how many ills we are exposed to during the course of our lives. Doctors say that our eyes alone can suffer from more than a hundred different diseases. Let us judge by this what could happen to the other parts of our body. Hence, health is considered one of the most precious treasures one can possess in this world. Everyone tries to preserve it at all costs, despite a thousand worries; and if, unfortunately, it is lost, what do we not do to regain it? If we have the means, we call upon the wisest and most renowned doctors; we write or even travel abroad to consult the most celebrated specialists: How much we value our health!

Since this is the condition of humanity, what more skilled physician could we find for our illnesses than the Archangel Saint Raphael? If he takes it upon himself to assist us, healing is certain; for he is not only the physician of health *(medicus salutis)* but also the infallible remedy in his capacity as God's medicine: *Raphael, medicine of God.* Why then not promptly seek the patronage of Saint Raphael in our illnesses and in those of our loved ones? Let us ask him to assist us and to inspire the doctors who care for us with the most appropriate remedies for a swift and complete recovery.

It is not only the sick who should turn to Saint Raphael, but also the doctors themselves: let them ask the Holy Archangel to deign to enlighten them about the nature and origin of the ailment, and suggest to their intelligence the most effective remedies.

If it is fitting to turn to Saint Raphael to preserve our physical health or to have it restored when we have lost it, we should turn to him with even greater fervor to preserve the health of our souls, which is the grace of God. Let us beseech him that if we ever lose it, he may help us regain it through sincere penance, of which the gall of the fish is a true symbol, for it is bitter.

Example

The Archangel Saint Raphael was given by Our Lord to the Franciscan nun of Naples, Saint Mary Frances of the Five Wounds, to assist her in her illnesses. The Heavenly Spirit took extraordinary care in this, worthy of His respect and love for God, who had entrusted the Saint to Him. He appeared to her in the form of a young man dressed in white, of incomparable beauty. Mary Frances was astonished and speechless.

The Archangel spoke first, saying to her: " I *am Raphael, sent here from the Most High to heal the wound in your side, which is about to become gangrenous. Renew your trust in God, and He will bless you."* The next morning, the wound was completely healed, although a few days later it reappeared in an alarming state. She felt such a sharp pain in her heart that she could not move. The Holy Archangel became her nurse; he would cut her bread, taking the knife from her hands and telling her with a gracious smile that she was unable to serve herself. If she ever tried to lift a chair or any other object whose weight might harm her, the Archangel would lift it himself and carry it to the place where the Saint wished to put it. Thus, this blessed virgin came to enjoy an intimate familiarity with the Holy Archangel.

This example teaches us that both Saint Raphael and the other Heavenly Spirits can be with us in the most ordinary circumstances and occupations of life.

Short prayer

Glorious Archangel Saint Raphael, Sacred Prince of the seven who stand before the supreme throne of God Himself: if it is for the glory of His Divine Majesty and for your honor that I obtain what I desire and ask, grant me this grace from the Lord; and if not, change my request and ask God for me that which is most beneficial for His greater glory, the health and benefit of my soul. Amen.

Closing prayer

God and Lord of the Principalities, who, through the Angels and Archangels, illuminating, instructing and ordering, take care of the health of men according to the disposition of your Divine Will: I offer you the merits of these most zealous spirits and those of your Archangel Saint Raphael, who instructed the young Tobias so that he might know the medicinal virtue of the entrails of that fish, and indicated to him the perfect and holy behavior that he should have with his wife Sarah, in order to obtain without dangers the fruit of blessing.

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I beseech you to grant me the help and light of this Holy Archangel to obtain the special medicine for my soul and success in the state in which your most holy hand places me, for your greater honor and glory. Amen.
Three Our Fathers with Hail Mary and Glory Be.

Litany to Saint Raphael the Archangel

Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!
God the Father in heaven, have mercy on us!
God the Father in heaven, have mercy on us!
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us!
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us!
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us!
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us!
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us!
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us!
Jesus, King of Angels, have mercy on us!
Jesus, King of Angels, have mercy on us!

Mary Queen of Angels, pray for us!
Saint Raphael the Archangel, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, whose name means God heals, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, who art in the Kingdom of God with the faithful Angels, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, one of the seven spirits who stand before the throne of the Most High, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, minister of God in heaven, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, noble and powerful messenger of God, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, who always fulfills God's holy will, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, who offered to God the prayers of Tobias' father, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, traveling companion of young Tobias, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, who protects your friends from dangers, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, who found a worthy wife for Tobias, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, who delivered Sarah from the evil spirit, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, who cured Tobias' father of his blindness, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, guide and protector on our journey on earth, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, strong help in times of need, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, victor over evil, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, guide and counselor of young people, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, protector of pure souls, pray for us!
Saint Raphael the Angel, patron saint of youth, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, Angel of Joy, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, Angel of happy encounters, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, Angel of chaste courtship, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, Angel of those seeking a partner, pray for us!

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Saint Raphael, Angel of Happy Marriage, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, Angel of life in the home, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, guardian of the Christian family, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, protector of travelers, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, patron saint of health, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, heavenly physician, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, helper of the blind, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, healer of the sick, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, patron saint of doctors, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, comforter of the afflicted, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, support of the dying, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, herald of blessings, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, defender of the Church, pray for us!

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, forgive us, Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, hear us, Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us!
Christ, hear us!
Christ, hear us!
Christ, hear us!
Christ, hear us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Christ, have mercy on us!
Christ, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!

Our Father….

Pray for us, glorious Saint Raphael the Archangel,
that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray

O God, who gave the Archangel Raphael as a traveling companion to Tobias, grant that we, your servants, may always enjoy his protection and be strengthened by his help. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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THIRTY-THIRD (33) DAY OF PREPARATION FOR THE CONSECRATION TO SAINT MICHAEL ARCHANGEL IN HONOR OF THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

Having made the sign of the Cross and kneeling preferably before the Blessed Sacrament or the image of the Angel
The custodian, lifting his heart to God, who is present, and making a deep reverence in spirit, will say:

Act of Contrition

My Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true man, I am heartily sorry for having offended you; I firmly resolve never to sin again, to avoid all occasions of sin, to confess my sins, and to do penance. I offer you, Lord, my life, works, and labors in satisfaction for all my sins.

Amen.

Opening prayer

God, our Father, who in your loving providence send your Holy Angels to watch over us, hear our prayers, defend us always with their protection and allow us to share your life with them eternally.
God, merciful Father, who in your ineffable providence have deigned to send your Holy Angels to guard us, grant to those who beseech you, to always be defended by their protection and to enjoy their company eternally.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Meditation

He has commanded his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. Give thanks to the Lord for his mercy, for the wonders he works for mankind. Now let the Gentiles also give thanks and say, " The *Lord has done great things for them."* Lord, what is man that you are mindful of him, or the son of man that you care for him so? You draw near to him with affection, you lavish your care upon him: You also send him your Only Begotten
Son, you pour out your Spirit upon him, and you even promise him your glory. You do not want this tenderness toward us to disappear in heaven; therefore, you send us the blessed spirits to serve us, you entrust them with our care, and you make them our guides.

He has commanded his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. How much respect this word should inspire in you, what devotion should it awaken in you, what confidence should it give you! Respect, for his presence; devotion, for his benevolence; confidence, for his protection. Always walk with modesty; the Angels are present everywhere, in all your
paths.

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That's what he commanded them. In every room, in every corner, respect your Angel. Would you dare do in his presence what you wouldn't dare do in my presence? Do you doubt his presence because you don't see him? What if you heard him? What if you touched him? What if you smelled him? Remember that the presence of beings isn't perceived with the eyes alone. Not everything is within sight. Not even the material! How much further from all meaning will be the spiritual, which must be sought spiritually!
Even though He commanded it, we should not be ungrateful to them, since they obey Him so diligently, and help us in so much need.

Let us, therefore, be devoted to them, let us be grateful to such wonderful guardians; let us respond to their love,
Let us honor them as much as we can and as we ought. But let us give all our love to Him who has granted us, as well as them, the power to love and honor, and to be loved and honored.
Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us love his angels as our future co-heirs, who have been appointed by the Father as our guides, guardians, and leaders. For if we are children of God, we do not yet see it, since we are under guardians and stewards, like slaves.
Moreover, even though we are so young and still have such a long and dangerous road ahead, why should we fear when we have these guardians? They cannot be defeated or deceived, and even less capable of deceiving us are those who watch over us in all our ways. They are faithful, they are wise, they are powerful. Why should we fear? Let us simply follow them, unite with them, and we will live in the shadow of the Almighty.
Think, then, how much you need this protection and this guardianship on your paths.

Example

From the Acts of the Apostles (12:1-19)

At that time King Herod decided to arrest some members of the church to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews, he arrested Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. After arresting him, he put him in prison and handed him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each, intending to bring him to trial publicly after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the whole church was earnestly praying to God for him. The day came for Herod to bring him to trial. During the night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries were stationed at the prison door. Suddenly a light shone in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood there. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up, saying, “Get up quickly!” And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel told him at once, “Put on your belt and sandals.” He did so, and the angel added, “Put on your cloak and follow me.” Peter went out after him, not realizing that what was happening with the angel was real; it all seemed like a vision to him. They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, which opened for them by itself. They went out and entered an alley, and suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to his senses and said,

“Now there is no doubt: the Lord has sent his angel to rescue me from Herod’s clutches and from all the plots the Jews were hatching against me.” Peter got his bearings and went to the house of Mary, the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered in prayer. He knocked at the door, and a servant girl named Rhodesa answered it.
She recognized Peter's voice, and she was so overjoyed that instead of opening the door, she ran inside to tell everyone that Peter was at the door. The others said to her, "You're crazy!" When she kept insisting, they said, "It must be his angel."
Peter kept knocking. When they opened the door and saw that it was him, they were speechless. He motioned with his hand for silence and told them how the Lord had brought him out of prison. Immediately he said to them, “Tell James and the brothers about this.” Then he left and went to another place. At daybreak there was a great commotion among the soldiers: What had happened to Peter? Herod ordered a search for him, and when they did not find him, he had the guards tried and executed.
Then Herod went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

Short prayer

Angel of God, my dear guardian, to whom God's love has entrusted me; on this day remain by my side to protect and enlighten me, to guide and direct me. Amen.

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Closing prayer

Lord God, You created the Holy Angels for Your Glory, to help us, to make Your will known to us, and to guide us to You.
In your name, we want to call upon them in our afflictions and needs. We entrust ourselves to them because you gave them to us and said that we owe them respect and obedience; that you would help us if we listened to them.
Glorify your Angels by hearing the petitions we offer through their intercession. We beseech you to hear us promptly. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Three Our Fathers with Hail Mary and Glory Be.

Litany to the Holy Guardian Angels

Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!
Jesus Christ, hear us!
God the Father in heaven, have mercy on us!
God the Father in heaven, have mercy on us!
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us!
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us!
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us!
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us!
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us!
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us!
Jesus, King of Angels, have mercy on us!
Jesus, King of Angels, have mercy on us!

Holy Mary, pray for us!
Holy Mother of God, pray for us!
Queen of Angels, pray for us!
Saint Michael, pray for us!
Saint Gabriel, pray for us!
Saint Raphael, pray for us!
All you holy angels and archangels, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels who ceaselessly contemplate the face of the Heavenly Father, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels who never leave our side, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels who are at our side with heavenly friendship, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels, our faithful exhorters, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels, our wise counselors, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels who protect us from many evils of body and soul, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels, our powerful defenders against the attacks of the evil enemy, pray for us.
us!
Holy Guardian Angels, our protection in temptations, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels who help us when we stumble and fall, pray for us!

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Holy Guardian Angels who comfort us in affliction and suffering, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels who favor us and carry our prayers before the Throne of God, pray for us!

Holy Guardian Angels who help us by transmitting your inspirations and encouragement, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels who, despite our failings, never leave us, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels who rejoice in our amendment and our perfection, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels who live beside us and pray for us when we rest, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels who never abandon us even in agony, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels who comfort the souls in purgatory, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels who lead the righteous to heaven, pray for us!
Holy Guardian Angels with whom we hope one day to praise and contemplate God eternally, pray for us!

Herald Princes of Heaven, pray for us!

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, forgive us, Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, hear us, Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us!
Christ, hear us!
Christ, hear us!
Christ, hear us!
Christ, hear us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Christ, have mercy on us!
Christ, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!

Our Father….

Praise the Lord, all you angels, you who do his will perfectly.
For your sake, He commanded His Angels to protect you in all your ways.
Oh God, in the presence of the Angels I want to praise you, I want to worship you and bless your Name.
Lord, hear my prayer, and let my plea reach You.

Let us pray

Eternal and Almighty God, You who in Your ineffable goodness united each person, from the womb, to a particular Angel for the protection of their body and soul, grant me the grace to faithfully follow my Holy Angel and to love him dearly, so that one day, through Your grace and under his protection, I may reach the Heavenly Homeland and there, with him and all the Angels, be worthy to contemplate Your Divine Face. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who is God in the unity of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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ACT OF CONSECRATION TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Oh, great prince of heaven, faithful defender of the Church, Saint Michael the Archangel, I, though unworthy to appear before you, but trusting in your goodness, come before you, in the company of my guardian angel and in the presence of all the angels of heaven, whom I take as witnesses of my devotion to you, I choose you today as my protector and particular advocate and I intend to honor you firmly as I can.

Saint Michael the Archangel, I consecrate myself to you. I place myself, my family, and all that belongs to me under your powerful protection. Saint Michael the Archangel, I consecrate my body and soul to you. I choose you as my patron and protector. Be my strength and the guardian of my life.

Increase the fervor in my heart. Obtain for me the grace to love with all my heart God my Father, Jesus my Savior, the Holy Spirit my Sanctifier, and Mary my sweet Mother. May she help me through her powerful intercession so that I may imitate her courage and loyalty to God, trusting in her kind help and protection, which may be the victory over the enemies of my soul and unite me with God in heaven forever.

Assist me throughout my life so that I may never offend God in word or thought. Defend me against all the temptations of the devil, especially those concerning faith and purity, and at the hour of my death, grant peace to my soul and lead it into the eternal homeland.

My offering of slavery is small, for I am a wretched sinner, but I make it with a faithful heart, and remember that if from this day forward I am under your patronage, help me throughout my life so that my sins may be forgiven, instill in me the gift of loving God wholeheartedly, and grant me the necessary graces to attain the crown of glory.

Always defend me from the enemies of my soul, especially at the end of my life. Come then, glorious prince, and help me in my final battle, and with your powerful protection deliver me from the attacks of hell. So be it!

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I invite you to persevere

While it is true that you have reached the end of this booklet, and hopefully it has also been because you have consecrated yourself to God the Father through the hands of Saint Michael the Archangel, I invite you to persevere in this consecration, which is more than a devotion, it is a path to holiness, a life project that leads us to God, guided by Saint Michael the Archangel.

Consider and understand the greatness of the Archangel Saint Michael, knowing that he holds the first place in the hierarchy of the army of Angels destined to serve God. The Holy Spirit tells us in the Book of Daniel that Saint Michael is the first of the Princes. The Holy Church repeats this in the Office of the same Holy Archangel: Prince of the Host of Angels, and adds that the Angels pay him homage. In Sacred Scripture, while the other celestial spirits are simply called Angels, when speaking of Saint Michael, Saint Paul refers to him as *Archangel,* acknowledging the greatness of his dignity and excellence. Invoke him fervently; venerate him, love him, make him your intercessor in the presence of God, and trust in his gracious patronage.

TODAY I HAVE COMPLETED MY CONSECRATION TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Place _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Witness signature _____

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For more information

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