

SEPTEMBER, THE MONTH OF THE ANGELS

...by the hands of Thy holy Angel to Thine altar on high... (Canon of the Mass)

St. Thomas, toward the beginning of his great work: the *Summa Theologica*, speaks of the 'Guardianship of the Good Angels' (Ia, Q. 113). The first question he poses is: *are men guarded by the Angels?* St. Thomas replies initially by quoting Sacred Scripture: *He hath given His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways* (Ps. 90:11). Indeed, therefore, God has given men angels to guard them. And, he states further that this is reasonable, for it is fitting that human beings, who are able to fail in their knowledge and affection, should be guided and guarded in their movement towards good. We are weak, and in need of divine help, as we read in the book of Wisdom (9:14), *The thoughts of mortal men are fearful, and our counsels uncertain*. Whereas God helps the counsels of men directly by infusing His grace and virtues into the soul, God uses His Angels to take care of the second part, enlightening the minds of men by assisting man's Prudence, so that man might apply his virtues correctly.

Conferred at the very beginning of a man's life, does the Angel ever abandon him? St. Thomas points out that since the Angels work by order of divine Providence, and since Providence never forsakes man, then we must conclude that neither does the guardian Angel. A distinction is here made, however, for we see instances where God may allow man to suffer some defect of punishment or fault. This may be seen as a sort of 'abandonment,' proceeding from the loving wisdom of God. In like manner, so do the Angels never truly forsake a man, but will sometimes allow him to experience some trouble or sin according to the order of Divine Providence. In this we witness not so much an abandonment, but rather a very careful care, seeking the ultimate good of a man. As our own parents do not shy away from allowing us to experience the consequences of our faults -for these consequences are instructive and formational, likewise, do our guardian Angels, who love us in God, and who desire our salvation.

And what about when men sin and perish? Are the Angels to be blamed? St. Thomas says that this failure is not to be blamed upon the work of the Guardian Angels, but on the malice of men who have turned away from their counselor, and have sought instead the blindness of their passions and selfishness. The Angels of fallen souls are glorified in the fact that they have done everything they were bid to do on behalf of that soul, but were ignored; and so their good was not communicated to the soul, having been rejected in spite of its offering.

Dear Friends, we are blind and petty in life, and tend so easily to see only what is material and self-serving. We forget what goods God has fashioned on our behalf. The Angels are creatures far above us in their power and abilities. They could sit in judgement over us for our many transgressions and offences. Yet, they act perpetually with condescending Charity for us! Is this not a wonder? When witnessing us intending evil upon our neighbor, though we ourselves are guilty of multiple sins, why do not our Angels strike us to the ground? They watched as we dishonored and crucified God Almighty! They watch as we renew this insult with every sin! They stand before the face of God, and see in stark contrast, His goodness and perfect purity of will. Justice must surely cry out to them that we are not fit to exist! But, by God's decree, they remain our closest friends in life, doggedly carrying out those tasks tailored for the good of our souls. This is Charity in a very high state. This is friendship, against which our own human relationships cannot possibly measure.

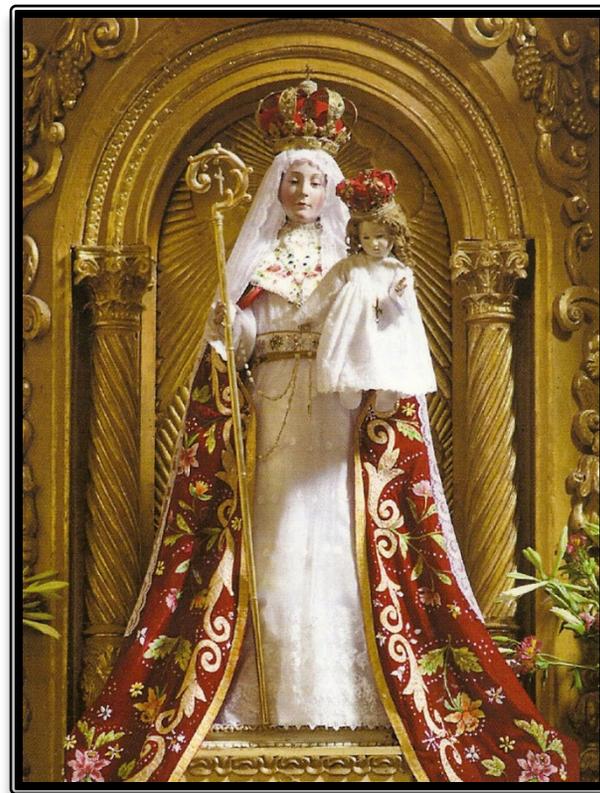
What are we to do? The answer is plain. We must humbly thank our Angels for putting up with us, and for steadily continuing their work for the good of our souls. We must realize their love for us, and struggle to make a return by obediently following their promptings. If this life is a dense forest of confusion, we would be foolish to neglect our sure guide. Are you set to enter into an occasion of sin? Is not your Angel urging you to resist? Will you not listen to him, who already stands in the final resting place, who has reached the destination for which we are all striving? Let him help you find true and perfect happiness, for indeed, he already possesses it. And, are you in trouble? Do you suffer any want? Why not petition him, who has been established to help you in all things? Let him do his work, for he is very good at it, and will operate with the greatness of his Angelic powers. The devil is not match for an Angel since he works on the side of God. The comic picture of a man standing with an angel at his side, being thwarted by the insinuations of the devil, is really a myth. If God ordains that an angel shut up the gates of hell, it will surely be done, and not one of the host of evil spirits could contend the deed.

So, dear Friends, let us pray to our guardian Angels every day. Let us not awake, and go about our day forgetting of their presence and help; and, let us never lay our heads to our pillows without having thanked them for their daily toil on our behalf. May they continue to stand guard over us as we sleep, as speaks the liturgy during the final prayer of the Breviary: 'Visit this dwelling, we beseech you O Lord, and drive far away all the snares of the enemy: may Thy holy Angels dwell herein, that they may keep us in peace; and may Thy blessing be ever upon us!' – Fr. May

OUR LADY OF GOOD SUCCESS

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Society of St. Pius X
Traditional Latin Mass



SEPTEMBER 2022

1460 5th Avenue East
Dickinson, ND 58601

Pastor: Fr. Dominic May 303-325-7558
Coordinator: Stephan Kershnik 701-690-0317

MASS SCHEDULE

DATE	FEAST	MASS	CONFESSIONS
Sunday, Sep. 4	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	1:00 PM	12:00 PM
Saturday, Sep. 10	St. Nicholas of Tolentino	5:00 PM	4:00 PM
Sunday, Sep. 11	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	1:00 PM	12:00 PM
Sunday, Sep. 18	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	1:00 PM	12:00 PM
Saturday, Sep. 24	Ember Saturday of September	5:00 PM	4:00 PM
Sunday, Sep. 25	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	1:00 PM	12:00 PM

DONATION INFORMATION

To donate by check or money order, please mail your donation to the address below:

Our Lady of Good Success Church
P.O. Box 1873
Dickinson, ND 58602-1873

You may also donate online by visiting
www.olgsdickinson.org/donate
 and clicking on the yellow “Donate” button.

COLLECTIONS

First Collection	Operating expenses for OLGS.
Second Collections	<i>Please write the purpose of your donation on the memo line on your check</i>
-Sunday, Sep. 4	St. Isidore’s Priory
-Sunday, Sep. 18	Building Fund
-Sunday Sep.25	US District Priest Program

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Changes to the ‘Events after Mass’ Schedule.** Dear Faithful, beginning with September, we will simplify our monthly ‘events after Mass’ schedule for the sake of making these events easy to track, and simpler for Fr. May and visiting priests. The following will be the layout:

- First Sunday: Holy Name Pledge/Meeting
- *Second Saturday:* Blessing of objects*
- Second Sunday: Mothers of Lu prayer/Adult Catechism/Children’s Catechism*
- Third Sunday: Eucharistic Crusade Meeting
- Fourth Sunday: Visiting Priest/Children’s Catechism*
- Fifth Sunday: Open*

** when applicable*

- **Visiting Priests.** On Sunday September 25, please give a warm welcome to Fr. Flanery, formerly of La Salette Academy in Georgetown, Illinois. He has recently joined St. Isidore Priory to take up the duties of Principal of Our Lady Help of Christians Academy, as well as Pastor of Annunciation Chapel, Ft. Collins.
- **Ember Days in September:** September 21, 23 and 24. Ember Wednesday and Saturday are traditional days of fast and partial abstinence and Ember Friday of fast and complete abstinence. Though they no longer binding under pain of mortal sin, the faithful are strongly encouraged to follow these traditional practices.

PARISH GROUP MEETINGS AND DEVOTIONS

- **Holy Name Society** members will receive Holy Communion together and will recite their pledge after Mass on Sunday, September 4.
- **Mothers of Lu Prayer** will be recited at the Communion rail on Sunday, September 11.
- **Adult Catechism** will take place in the basement after Mass on Sunday, September 11.
- **Servers’ Practice** will take place on Sunday, September 11 and Sunday, September 25.
- **The Eucharistic Crusade** will meet on September 18. The intention for this month is “For all Traditional Schools.”