

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend, we hear in the first reading the beautiful song of the Angels. We may not always pay attention to it since we pray it all the time at Mass, but it truly is a powerful prayer:

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts!

All the earth is filled with his glory! (Isaiah 6:3)

Before I get more into this prayer, a little background. Isaiah says that the Seraphim are the ones singing this song of praise before the throne of Almighty God. Catholic theology (based on the Scriptures) points out that there are nine different Choirs of Angels: **Seraphim** (who are the closest to God, “afame” in the intensity of the presence of Almighty God), **Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Powers, Principalities, Virtues, Archangels, and Angels**. When God created the Angelic Choirs, from the very beginning of their existence they have always been angelic. Never were they anything else (like humans), but always pure spirit. They have superior intellects to ours, and, like us, they have free will. However, their free will is such that they don’t “hem and haw” over a decision; once they make a decision they have made it forever.

This explains where the demons came from. When God first made the Angels (and by Angels, I mean all the Choirs of Angels), He gave them a choice. We don’t know exactly what that choice was, though there is a lot of good theological speculation about it. In any case, Lucifer, who was a Seraph, from the highest Choir of Angels, and so with the most natural power, beauty and intelligence, chose *not* to serve God. From the book of Revelation we can surmise that in his rebellion he took one third of the angelic beings with him. Their choice is irrevocable; they will never repent, never choose God. They always will hate and oppose God, and all God loves... which is us.

The unchanging nature of the will of the Angels may be hard for us to understand, but think of it from the other perspective – you have a Guardian Angel to look after you your whole life and to be with you for all eternity. His role is to watch over you, protect you, and help you to make the proper decisions that will lead you toward God’s Heart. Imagine if your Angel was suddenly able to change his mind... that he didn’t want to follow God anymore. That would be *really* scary; he would now be opposed to *you!* While we may not be able fully to understand how Angels work, we can be glad that our Angel is always, always, *always* going to be by our sides, willing our good.

The incredible thing about the story in Revelation about Satan being driven out of Heaven is that Michael did it. Michael is an Archangel, which you may have noticed is second to the lowest on the scale of “natural” power. St. Michael’s power was vastly lower than Lucifer’s, yet he was able to drive out Satan, who was a Seraph. Why? Because Michael conformed his will to God’s. God used a much lower being to humble the pride of the powerful Seraph, who became Satan. This is why we continue to pray the St. Michael Prayer at the end of Mass, since it is by Michael that God has chosen to drive Satan away.

Now back to the Holy, Holy prayer in the reading today. At Mass, we get to join in with the Angels praying this incredible prayer. We get to worship God with the Angels. I pray this prayer often and throughout the day. When someone is in need, or asks for prayers, very often, I will join with the Angels (including theirs) in this prayer, knowing that they will bring the intention before the throne of God. I have also found that when I am going to go into a difficult meeting, I ask the Angels’ help. I begin by asking to worship Almighty God with my Angel, and I pray the “Holy, Holy” prayer (as we do at Mass) three times. Then I pray the *Confetior* (“I confess to Almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters...”) for forgiveness for any pride, unlove, selfishness, or any other sin that I may have. Then I ask the other person’s (or persons’) Guardian Angel(s) to let me join in worship God with him by praying the “Holy, Holy” prayer another three times. I have found incredible things happen. More often than not, the issues have been resolved before I get there, or I find that they are easily resolved. On only a few instances were the issues not clearly resolved, but I experienced a powerful sense of peace and courage to do the right thing even when I knew it would be hard. The Angels helped me, I know!

There is much dangerous and errant information about Angels out there. Satan wants a lot of disinformation out there. For sound teaching on the Angels, based on the Bible and the tradition of the church, go to www.opusangelorum.org. If you go to the tab on “Holy Angels” there are several options for finding out more truth about the Angels.

God has not left us orphan, but sends His messengers, His Angels, to be with us at every moment. May we be open to their guidance and teaching, and let them help us worship God!