



Apostles for Today

Reflections and prayers - February 2010

God the Infinite Love of St. Vincent Pallotti 5th meditation

How the Angels in the third Hierarchy minister to our souls

Reflection:

This month we bring to a conclusion our reflections on the ministry the Angels exercise in our souls. St. Vincent Pallotti had a clear vision of the role the Angels play in our daily lives and this is seen in his four meditations which he dedicated to them in “God the Infinite Love”. It is important for us his spiritual sons and daughters that we share something of this same vision in order to obtain the desired graces.

In *Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, the Church affirms the very close relationship between the heavenly Church and the Pilgrim Church: “Until the Lord shall come in His majesty, and all the angels with Him ...some of His disciples are pilgrims on earth, some having died are purified, and others are in glory beholding “clearly God Himself triune and one, as He is”; but all in various ways and degrees are in communion in the same charity of God and neighbour and all sing the same hymn of glory to our God. For all who are in Christ, having His Spirit, form one Church and cleave together in Him.” (LG 49)

In this meditation St. Vincent expresses his faith in these terms: “Enlightened by holy faith, we must remember that God, wholly infinite love and mercy, moved by the same infinite love and infinite mercy, in order to provide for our souls gives us His gifts, graces and divine favours, and does so also through the Angels who form the choir of Virtues. He does this so that our soul, having attained possession of the Kingdom of the Love of God, may continue to do the greatest and most difficult deeds and thus give the most shining proof of true love of God.

In fact actions are the true proof of love: *‘the proof of love is the performing of deeds’* (St. Gregory the Great).

Since faith in the mysteries of God’s divinity and infinite love and mercy towards men encourages the soul to live a life of holy love of God, God, through the choir of the Archangels, communicates all those gifts, favours, graces and ineffable mercies which we need to profit from these incomprehensible mysteries by the precious light of faith.

In order to provide for all other needs of our souls and to free us from every true evil, he communicates to us all the necessary graces through the choir of the Guardian Angels. They guard us always, day and night, even when we sin or live in sin, and they never abandon us.

Through the ineffable gift of infinite love and infinite mercy each soul has an angel who guards it, who communicates holy inspirations to do good and avoid evil, and provokes remorse. This angel is with us always and wherever we may go and remains with us to guide us swiftly toward our only and final blessed end.

Oh my God, my Father: Love, ineffable Love, infinite Love, eternal Love, incomprehensible Love; my mercy, eternal mercy, infinite mercy, who can ever understand You?

Shared reflection

Am I aware of the presence of a Guardian Angel in my life?

Can I share my experiences of my Guardian Angel’s help?

When I sin do I remember my Guardian Angel and the warnings I received?

Do I share St. Vincent’s conviction of living and operating as a member of the Church, the mystical Body of Christ?

It is important to recognize in our daily lives and in our prayer the role the Angels have. If the Saints intercede for all people, then the Angels not only pray for us but they also act directly on our behalf and all around us.

The Angels are present and marvel at every sacrament, but it is in the liturgy of the Eucharist that they give particular witness. St. John

Chrysostom wrote: “*The angels surround the priest. The sanctuary and the space around the altar is full of the celestial power to honour Him who is present on the altar.*”

The Cure of Ars also invites us to recognize the spirit with which the Angels adore Jesus in order to imitate it as far as is possible: “*Oh! If we had the eyes of the Angels, seeing our Lord Jesus Christ who is present here on the altar looking at us, how we would love him!*”

P. Ansgar Fallar, wrote: “Nevertheless, those four meditations on the angels are of great value...God works generally through secondary causes (angels and persons). He permits creatures to co-operate, reign and love with Him. The providence of God uses instruments which are endowed with free will. This idea was always one which made Don Vincent happy. But the love which engaged countless hosts of pure spirits in the service of creation overwhelmed Pallotti. (Faller A. SAC, ‘An introduction to Vincent Pallotti’s *God Infinite Love*,’ 1992).

St. Vincent prayed: “Grant, O my God, that through the holy Guardian Angels all persons and all places in the entire world, now and always, be sufficiently provided for, assisted, sustained, governed and defended in every need so that everything exist to glorify you, my God. I desire that all things and all persons work together to glorify you as you deserve and do so for the reasons that please you. Amen.” (OOCC X, p. 435-7.)

It is good to ask our Guardian Angel to pray with us and for us in Eucharistic adoration. We can also entrust to them the task of preserving our imagination and our minds from any dark images or thoughts, of guiding all our interior and exterior senses towards God, who is present, though his is a hidden presence.

Scriptural texts for reflection and sharing:

Daniel 8, 35 ff; 9, 20 ff; 10,9 ff.

Matt 25, 33; Lk 1, 26 ff.

Acts 8, 26-40; 12, 7 – 11.

Prayer

“My God, my Father, Father of Mercies,
God of all Consolation (cf. 2 Cor 1,3),
it is impossible for me to understand Your infinite love and mercy, which
moved You and are always moving You
to grant me innumerable graces, favours, gifts and mercies
through the Holy Angels.

It is impossible that I could ever come to understand
my horrible ingratitude for Your graces
and my infinite unworthiness.

But because You are Infinite love and mercy I firmly trust,
rather I am certain that through the same most loving mercy,
through the infinite merits of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
the merits and intercession of Mary,
and of all the Angels and Saints,
You will grant me the grace to know You
in Your infinite love and mercy,
and to know You in all Your divine attributes,
and the grace to know myself in my unworthiness as You will.
Grant me the gift of always calling to mind Your infinite love
and Your mercy which is infinite in the distribution of Your graces, so that
I may profit from them according to Your desire.” (God Infinite Love,
meditation V)

Offering:

“Eternal Father,
in union with the most sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
I offer You the most precious Blood of the Immaculate Lamb,
our divine Redeemer, in thanksgiving,
as if You had already granted all the graces
I have requested for me and for all persons, now and always.”
(God, the Infinite Love, meditation V).