

SANTOS ANJOS (Holy Angels) Catholic Community

A means of embracing to proclaim Jesus!

Niteroi, RJ/Brazil * Calgary, AB/Canada



"THE ANNUNCIATION" E-NEWSLETTER

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THE MESSAGE AND THE MESSENGERS

This is a very special week for us. Today is the Feast of the Archangels, and later this week, on Friday, October 2nd, we will be honouring the Holy Guardian Angels.

Scripture and Tradition of our Church tell us that angels are non-corporeal, spiritual beings, pure spirits. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, their existence is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition. They are purely spiritual creatures with intelligence and will: they are personal and immortal creatures, surpassing in perfection all visible creatures (that would include us!)

According to John Paul II's *Catechesis on the Holy Angels (1986)*, *"their existence was willed by an act of God's eternal love. In the words of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed we profess: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen"*. JPII goes on saying: *"In the perfection of their spiritual nature the angels are called from the beginning, by virtue of their intelligence, to know the truth and to love the good which they know in truth in a more full and perfect way than is possible to man."*

But who are they, really? St. Augustine says: *"'Angel' is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is 'spirit'; if you seek the name of their office, it is 'angel': from what they are, 'spirit', from what they do, 'angel.'"* With their whole beings the angels are servants and messengers of God." (CCC # 329) Finally, the word 'angel' means 'messenger.'

Angels change places according to their mission. They are wonderful beings, worthy of our admiration, but as we said, they are creatures and we cannot treat them like God, because "the angels in heaven always look upon the face of the heavenly Father, in praise and adoration (cf. Mat 18:10.)" Like the angels, what makes us perfect before God is a life in deep union with Jesus Christ, because "in Him we live, and move, and have our being." (Acts 17:28) "Christ is the center of the angelic world." (CCC # 331)

"Angels have been present since creation and throughout the history of salvation, announcing the salvation from afar or near and serving the accomplishment of the divine plan: they closed the earthly paradise, protected Lot, saved Hagar and her child, stayed Abraham's hand, communicated the law by their ministry, led the people of God, announced births and callings, and assisted the prophets, just to cite a few examples." (CCC # 332) "Their song of praise at the birth of Christ has not ceased resounding in the Church's praise: 'Glory to God in the Highest!' They protect Jesus in his infancy, serve Him in the desert, strengthen Him in His agony in the garden (...), and evangelize by proclaiming the good news of Christ's Incarnation and Resurrection." (CCC # 333)

JPII: *"Today, as in times past, these spiritual beings are discussed with greater or lesser wisdom. One must recognize that at times there is great confusion, with the consequent risk of passing off as the Church's faith on the angels what does not pertain to it, or, vice versa, of neglecting some important aspect of the revealed truth."*

We find this to be mostly true when we see the tremendous amount of New Age literature and popular culture, making angels little cutesy creatures, some with bows and arrows, surrounded by flowers; some even look like fairies – all good. According to JPII's catechesis, and the teachings of the Church, *"Revelation clearly states that the world of pure spirits appears divided into good angels and bad ones."* Some of us have a hard time thinking about the "bad" part; but bad angels are not angels anymore. They are devils, or demons, against who we must battle (cf. Eph 6:10-17.) Some of us fall into their oldest traps (a) "The devil doesn't exist" or (b) "if you say 'this word' you will be attracting it to you." Some go a step further: they won't say the Church's prayers to defend us from evil: a combination of (b) + denial of the great feats of St. Michael the Archangel, the writings and prayers of St. Benedict, the paramount knowledge of St. Thomas Aquinas, a.k.a. the "Angelic Doctor," the prayers of Pope Pius X, and so many other accounts of many saints who had real encounters with "the evil one."

C.S. Lewis, in his famous book "The Screwtape Letters" addresses the reality of humanity as living a material life in complete ignorance of the manipulation of demons in the spiritual world. How proud we are when we think that by ignoring (or pretending) they are not there... they actually aren't. We become easy targets...and worse... we don't notice it!

Having said all of the above, one thing is true... we agree with JPII in not giving the devil too much attention – and we say this in the context of the fear and worries mentioned above. We should not be

afraid; but we must be aware. Be aware of the spiritual truths and Catholic doctrine, and educate ourselves, never forgetting that God has each and every hair on our heads counted and accounted for.

The reality is that only about 1/3 of these beings fell – so we have a much greater army on our side (and that would include all the saints in Heaven!) Furthermore, each and every one of us was given a Guardian Angel from our birth. They are in charge of guiding us throughout our lives until the final return of our souls to God. And not only people have Guardian Angels, but also nations, churches, dioceses, congregations... they all have their own private Guardians.

According to ancient authors (including Dionysius the Areopagite,) Theologians (Aquinas) and liturgy itself, angels are organized in nine Choirs and three Hierarchies, in accordance with their degree of perfection: Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Powers, Virtues, Principalities, Archangels and Angels. So, as we celebrate today the Feast of the Archangels, here is a little bit of what JPII has to say about them:

“The first is Michael the Archangel (cf. Dan. 10:13-20; Rev. 12:7; Jude 9). His name is a synthesis that expresses the essential attitude of the good spirits. "Mica-EL" in fact means: "Who is like God?" In this name, therefore, we find expressed the salvific choice thanks to which the angels "see the face of the Father" who is in Heaven.

The second is Gabriel: a figure bound especially to the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God (cf. Lk 1:19-26). His name means: "my power is God" or "power of God," as if to say that the culmination of creation, the Incarnation is the supreme sign of the omnipotent Father.

Finally, the third archangel is called Raphael. "Rafa-EL" means: "God heals." He is made known to us by the story of Tobias in the Old Testament (cf. Tob. 12:15-20), etc.) which is so significant for what it says about entrusting to the angels the little children of God, who are always in need of custody, care, and protection.



St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael, pray for us!
Vera Lucia Cottim-Coughlan
Missionary and Coordinator, Calgary Mission

Note:

- The **Catechesis on the Holy Angels** by JPII was given at six (6) General Audiences from July 9 to August 20, 1986 and it is a "must read" for anyone who wants to know more about these creatures, including the fall of the rebellious angels, and understand their role in the plan of salvation. You can check it out at <http://www.ewtn.com/library/PAPALDOC/JP2ANGEL.HTM>
- I also recommend the book "Angels (and demons) – What do we really know about them?" by Peter Kreeft, Ignatius Press.

ONGOING...

Our **LIVING WATER PRAYER AND SHARING GROUP** is back!

We continue to meet at St. Albert the Great parish, but now on a new weekday (Mondays), room (Our Lady of Good Counsel, a.k.a. "CWL Room" in the basement) and time (from 7 to 9pm.)

During this month of September we talked about the Triumph of the Cross and, of course, the Holy Angels!

COME AND JOIN US!

Praise

Worship

Growing in (your) Faith

Sharing

Fellowship

IS THAT IT?

Well... not really! We are very excited to have started the series of six monthly meetings with the five *Beginners* in our Vocational Path, and we ask you to keep them in your prayers!

Oops! We almost forgot...! **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for the much expected **FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM** to **"THROW THE NETS INTO THE DEEP!"**

If you attended "Throw the Nets into the Deep..."

Or if you ever participated in a "Life in the Spirit Seminar..."

THIS PROGRAM IS FOR YOU and you don't want to miss it!

More details will follow! **SAVE THE DATES** in your agenda!

January 11, 18, 25 and February 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 6:30 to 8:45pm

LAST BUT NOT LEAST... COMING UP

"NOVENA FOR CHRISTMAS" – with Our Lady and Baby Jesus

More details in our next E-Newsletter

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND

TONIGHT!

THE FEAST OF THE ARCHANGELS

St. Mary's Cathedral at 7pm
Bishop Henry celebrates mass for EMS
personnel
All are invited! (According to Posters!)
Refreshments will follow

We will be there and we invite you to
join us as we will be praying the
Chaplet of St. Michael before the
tabernacle immediately after mass

**ARISE! (It is the Lord!)
* Praise * Worship * Eucharistic
Adoration ***

OCTOBER 2ND at 7:30pm

St. Patrick's Church

Refreshments will follow

Free will offering will be taken

WOMEN OF PRAYER – A Young Women's Retreat

Join Franciscan Sister Dianne Turner and other young women age 18 to 30 open to listening to the Lord's initiative in their lives. The retreat will focus on women in the Bible and in the Church (Saints) and will have lots of opportunity for reflection and prayer.

St. Luke's Parish (1566 Northmount Drive NW, Calgary) on **October 10 and 11**

A \$35 charge covers food * Please bring a sleeping bag, pillow and Bible

Please phone Sister Dianne at 403-289-2722 for more info and to receive a copy of the Poster

From Sister Dianne: *"We need more Religious here (in Calgary) and this is an opportunity for young women to listen to what the Lord is saying to them, so that if they are being called, they will have a nurturing environment to assist them in responding. I am not promoting this retreat especially as a vocation retreat, yet it is unmarried women that I am hoping will attend. If a married woman wants to come for the retreat, I will be glad to receive her as well."*

GETTING BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS...

I've been back to Calgary for about a month... Getting this E-Newsletter out in time for the Feast of the Archangels was a major challenge (it's past noon already!!) Health, software and computer glitches, kids getting back to school and just getting back into the swing of things... Calgary not only feels like home – it is home. It is the place where God called me to be and I am grateful to be back and to every opportunity He gives me to evangelize and fulfill my calling as a Santos Anjos missionary.

Brazil was awesome! As I mentioned in our Summer E-Newsletter, I hadn't been there in three years and there was so many to see and so much to do! Thanks for everyone who remembered me on August 23, when I professed my permanent commitment to Santos Anjos. I'm including a few pictures below. I have much more to share but I really ran out of time now (I must send this issue out!)

Until next time, with fraternal love from your sister in Christ,

Vera Lucia Cottim-Coughlan,
Coordinator, Calgary Mission



THE POSTULANTS, DISCIPLES AND CONSECRATED MEMBERS OF SANTOS ANJOS (HOLY ANGELS)
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT OUR ANNUAL RETREAT



THE BLESSING OF THE TAU



COMMITMENT PRAYER



PRAYERS BY BISHOP FERRERIA



BEING INVESTED WITH THE TAU BY PAULO DINIZ, FOUNDER AND GENERAL MODERATOR



THE MOST REVEREND ROBERTO FERRERIA, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF NITEROI, WITH THE FIVE MEMBERS WHO PROFESSED THEIR PERMANENT COMMITMENT TO SANTOS ANJOS