



## St. Michael the Archangel, Defend Us in Battle: The Ministry of Healing and Deliverance.

*By Fr. Richard Samour for Today's Catholic*

According to historical accounts, on October 1, 1884, Pope Leo XIII had a deeply disturbing mystical experience during Mass. After celebrating in his private chapel, he suddenly stood motionless in front of the altar, appearing transfixed for nearly ten minutes. His face was drained of color. Later, he explained that

he had heard two voices near the tabernacle, the voices of Our Lord and of Satan.

Following this vision, in which Satan requested permission to destroy the Church, he wrote the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. Pope Leo XIII asked all Catholics to recite the *Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel* after every Low Mass. St. Michael has long been synonymous with spiritual warfare and with defeating the ultimate enemy of God and humanity, the devil.

In the Book of Revelation (12:7-9), St. Michael battles Satan in heaven and casts him and his demons into hell. Devotion to St. Michael and the angels dates back to the fourth century A.D., when the Roman Emperor Constantine had a vision of St. Michael in a dream. He responded by building the *Michaelion* sanctuary in honor of the Archangel, replacing a pagan temple.

Each Sunday at Mass, we profess our belief in “things visible and invisible.” Angels and Archangels are invisible to our eyes, yet perceptible to our spiritual vision through their visible activity and guidance in our lives.

The life of the Church benefits continually from the mysterious and powerful help of the angels. In her liturgy, the Church joins the angels in adoration of the thrice-holy God. From infancy to death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession. The Catechism reminds us: **“Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life.”** – CCC 334-336

As a priest who ministers in deliverance, when I receive requests for house blessings because people experience strange noises, negative activity, or an evil presence, I always emphasize the importance of a deep examination of conscience and confession of mortal sins, even those from childhood. This breaks the relationship with evil and restores communion with God and His Church.

As I mentioned in a previous article, living in a state of mortal sin opens the door to the evil one.

These manifestations can take many forms, pride, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, immorality, impurity, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, wrath, strife, heresy or unforgiveness. As St. Paul warns in his Letter to the Galatians.

Resisting temptation and sin is not merely a good idea; it is our Christian duty and a source of dignity. Satan does not desire houses in hell, he desires souls. His preferred tactic is oppression, especially of those living in mortal sin. Living in sin means rejecting God and His mercy.

As Catholics, we are blessed with the sacraments, particularly confession and the Eucharist to strengthen us against temptation. We also have heavenly helpers: the saints who intercede for us, and the angels who protect and guide us. I firmly believe that God works powerfully through His helpers, especially St. Michael the Archangel, forming a spiritual shield around us to safeguard us from temptation and the snares of the devil. Through their help, we are strengthened to resist sins that endanger our souls and threaten our salvation.

We must also remember that temptation itself is not a sin, and demons cannot read our minds. Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, a well-known exorcist, explains: “Demons cannot read your minds or tell the future. They are intuitive and can guess what you are thinking. They can tempt and torment, but they cannot read minds or know the future only God can. Believing otherwise gives them too much control and causes unnecessary fear.”

Why angels? The word *angel* means “messenger.” They are messengers of God, as Psalm 91 reminds us: “For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.”

God created the angels for our protection. The prayer to St. Michael, devotion to the nine choirs of angels, and awareness of the devil’s reality are not outdated; they remain deeply relevant today. St. Michael, the “Prince of the Heavenly Host,” has already defeated Satan.

In his General Audience of August 6, Pope St. John Paul II observed that modern society often fails to recognize the importance of angels. Yet in encountering them, humanity rediscovers that we are not only body but also spirit.

According to Revelation, the angels who live in the light of the Trinity also participate in the history of human salvation, as the Letter to the Hebrews asks: “**Are they not all**

ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?” (Hebrews 1:14)

Our earthly life is often described as a spiritual battle between good and evil. It is time to reclaim our heavenly weapons against the spiritual forces that oppose us. As St. Paul writes in Ephesians: “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Let us arm ourselves with the sacraments and prayer, especially the *Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel*. Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.