



Angels in the Holy Trinity

Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church

Angels as Adorers

- Adoration is the angels' primary duty – they adore Him very the very depth of their being
- Essence of angels' happiness consist of four (4) things
 - Seeing God face to face
 - Loving Him with the very love that He has for Himself
 - Possessing Him in the joy of His love
 - Participating in God's life for eternity
- When we go to heaven
 - Faith will be replaced by sight
 - Hope will be replaced by possession
 - Charity, which is Gods love of Himself, will be shared with us!
- For now, here on earth, the best way to worship God is through personal adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament
 - Adoring Jesus in the monstrance is our "Face Time"
 - The same is true during the Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - We become more like Christ when we spend time in His Eucharistic Presence
 - We adore Jesus who is the model of adoration to His Father in Spirit and Truth

These same perfections
of happiness are meant
for me and you!

*Beth Story
of
Adoration*

Angels as Adorers

- Daughters of the Heart of Jesus (Cloistered Sisters) – *Blessed Marie of Jesus Deluil-Martiny is founder*

- Dedicated to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament **EVERY DAY**
 - Pray for priests celebrating Mass around the world, uniting themselves to every offering of the Holy Sacrifice
 - Stand spiritually with the Blessed Mother as she stood at Calvary, accepting and lifting up the Eternal Sons' offering
 - Pray the Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross Seven times a day and offer to the Eternal Father the blood and water that poured forth from His pierced side **(Why 7?)**
 - “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34)
 - “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise (Luke 23:43)
 - “Woman, behold, your son. . . Behold, your mother.” (John 19:26–27)
 - “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34)
 - “I thirst.” (John 19:28)
 - “It is finished.” (John 19:30)
 - “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit!” (Luke 23:46)
 - Chant the Magnificat three times each day, uniting their thanksgiving to that of the whole Church, in union with the angels on high

In adoration, we express our wonder and awe along with our total dependence on God. Our prayer becomes a rich and beautiful expression of a soul united to the Creator, the Redeemer, the Sanctifier – the Most Holy Trinity!

Do you know what it is to truly adore? I AM the one who truly adores. I adore my Father in Spirit and truth. I AM Sovereign Beauty – Our prayers and worship are offered to the Trinity through Jesus – Our prayer is a gift! We should properly prepare ourselves through and act of contrition or humility prior to spending time in front of the Blessed Sacrament

Angels as Adorers

- Angels' adoration is the most perfect expression of their union with God
- They overflow with delight in God as they contemplate His infinite love
- Father Mark Daniel describe the greatest joy of a guardian angel is to accompany us to the altar
- Our guardian angel is always directing us toward the tabernacle!
- Like the angels, our adoration of God must be a free act of generous love involving all that we are
- We should bring our mind/intellect so what we can ponder the truths of Jesus and the mysteries of our faith, enriching our soul with heavenly light.
- Adoration should include sincere acts of hope and love
- We bring to adoration all our trust in the Lord and His power to sanctify, save us, and be merciful to us
- Adoration includes the expression of our body as we kneel, fold our hands, bow our heads are cross ourselves – we make a physical expression of surrender
- The Angel of Peace who appeared to the children of Fatima knelt and prostrated himself as he adored the Blessed Sacrament during the second apparition
- The Magi prostrated themselves in adoration before they offered their gifts
- We can also adore him from the depths of our human poverty and suffering

Angels as Stewards

- Angels stand watch over all of creation...even down to the smallest atom or particle
- Stewardship is used instead of guardianship because we are not speaking of human being but more about the principles and forms of all creation
- Angels carry the laws of God into creation
- Angels bear the truth of God's order, beauty and creative love in the material world
- The mission of angels is cosmic!

Blessed John Henry Newman wrote about his deep and reverent awareness he had of angels ...

*I say of the Angels, "Every breath of air and ray of light and heat, every beautiful prospect, is, as it were, **the skirts of their garments**, the waving of the robes of those whose faces see God." Again, I ask what would be the thoughts of a man who, "when examining a flower, or a herb, or a pebble, or a ray of light, which he treats as something so beneath him in the scale of existence, suddenly discovered that he was **in the presence of some powerful being** who was hidden behind the visible things he was inspecting, who, though concealing his wise hand, was giving them their beauty, grace, and perfection, **as being God's instrument for the purpose**, nay, whose robe and ornaments those objects were, which he was so eager to analyze?" and I therefore remark that "we may say with grateful and simple hearts with the Three Holy Children, O all ye works of the Lord...bless ye the Lord, praise Him, and magnify Him for ever."*

Angels as Stewards

- Part of the task of stewardship is defending the material universe – preserving the laws that govern science and reality
- Angels do battle against evil spirits who vent their anger and frustration at His creative plan by exploiting the weaknesses of creation and attacking human persons!
- Angels protect what theologians call the *vestigial Dei* – the footprints of God, which is all of creation
 - *St. Bonaventure wrote that all of creation is the fingerprint and the footprint of the Divine One (vestigia Dei). By definition, this “vestige” is a small reminder, a trace of something that is no longer present. So if “all creation” is a vestige of the Creator, how big, indeed, must that Divine One be? Huge. Beyond comprehension and without bounds or the ability to be possessed.*
- **In what ways are we struggling to preserve the footprints of God? (Laudato Si by Pope Francis)**
- Because men and women stand at the summit of creation, we are called to imitate the stewardship of the angels by preserving the gifts of God to ourselves and others
 - Sanctifying grace
 - Diligent prayer
 - Reverent reception of the sacraments
 - Practice of Charity
 - Value of relationships with people
 - Angels bring memories to our heart and mind
 - Community is important!
 - Called to be stewards of our physical and mental health
 - Share our material blessings, especially the needy
 - To see with the eyes of Christ the needs of others
 - To love with the heart of Christ in sharing
 - Angels desire this Christ-like love from us

Danger of Idolatry

- Angels are great and powerful – but they are not God!
 - Paul reminds us in Colossians 2...
 - “Let no one disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind”
- The good angels understand they are not God
 - Remember what happened when Saint John tried to worship an angel in Revelation 19:10
 - “I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, ‘You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!’”
- From the time of the apostles, evil angels have taken advantage of the natural human tendency to worship powerful spirits and divert man from the knowledge and worship of God – **In what ways is this happening today?**
- The message that Christ is truly the Son of God is the remedy
 - Saint Paulinus of Nola imagined the terror of evil angels in vivid language
 - “The neglected images in the empty temples tremble when struck by the pious voices and are overthrown by the name of Christ. Terrified demons abandon their deserted shrines. The envious Serpent pale with rage struggles in vain, his lips blood-stained, bemoaning with this hungry throat the redemption of man”

Giving Angels Their Due

- We cannot let an excessive fear of idolatry keep us from loving the angels
- In doing so, we may be giving the devil more than his due
- We must be careful to not marginalize devotion to the angels because God has sent them to help us!
- Angels worship along side us and help keep us on the right path while teaching and protecting us
- To ignore the angels would be to ignore a large part of our faith
- Gregory the Great reminds us we are angels in a sense as well
 - “Each one of you, in so far as he can, in so far as he receives and inspiration from on his – if he recalls his neighbor from his wickedness takes care to encourage him to do good, proclaims the eternal kingdom or eternal punishment to one astray – when he provides the words of the holy message – each one of you is truly an angel”
- When reciting the Lord’s Prayer, “thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”, we should be thinking about the angels who conform their wills completely to God – we are called to do the same!
- Sometimes the angels come in ways we would not like them to appear
 - Someone who is opposing our plans or trying to stop us from what we want to do!
 - At least our disposition might improve in these situations
- Angels are there to help us, train us, push us, and carry us when we are feeling weak to temptation



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Questions?