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THE HOLY ANGELS IN OUR LIVES

14

FOR EDIFICATION AND CONSOLATION

■ All Christians have their own Guardian Angel

The Angels Are Our Constant Helpers* And Are Always Eager to Serve Us

“**L**ikewise I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the Angels of God over one sinner that repenteth” (St. Luke 15:10).

Just as the woman rejoices when she finds the lost coin, so also there is joy in Heaven among the Angels of God, who participate in this joy over one sinner that repents.

How much joy the Holy Angels feel in Heaven especially when we are in a state of repentance. They are always eager to serve us!

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Church Tradition teaches us that all Christians have their own Guardian Angel. The origin of this tradition stems from the well-known Old Testament story of Tobit and his son Tobias (cf. Tobit 5:4) and the witness of the Prophet Zachariah: “And the Angel that talked with me said unto me...” (Zachariah 1:9). Also, in the New Testament, the Lord says: “Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you that in Heaven their Angels do always behold the face of My Father Who is in Heaven (St. Matthew 18:10). And the Acts of the Apostles relates the imprisonment of the Holy Apostle Peter and the assistance of his Guardian Angel.

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Abba Dorotheos, when instructing his disciples to wake eagerly for the vigil service, recounts the following:

“I am going to tell you something wondrous that was told to me from a great and clairvoyant Elder who, while standing in the Church, would see, just as the brothers began to sing, someone in bright raiments come out of the Altar, bearing a small round container with holy oil and an instrument for applying it. He dipped the applicator into the vessel and, passing among the brothers, anointed each of them with the sign of the Cross.

“At the places of those who were absent he either made the sign of the Cross or passed by without doing so.

“Again, as the end of the service approached, he did the same thing.

“Finally, one day, the Elder stopped him and, falling at his feet, implored him to explain who he was and what the meaning of his actions was.

“The man in bright raiments said to him: ‘I am an Angel of the Lord, and I have been given a command to seal with the sign of the Cross all those who are in Church from the beginning of the service until the end, on account of their eagerness, diligence, and good intentions.’

“The Elder replied, saying ‘Why, then, do you make the sign of the Cross over the place of some of those who are missing?’

“The holy Angels answered him: ‘Those brothers who are diligent and of good intention, but out of some need or illness are missing with the blessing of their spiritual Father, or who, in obedience to some command, are busy somewhere else and not in attendance for that reason—these, despite their absence, I seal with the sign of the Cross, since in spirit they are with those who are chanting the service. Only those who would otherwise be able to be present, but because of their laziness are absent, am I commanded not to seal with the sign of the Cross, for they are made unworthy thereof by their own actions.’”

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We find yet another reference to the protection offered by a Guardian Angel in the Life of St. Euthasia († 12 January).

As in every age, the dangers facing young girls was very great in the time of St. Euthasia, especially if God had endowed them with



exquisite physical beauty. And if we bear in mind that virtue beautifies a person, it is clear that the comeliness of St. Euthasia's soul adorned her outward appearance yet more, provoking the envy of the devil.

For this reason, the Saint begged her Guardian Angel to protect her from evil associations and misfortunes.

Once, some dissolute and corrupt men, knowing that the way to her house was full of secluded and narrow lanes, lay in wait to assault, violate, and defile her.

However, before St. Euthasia reached the point in the road where they were lying in wait, a radiant Angel—the Guardian Angel of her soul—appeared in front of her and, taking her by the hand, said:

“Do not be afraid, my Euthasia. Come with me, my little sister, not by this narrow path, because there are people waiting for you there to harm you. Follow me...”

From then on, St. Euthasia dedicated herself entirely to Christ, to Whom she did not hesitate to give her blood through martyrdom. She was beheaded for her love of Christ our Savior.



(*) Ὁρθόδοξος Τύπος, No. 2469 (Nov. 3, 2023), p. 3. Translated from the Greek.