

Guardian Angels for America

You have the Lord for your refuge; you have made the Most High your stronghold. No evil shall befall you, no affliction come near your tent. For God commands the angels to guard you in all your ways. With their hands they shall support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone. (THE NEW AMERICAN BIBLE, Catholic Bible Press, Ps 91:9-12)

We are all familiar with the concept of guardian angels and accept the truth of their existence even though it has never been defined by the Church that every individual soul has a guardian angel. That there are guardian angels is a belief clearly discernible in the Hebrew Scriptures and is more clearly developed in the New Testament Scriptures. Some doctors of the Church believed only the baptized had an individual guardian angel, while others, like St. Jerome, believed each person, from birth, had his or her own angel. Jesus Himself referred to the guardian angels of children and gives us the understanding that they never cease to be in the presence of God even while they tend to their charges on earth.

See that you despise not one of these little ones: for I say to you, that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. (THE NEW AMERICAN BIBLE, Matthew 18:10).

The CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, #328, teaches that

The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls "angels" is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition.

We know angels are pure, created spirits without bodies and therefore do not have senses by which to acquire knowledge. They are of a higher order than man, having intellect and free will and personhood, and as spirit beings are immortal. They are the servants and messengers of God and do His will at all times. We speak of the nine choirs of angels listed in the Bible: 1) Angels 2) Archangels 3) Principalities 4) Powers 5) Virtues 6) Dominations 7) Thrones 8) Cherubim and 9) the Seraphim. Their missions are related to their hierarchy. Some behold God's Face incessantly while others handle affairs between heaven and earth and the affairs of nations and churches, while others have a more personal task as guardian angels to those on earth.

The three angels with whom we are most familiar from the Scriptures are the archangels Raphael, Michael and Gabriel. The Hebrew Scriptures give us the account of St. Raphael whose name means "God has healed" or "medicine of God." Because Archangel Raphael accompanied young Tobias (Book of Tobit) on a journey to

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fetch Sara for his wife and interceded to drive out the demonic spirit that brought death to Sara's seven previous husbands on their wedding night, and because he gave Tobias a healing remedy to cure his father's blindness, Raphael is considered a patron saint of travelers and of healers. He is the patron of the

blind, of happy meetings, of nurses and of physicians. This intriguing story speaks to both physical and spiritual healing and gives witness to the role of the angels as guides, guardians, messengers and intercessors on our behalf and champions against demons.

St. Gabriel, whose name means “hero of God” or “God is my strength” is probably the most familiar to us as we hear of him so often in Scripture with respect to his announcement to Mary that she would give birth to the Savior of His people. Tradition holds that it was the Archangel Gabriel who appeared to Zachary to announce the birth of the Baptist; to St. Joseph in a dream telling him to take Mary into his home for the child she bore within her was conceived of the Holy Spirit; and to St. Joseph telling him to flee into Egypt with Mary and the Child to escape Herod’s slaughter of the infant sons of Israel. Was it also St. Gabriel who appeared to the Magi and told them not to report back to Herod when they found the newborn King of the Jews? Surely it was St. Gabriel again who told St. Joseph when it was safe to return home after the death of Herod. Truly, the Archangel Gabriel shared the strength of God with Mary and Joseph in all their journeys and trials.

The name of Michael comes from the Hebrew and means “who is like God?” -- raising the question: “Who can ever be like God?” The answer is “No one!” for no one but God is sufficient unto Himself! We remember St. Michael best for his battle with Lucifer and the rebellious angels in Paradise. Though the story itself is not told per se in Scripture, it is referred to in various Scriptural passages and comes to us through Tradition and the Doctors of the Church. As Bishop Fulton J. Sheen says on his teaching tapes, God chose to make a moral universe so that love would be possible, and love by its nature demands intelligence and freedom. Freedom demands choice and choice demands a test, a test to choose or reject God’s Truth and Love, a test to acknowledge or disavow one’s total dependency upon God for one’s existence and one’s continued existence and one’s final happiness. God alone is uncreated, Eternal Existence, Perfect Love. Love and freedom are always a risk, for if one is free to accept, one is also free to reject. Many of the angels passed the test, but the Book of Revelation tells us one third of them failed and were cast down to earth. Those who remained faithful and opposed Lucifer’s false claim to be like God were led by a valiant angel; hence, the leader of those faithful angels would be called “Michael” whose name, “who is like God?” stands as a battle cry against all false gods as he continues to defend the honor of God against those fallen angels who are determined to deceive the rest of God’s intelligent creation with the “lie of Satan,” that fundamental denial of dependency on God by acting as if one is the cause of one’s own being; in other words, that one can be self-sufficient just like God! That is the lie, for

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unless God created us, we would not exist; unless God sustains us in existence, we would cease to exist.

In this article we want to focus on the angels mentioned in the message of Our Lady of America® to Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil and the significance of those angels. There are four: the archangels St. Michael and St. Gabriel, the

angel Sultra and the archangel Sardus. St. Michael and St. Gabriel both have a personal mission to Sister Mildred similar to their missions in Scripture, a mission that extends to our nation and to all God's people as well. **Sultra and Sardus are clearly presented as special guardian angels, protectors for our nation, the United States of America, because of the Divine Mandate given to us from heaven.** When God gives a mission, He first grants favor and gifts to ensure the fulfillment of that mission. What better help is there than power from on high? On page 39 of the Diary, Our Lady states:

It is evident that the Forces of Evil are enveloping the world. Their hatred, however, is now particularly focused on the United States because of the Divine Mandate given to it to lead the world to peace.

(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA©, Fostoria, Ohio, pg. 39.)

We know St. Michael best for his leadership in battle and in this message he directs Sister Mildred in her personal battle against Satan. St. Michael gives Sister the sword for battle, the cross for suffering and the palm for victory. He is sent to Sister as a constant companion to assist her against Satan's endless attacks upon her because of his hatred for the Divine Indwelling and its message, which Sister was chosen to bring us. But when Our Lady speaks of the Divine Mandate from heaven being given to America, in particular, to lead the world in an urgently needed "reform of life" back to faith and purity and peace, to the interior life and the Divine Indwelling, Sister questions whether America is capable of the task. Our Lady assures Sister that St. Michael and a whole host of angels will be with us. Victory in battle always brings peace. We know St. Michael was victorious in the battle against Lucifer in Paradise, and he will be victorious in every other battle as well, for God is on his side. Hence, St. Michael identifies himself as the Angel of Peace. Why? Because he defeats the ultimate cause of all war, Satan and his deceits and hatred by which he seduces mankind to sin (pride) and to the denial of Truth (disobedience). We see St. Michael in this position of defending Israel in the Book of Daniel where he and St. Gabriel fight against the prince of Persia for the protection of God's people. The prince of Persia is seen as a fallen angel working under the direction of Satan who operates as the "god of this world." Satan embodies the evil spirit of "the world" that is in direct contradiction to the kingdom of God. Jesus declared unequivocally that His kingdom is not of this world; it is within you, the Divine Indwelling. The one within is always stronger than the one without.

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It was as customary in Hebrew times to consider guardian angels for nations as we consider guardian angels for individuals. It was also a Semitic belief that there are both good and evil spirits; good spirits carry out God's Law and Will regarding the physical universe while evil spirits cause all the havoc in the world between nations and religious systems, as already seen in the Book of Daniel. We see St. Gabriel in Our Lady of America's message as the angel of Purity who directs Sister to go to Mary where she will learn great purity of heart so pleasing to the Lord, for who can know the heart of the Son better than the Mother? Just as St. Gabriel fought with St. Michael to defend the chosen ones against the tyranny of the prince of

Persia, Our Lady assures us he will fight alongside the archangel Michael again in protecting America from the powers of darkness and the “culture of death” overwhelming our Nation from within and from without. As St. Michael protected Israel in the Hebrew Covenant, so now he protects God’s people in the Christian Covenant, the Church, the new Israel. His mission is universal because the Church’s mission is universal. The archangels Michael and Gabriel, the angels of peace and purity, are sent to help us fulfill Our Lady of America®’s call to a “reform of life” so we might bring the gifts of faith, purity and peace to fruition again in America and throughout the world.

In the Hebrew understanding God sent angels in times of great need. Sardus and Sultra are part of this private revelation to Sister Mildred and reveal themselves for the very specific purpose of guardianship of America. We recall the guardian angel of Portugal giving Holy Communion to the Fatima children. Like our own guardian angels whom we do not see, nor can we prove that they exist even though we believe that they do based on what we do know from Scripture, it should not be a problem to accept these angels. They are certainly being sent from heaven in a time of great need in America! Many saints have seen angels and their own guardian angels. The Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation with its account of the seven angels for the seven Churches, confirm the belief in guardian angels for nations and churches as well as for individuals, so it should not surprise us that God is sending America special guardian angels as His gift to help us carry out His Divine Mandate to lead the world back to faith and purity, to real peace at last. God will never leave us ill equipped for any mission He gives us, and His Will will be accomplished.

One of the Churches in the Book of Revelation is the Church of Sardis, spelled differently than the angel Sardus’ name but likely coming from similar roots. We see in Exodus 39:10-13 that there are 12 precious stones set in the High Priest’s breastplate to represent the 12 tribes of Israel, and Revelation 21:18-21 speaks of 12 precious stones set in the foundations of the New Jerusalem, referring to the 12 apostles. The color of each of these precious stones has special symbolism, much like that attributed to the various birthstones for the 12 months of the year. The first gem in the breastplate is

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called carnelian in Hebrew, sard or sardion in Greek, and sardius in the Latin Vulgate, and is “blood red” or garnet colored. Some say it symbolizes the “blood of martyrs.”

Reference: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/14304c.htm>

If the name Sardus is derived from the same root word with this meaning, it is most relevant to the fact that Our Lady of America® first appeared on the feast of the North American martyrs whose blood became the seed of the Faith in America, martyrs so devoted to the Immaculate Conception long before she became our Patroness. The archangel Sardus who identifies himself as the Guardian and Protector of America speaks to the blood of martyrs with respect to America and to the honor we give Our Lady as our Patroness, the Immaculate

Virgin. Interestingly, in the Book of Revelation we are confronted with that seeming contradiction, that it is in blood, the Blood of the unblemished Lamb of God, that our robes are washed clean and made white and pure. If our sins be as scarlet, they shall be made whiter than snow.

I am the Archangel Sardus, Protector, Guardian and Defender of America whose soil is saturated with martyrs' blood and honors so highly the Queen of Heaven and Her holy Spouse who work only to further the Kingdom of Jesus. (Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, pg. 42)

It is interesting to note that the Angel of the Church of Sardis challenges those who live "only the outward appearance of charity and faith." "You have a reputation of being alive but you are dead. " Does this not sound like the words of Our Lord to Sister Mildred in May of 1954?

My little white dove, do you know what I find most lacking in the world today? It is FAITH. There are so few souls that believe in Me and My love. They profess their belief and their love, but they do not live this belief. Their hearts are cold, for without faith there can be no love. (Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, Pg. 5.)

Reference: <http://www.incompanywithangels.org/index.php/the-angels/sardis>

Theologians tell us Mary appears when there is great heresy and false teaching within the Church. Might that judgment upon the Church of Sardis apply to us here in America as well, for Our Lady appears, pleading for a reform of life never before so urgently needed as she warns against false teaching, false messiahs and disobedience to Christ's Vicar on earth? The Church is challenged to continually seek the truth and to live by it, pure truth! Where there is any fraction of falsehood, there is no longer Truth. Those who overcome evil and falsehood shall be clothed in white, for white denotes truth (seeing clearly) and purity (dissipation of darkness) which are made possible by the light of the sun (the Son who is the Light of the world). White IS the color of purity.

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White contains all other colors and symbolizes the perfection of all virtue, fullness of life. Does Our Lady of America® not speak of us being purified and cleansed from defilement and clothed thus with the white garment of grace, sanctifying grace, which is the Divine Indwelling, source of purity and holiness? In Baptism we are clothed in the white garment as a sign of our cleansing from sin and being filled with the Indwelling Presence of our Triune God. In His preaching Jesus referred to the kingdom as a wedding feast and we could not enter without the proper wedding garment. In the Book of Revelation we hear of the white linen garment necessary to enter the glorious wedding feast of the pure unblemished Lamb of God with His Bride, His Mystical Body, the Triumphant Church.

We note similarities between these four angels. The archangel Sardus wears a band across his right shoulder that says "Strength of God," and the name Gabriel means "God is my strength. Likewise, the archangel Sardus carries shafts of light that hint of the sword of the archangel Michael. Light, the sword, represents Divine Truth, Divine Love, God Himself in contrast to the lies, hatred and darkness that Satan represents. The archangel Sardus speaks of the soil of

America being saturated with martyrs' blood, of being a land that honors so highly the Queen of Heaven, Queen of Martyrs. One must wonder if he speaks not only of the blood of our North American martyrs in days past, but of the blood of the Holy Innocents of abortion, for Sister Mildred stated so often that America was being chastised for the great sin of abortion in this land. Is not our holy and Immaculate Queen Mary, Mother of the unborn Jesus Whom she carried to full term in her virginal womb, model for all mothers from the first moment of conception unto delivery of their child?

The angel Sultra identifies himself as the Guardian and Protector of the United States of America and he wears a band across his shoulder with the words "power of God." He, too, carries a gigantic sword tipped in a searing white flame that speaks to the same idea as Our Lady of America®'s "Torchbearers of the Queen"; Our Lady identifies the torch as the flame of Divine Love. The angel Sultra carries the lightning bolts of God's justice; Our Lady's message warns of God's justice if we do not accept his awesome mercy and grace and reform our lives. Justice is as perfect an attribute in God as is His mercy and His love. This message of Our Lady of America® and these two guardian angels for America speak strongly to both that perfect justice of God if we do not repent, and that perfect mercy if we accept Our Lady's warnings and reform our lives as she asks. This message likewise reflects the reciprocity of the covenant theme; each must fulfill his part in order to keep the covenant; and, if one does not, then one has chosen the consequences. God, however, is always faithful on His part and is perfectly just in respecting our freedom and in granting us the consequences of our choices.

Note, too, on the angel Sultra's right shoulder sits a pure white dove, the same symbol Our Lord used to address Sister Mildred's purity and humility when

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he called her "my little white dove," a symbol commonly used for both peace and purity, the titles by which St. Michael, Angel of Peace, and St. Gabriel, Angel of Purity, identified themselves to Sister. The dove is also the symbol of the Holy Spirit, Divine Spouse of the Pure Virgin Mother of God. The angel Sultra announces his protection of the United States because we honor and love the Immaculate Virgin and have dedicated our land to her as our Patroness, the Immaculate Conception. He promises that this nation, and all who pursue peace, will know the protection of God and the destruction of those who seek to destroy them. Scripture speaks of the violent conflicts between good and evil spirits and their effect in determining history and the control of nations. The great wars of the centuries with their bloodshed, heartache and tragedy are spoken of as being waged in the heavens while being played out on this earth. Against these evils the angel Sultra himself declares his guardianship of the United States.

I am the Angel Sultra, sent by the Almighty whose faithful servant I am, to help the people of God in their hour of need. I have been appointed guardian, protector and defender of the United States of America whose people honor and love the Immaculate Virgin, the Queen of Angels and have dedicated their land to Her.

If the people of this Land carry out faithfully the instructions and pleadings of the Lord Jesus and the Virgin Mother then they will be following me to the hour of peace. With this sword of the Divine white flame of Love and the lightning bolts of His infinite Justice God will strike down his enemies and heal the repentant sinner. This Nation and all who follow in the pursuit of peace will know the protection of God and the destruction of those who fight and seek to destroy them through the evil powers of the infernal spirits of darkness and hate.

(Diary, pg. 41)

How like the passage in Exodus 23:20-23 used in the Liturgy for the feast of the Guardian Angels are the words of the angel Sultra to America.

See, I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared. Be attentive to him and heed his voice. Do not rebel against him, for he will not forgive your sin. My authority resides in him. If you heed his voice and carry out all I tell you, I will be an enemy to your enemies and a foe to your foes.

In conclusion, considering so many interconnections in the meanings of names, missions and symbols amongst these four angels and the message of Our Lady of America® itself, it would be hard to discount the existence and the mission of the archangel Sardus and the angel Sultra as guardian angels over America and the United States. Given the history of Hebrew Scripture and tradition regarding guardian angels for nations and groups and the Hebrew understanding that special angels are given in times of great need, and given the enormity of America's need for conversion itself

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before it can lead the world to conversion, it would be hard to discount the importance of these guardian angels over America, the United States of America. Considering the "culture of death" that has taken hold of America and the cries of the faithful, begging for divine intervention, they can only be seen as an answer to our prayers. Since some guardian angels have revealed their names to chosen souls in the past, why should it surprise us then that the archangel Sardus and the angel Sultra would reveal themselves to Sister Mildred as special guardian angels over America, over the United States in particular? Since Our Lady has given America a great responsibility of leadership in bringing the whole world back to Faith and Purity and has also warned that the hatred of the world would be turned on us because of this Mandate from heaven, and since she has promised a whole host of angelic help to fulfill our mission, how can we dismiss such a gift from the Queen of Angels? Our situation here in America calls for, even demands, such divine assistance. Let us thank God for these angels and depend on them for guidance and defense against every form of evil.

It has been said the greatest joy any of us can give our Guardian Angel is to receive Holy Communion and make our breast a tabernacle of the Eternal God before Whom this angel can adore. Imagine if our whole nation were such a tabernacle and hosts of angels could come here to America and adore in our midst the living God!

Our Lady herself declared September 27, 1956:

I wish to make the whole of America my shrine by making every heart accessible to the love of my Son. (Diary, Pg. 12.)

To help make the whole of America her shrine, Our Lady has given us the gift of her favor with this appearance under the title of our country, Our Lady of America®. Besides special angels to protect our country, she has given us her promise that her medallion will be a shield against evil for those who wear it with devotion; that she will protect every home that honors her with a statue or picture; and that a statue of her image placed in a position of honor in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., after being carried in solemn procession, will be a safeguard for our country. She has further given us a special prayer of deliverance from all evil to say over and over each day. Would that every nation would join us in praying it repeatedly throughout the day!

By thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, deliver us from evil.

Every evil, Mother, please!

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