

---

“Could you not watch one hour with Me?”

---

**Glory of God** and to renounce our own pleasures, satisfactions and other forms of vanity through which we coddle ourselves and place ourselves on the “throne” destined for God. In short: in all things let us seek to *give* out of divine love and not be concerned about *getting*, as the worldly would advise us.

Knowing our weaknesses, but not our last hour, the angels will lead us to frequent sacramental anticipation of this encounter with Jesus in the **Sacrament of reconciliation** and will admonish us to offer it frequently to souls. This sacrament particularly is an anticipation of the judgment, but much more the sacrament of liberation and renovation (see the repented thief on the Cross, Lk 23:39-43!), the sacrament of resurrection and of new life (it was instituted on Easter Sunday, Jn 20:22-23); it is, in fact, the sacrament of spiritual joy and peace, of hope and love, and not only for the sinners, but also for the angels as Jesus said (cf. Lk 15:7 and 10) and “in the interconnectedness of Being” for all creation (Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*, 48).

#### 4. Dear Brothers in the Priesthood

In the approved Statutes of the *Opus Angelorum* is written: “The Work of the Holy Angels came to be as a response to the signs of the times, in order to incorporate the help of the holy Angels in the spiritual conflicts” (art. 3). It is, in any case, a mission from God and invitation to us to welcome them. Jesus wants them to be part of his mission and of our history. Let us welcome them as Mary welcomed Gabriel and so open the door for our Redeemer.

Fr. Titus Kieninger ORC

## Annual Priest Retreat 2014

Nov. 10 to 14, 2014

In Holly, Michigan

313 527 1739

### ASSOCIATION OF PRIESTS IN THE WORK OF THE HOLY ANGELS®

13800 Gratiot Ave. Detroit, MI 48205 USA [www.opusangelorum.org](http://www.opusangelorum.org)  
Tel (313) 527-1739 Fax (313) 527-1729 [frtitus@opusangelorum.org](mailto:frtitus@opusangelorum.org)

Rector: Fr. Ludwig M. Oppl, ORC ©2013 Order of the Holy Cross

---

CHRIST’S PRIESTS UNITED WITH THE HOLY ANGELS IN THE CHURCH

---

---

“Could you not watch one hour with Me?”

---



## Association of Priests In Opus Angelorum®

“He will send out his angels [to] gather his elect” (Mt 24:31) Vol. XIX, Nov. 2013

---

### Dear Brothers in the Priesthood!

In the gospel of St. Matthew we find both texts about the holy angels themselves and others regarding their relationship with God and men. We now want to focus on those texts which deal with their ministry at the end of time. Jesus tells us that at His second coming the holy angels will accompany him.

He shocked his disciples when, at their remarks about the grandeur of the temple, He observed: “there will not be left here one stone upon another” (Mt 24:2). Curious, they asked “when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?” One of the signs He gave them was this: The Son of man “will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Mt 24:3,31).

#### 1. The Lord will come again

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus left the apostles. He “was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight”. He returned to heaven. At that final moment of His life on earth, “while they were gazing into heaven as he went,” angels manifested their presence as they had been present, albeit mostly invisibly, during the entire earthly life of Jesus: “Two men stood by them in white robes, and said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven’” (Acts 1:9-11).

#### a) Jesus spoke about His second coming with the Angels

With the help of the Holy Spirit, the evangelists recalled that Jesus had foretold His second coming on various occasions. And, perhaps surprisingly, nearly every time He spoke about the coming of the angels with Him. For example, in the parables of the Kingdom, He declared: “The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and throw them into the furnace of fire; there men will weep and gnash their teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Mt

---

CHRIST’S PRIESTS UNITED WITH THE HOLY ANGELS IN THE CHURCH

---

---

## “Could you not watch one hour with Me?”

---

13:39-43). And again, “...at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous, and throw them into the furnace of fire; there men will weep and gnash their teeth” (Mt 13:49-50). And once more: “When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne... and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left” (Mt 25:31-33).

### b) “He will send out his angels”

The text we are to reflect upon describes events that happen before He comes: confusion wrought among men by deceivers, who present themselves as coming in the name of Christ, wars and also natural catastrophes. With respect to the false and obscure prophets he elucidated: “For false Christs and false prophets will arise ... if they say to you, ‘Lo, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out; if they say, ‘Lo, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of man... the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken; then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Mt 24:24,26-27,29-30). In the face of these signs the unwitting will wonder what is happening and what it all means. Here then, the Lord continues: “He will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Mt 24:31; cf. 1Thess 4:16).

## 2. Accompanied by angels

Evidently, Jesus desired that the angels always fulfill their mission in connection with His coming. “From the Incarnation to the Ascension, the life of the Word incarnate is surrounded by the adoration and service of angels. ... They will be present at Christ's return, which they will announce, to serve at his judgment.” (Catechism 333).

### a) The angels went ahead and will do it again

The angels went ahead of Christ at his first coming. Similarly he wants them to be actively involved in his second coming. They went ahead of Christ when St. Gabriel announced his intention to Our Lady and St. Joseph. In the beginning, the mystery of the Incarnate Word was hidden in a little house; at the end, however, it will be manifested in the sky so that every one can see him. At the beginning the word was communicated very silently, at the end it will be made known by “a loud trumpet call”, so loud that all have to hear it and no one shall be excluded. There it was the beginning, the birth of the Savior, proclaimed as salvation to men of good will, here it is the end, the judgment, the call to make an accounting and to hear the final word of judgment. There the decisive word was expected from a creature, the Virgin Mary, at the end all shall await the

---

## “Could you not watch one hour with Me?”

---

decisive word from God, the sentence, which will be the last: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away” (Mt 24:35).

### b) The servants of the Lord

At his final coming the holy angels will again minister as his servants. They go before Him to prepare his way, similar to St. John the Baptist and the apostles (cf. Lk 1:17; 10:1; 22:8ff). They have different functions: They call men before God as his messengers. They assist the Divine Judge; they are servants of the Holy Spirit; they “convince(s) the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” (Jn 16:8). They may also act as witnesses concerning a man's life. And, as often narrated, they will execute God's sentence: they will separate the good and the bad, leading each one to his eternal destiny.

We can interpret their presence in our life in this line of thought: They want to precede Christ, prepare us for his coming and remind us of the last hour in order to prepare us for it. They help us keep the final goal in mind in all our decisions, even our small, daily decisions.

### 3. Become a friend of your Angel!

Therefore, this text is an opportune serious reminder on the question of our salvation. Not only do we *not* know the hour when God calls us, but we are also told that it is impossible to be saved by our own efforts alone. The disciples asked once: “Who then can be saved?” And Jesus told them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Mt 19:25f).

Even as Christians and priests we ought to admit how little we take this final goal in consideration when we make our decisions or ponder over various problems. Pope Francis said in Assisi: “Today (the Church) must strip herself of a very grave danger, which threatens every person in the Church, everyone: the danger of worldliness” (L'Osservatore Romano, engl. edition, Oct. 9, 2013, page 9).

Since we know that Jesus will send out his angels, it is good to reflect, once more, about their functions and our communication with them and to improve our friendship with them (cf. Lk 14:31-32). We should do this, moreover, not only we ourselves, but should also offer this **knowledge of and friendship with the angels** to all those whom the Lord entrusted to our care so as to prepare them too for that hour. This pastoral care can take place through our homilies and counsels given in the confessional, through recommended literature or other trustworthy means. - St. Gregory the Great described this priestly task, comparing it with that of the angels, when he said: “Anyone ordained a priest undertakes the task of preaching, so that with a loud cry he may go on ahead of the terrible judge who follows” (*Liturgy of the Hours*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading on 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday). In all this, we need to be aware of the lethargy of our “fallen nature”. It requires an effort of will, “violence” (Mt 11:12), to look up to heaven (cf. Phil 3:20) and follow the angels' directions, namely to **seek first the**