
“Could you not watch one hour with Me?”

the same time his spirit was elevated towards the Holy Virgin. This good mother told him that the time had come to pray to the Queen of the Angels, and to ask her to send the holy legions to combat and overthrow the powers of hell.

“My Mother,” he said, “you who are so good, could You not send them without our having to ask?” – “No,” replied the Holy Virgin. “Prayer is a condition set by God Himself in order to obtain graces. The more insistently and the more often petitions were made, the more powerfully would I come with the Holy Angels. I will come to the aid of the Church with a whole legion of angels to save it.” – “Well then! My mother,” replied Father Cestac, “would you teach me yourself how we must pray to You?” And he received from the most Holy Virgin this Prayer:

August Queen of Heaven, sovereign Mistress of the Angels,

You who have received from God the power and the mission to crush the head of Satan; We humbly ask you to send the heavenly legions, so that under Your command they may:

pursue the demons, combat them everywhere, crush their bold attacks, and drive them back into the Abyss. “Who is like God?”

O good and tender Mother, you will always be our love and our hope.

O heavenly Mother, send the holy Angels to defend us and repel far from us the cruel enemy.

Holy Angels and Archangels defend and guard us. Amen.

(For prayer-cards call: 1-516-409-6201)

4. Dear Brothers in the Priesthood!

The Lord is our sovereign guide and protector. Let us trust in His love and acknowledge the mission of the angels at our side as a fruit of the same. Those who fear and serve Him, have no cause to worry about the machinations of the devil or to fear him. God is so close to us; indeed, he cannot be closer! He Himself comes into our heart every day at Mass in Holy Communion. The Saints delight to intercede for us; the Angels are sent into our life and into this world to protect us, to lead and help and guard us in all our ways (cf. Ps 91:11). In the Communion of Saints let us stay close to Him Who is our defense, turn to Mary and Joseph, and teach the faithful to do so too.

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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®

With humility and faith (cf. Mk 7:30)

Vol. XX, November 2014

Dear Brothers in the Priesthood!

On our journey through the gospel of St. Mark we have been paying special attention to the spirits, the holy angels and their fallen brothers. We do so, not because they are more important than Jesus, but because it is Jesus together with his Father who sends us his serving spirits, and who also allows the evil spirits to combat us. Hence, we want to see and understand them as part of the complete reality which God had created. We want to live more consciously with the holy angels, understanding their place and missions in God’s plan; in this they are ministers who fulfill His Will in our behalf.

It surprises many how constantly the fallen spirits are also present and mentioned by the evangelist Mark. We, therefore, fittingly ask if we should not see them more present in our own daily life, since they were so frequently present in the life of Jesus. The further question then arises: what do we need to do? How should we react? The following references offer an answer to this question.

1. The sovereignty of Jesus

After the cure of the possessed man at Gerasa along with that of some others, St. Mark said that Jesus “came to his own country” (Mk 6:1). There he “marveled because of their unbelief” (Mk 6:6). Then we hear about the mission of the apostles: “he called to him the twelve, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits... So they went out and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them” (Mk 6:7,12f.).

It is a very sober report. No particular details, no isolated comments are revealed; but the generic gospel truth is most clear. Jesus gave them power over the unclean spirits. They preached, they used this power; they cast out spirits and healed the sick by anointing them with oil. All that belonged to the first apostolic mission of his disciples. Here it is good to recall from the former narrations that Jesus did not allow the demons to speak, rather he simply commanded the demons to leave and they left. Even from a great or considerable distance He commanded them and they obeyed him, as we read in the next chapter:

“He arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house ... immediately a woman, whose little daughter was possessed by an

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unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell down at his feet ... and begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.” After conversing with her, “He said to her, ‘For this saying [namely, the expression of her profound humility and confident faith] you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.’ And she went home, and found the child lying in bed, and the demon gone” (Mk 7:24-26,29-30).

Such a story is an eloquent testimony of His power, His sovereignty, His Divinity.

2. The secret of the apostles

The foregoing reveals the secret of the apostles: They “cast out many demons” not with their wisdom or power, not in their own name, but simply by the authority which Jesus gave them. Soon Jesus will explain this to his disciples.

a) “A great deal of good issues from a great store of humility”

First he had to rebuke Peter who wanted to hold him back from his Passion ... “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but of men.” (Mk 8:33) Then “he called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me... For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’” (Mk 8:34 and 38)

Jesus is the Lord, the true way to the Father. Who are the disciples and apostles without Him? Who called them and told them to go and cast out demons if not Jesus, their Lord? Therefore, the essential effect of the work of the disciples lies in the confession of Jesus’ dignity and sovereignty, in the profession of the faith in His Divinity. Whoever gives this testimony regarding Jesus before others, becomes a fellow servant of the angels, for they come first of all to give witness to Christ. Indeed, “They are *his* angels” (CCC 331), hence, whoever is with Him, the holy angels are ready to associate with and to help.

Also on the opposite side a corresponding rule applies. Father Mateo told the priests this story:

“After many exorcisms, a priest commanded the evil spirit to leave the possessed person. Much to his embarrassment, the devil answered, in tone of irony and triumph: ‘I refuse to leave.’ ‘And why?’ demanded the priest. ‘Because,’ answered the devil banteringly, ‘You and I are cousins, we are both proud!’” (Mateo Crawley-Boevey, *Father Mateo Speaks to Priests on Priestly Perfection*, The Newman Press, Westminster, MD 1961, 36f.)

Father Mateo draws this conclusion: “Have no doubt about it: you can do a great deal of good, but only on the condition that you possess a great store of humility” (Ibid.).

b) Humility and faith

It is humility which acknowledges our littleness together with faith which lifts us up to heaven that makes God’s powerful love effective in man’s life.

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St. Mark recalled how Jesus attended the pagan mother, the “Greek, a Syrophoenician by birth”. The Lord first told her that it would not be right to attend the request to free her possessed daughter as “it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.” But the mother “answered him, ‘Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs’.” (Mk 7:26-29). When she humbly accepted being compared with a dog, the Lord could not resist and told her “the demon has left your daughter.”

This is what Peter learned through his own errors (cf. Mk 8:32f) and taught later as leader of all: “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you” (1 Pet 5:6). And when even the enemy, “your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour,” St. Peter counsels: “Resist him, firm in your faith” (1 Pet 5:8-9). And St. Paul, the great persecutor of the Church, confirms – after his conversion – the same fundamental truth: “That you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil..., taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench *all* the flaming darts of the evil one” (Eph 6:10-16).

3. Two practical applications

Just recently two prayers were sent to me which refer to the themes St. Mark presents to us in his gospel. As we should “not be afraid” because “God is with us”, we should turn with humility and faith towards heaven, and hell will flee us. “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ... Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you” (James 4:6-7, 10).

a) St. Joseph – a humble servant and terror of demons

The first prayer sent refers to one of the humblest servants of the Lord, the silent foster-father of Jesus, St. Joseph. St. John Paul II in 1989 reminded the Church that “Pope Leo XIII had already exhorted the Catholic world to pray for the protection of St. Joseph, Patron of the whole Church... Since that time... the Church has commended to Joseph all of her cares, including those dangers which threaten the human family. Even today we have many reasons to pray in a similar way:

‘Most beloved father, dispel the evil of falsehood and sin...graciously assist us from heaven in our struggle with the powers of darkness...and just as once you saved the Child Jesus from mortal danger, so now defend God's holy Church from the snares of her enemies and from all adversity’.” (In: *Redemptoris Custos - On the Person and Mission of Saint Joseph*, (1989), 31).

b) The Virgin Mary - Mother of Faith

The other prayer is addressed to Our Lady. The story apparently goes like this: The founder of the “Servants of Mary”, Ven. Fr. Louis Cestac (+ 1868) was accustomed to receiving favors from the most Holy Virgin. He claimed that on January 13, 1864 he was suddenly struck as if with a ray of divine clarity. He says he saw demons spread out over the earth, causing unbelievable ravage. At