



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first Solemnity of the Holy Guardian Angels! Granted last October should have been our first celebration, but things were so up in the air this time last year that our patronal feast came and went without much notice. The fact that we can celebrate this year speaks to how far we have come as a parish. The eagerness of our people to get back to the normal routine of our parish ministries and organizations also speaks well of us. Sadly, the corona virus still dictates how we live our lives so “normal” can’t be had just yet. And the new spike in the virus does not bode well for the future return to normal.

Despite our tribulations with Covid-19, we will celebrate in a big way. The social project for Saturday morning is in place as is the procession of the Blessed Sacrament in the afternoon. 50 people have signed up to walk in that procession. More would like to, but the police departments of both Villages have limited us to 50. However, that doesn’t mean we can’t fill the sidewalks and watch the procession pass by or sign-up for the Mass of the Holy Guardian Angels which will be the 5 o’clock Mass on Saturday at St. Louise. The other Masses of that Sunday will continue the Solemn Feast-day celebrating Holy Guardian Angels as well.

While the tradition has grown up connecting the Guardian Angels with children, these beings work with us adults as well. Each of us, the tradition tells us, has a Guardian Angel assigned to us for life. In the Book of Tobit in the Bible we find the angel Raphael appearing to Tobias to accompany him and protect him as he journeys to his uncle’s house in search of a wife. Raphael takes human form to befriend Tobias and be a companion for the journey, a wise confidant and a healer to his father. In Psalm 91:11 we read, “For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.” This is the passage the Devil quotes when he tempts Jesus to jump down from the parapet of the Temple. And there are many more such references to angel scattered throughout the Bible.

God gives us these “spirit creatures” for the same purpose — to be a friend to us and guide us as best they can. It took me well into adulthood to embrace the reality of these beings. Since they are “spirits,” they are of a different creation from us. Spirits don’t have material bodies. They might be likened to pure energy or even “the force” of “Star Wars” movies. Being non-material, there’s nothing to see, hear or feel, but they’re there. In that sense, they are like God who, apart from the Second Person of the Trinity, has no material substance.

How can we say that? Matter is a *creation* of God. Check out the Book of Genesis. When God decides to create, he called into existence material reality: the earth, moon and stars; the light

they give off or reflect; all fish, birds, wild animals; and the humans Adam and Eve. What God creates is a material universe. Before creation, matter didn't exist. The reality we call "God" created it. The creatures like him that God called into existence are the angels: pure spirits, no material. These creatures of a totally different order than ourselves have been given the charge to watch out for us.

Since these creatures have been charged to watch over us, might I suggest that we ask them for help to figure out how we are to deal with our parish realities. Raphael helped Tobias to find a wife. How much more down to earth can you get? So, why don't we turn to our patrons to help with our day-to-day issues?

Last week I told you of our need to repair the Parish Center in Brookfield. This is an unexpected and expensive repair that will cost the parish \$16,300. Given the loss of income since last March and the need to make these repairs before the winter sets in, I turned to the Archdiocese who recommended that we use the To Teach Who Christ Is (TTWCI) monies, so long as our Finance Council approved. I have consulted with them and have received their recommendation that we use the TTWCI money. As I mentioned last week, I will respect the decision of the people to use their money for specific repairs at St. Barbara. But, unfortunately, that will have to wait a while longer to be fulfilled.

As we celebrate the Holy Guardian Angels, who now are charged with our parish, let's ask them to help find us the money we need to make the needed repair and keep the promise to spend the TTWCI money on the projects we have identified. Perhaps the sale of the school building and convent can cover that. I pray our Angels will help us as Raphael helped Tobias.

Happy Feast Day to all.

Fr. Denis