



Angels, Demons and the Power of the Rosary

We have just celebrated the feasts of the Archangels and the guardian angels. So what do we know about angels? Are angels, the devil and demons real?

The existence of angels, pure spirit beings, messengers from God, is a matter of Divine Revelation and Church dogma; they are the highest of created beings. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (#'s 328-337), affirms that truth. The Book of Revelation states one third of the angels sinned and were cast from Heaven down to earth. The devil is real, not a symbol or a mythical personification for evil. Peter Kreeft, author of **ANGELS (and Demons)** says Scripture abounds with confirmation of the existence of the devil and demons. Jesus was tempted by the devil. He drove out demons from those afflicted with these unclean spirits. He gave His disciples the authority and power to exorcise demons as well. Kreeft cites the Fourth Lateran Council that the existence of demons is defined dogma. **The Fourth Lateran Council declared that "Satan and the other devils are (1) by nature spirits... (2) created by God, (3) and so originally good, (4) but fell into sin (5) of their own free will" and that they are (6) "eternally damned."** So, their nature is always good, their deeds are evil, and there is no redemption for them.

Kreeft cites a vertical hierarchy in the nine choirs of angels. The first three see and adore God. The Seraphim, the six-winged burning ones, are the highest choir and see God with the greatest clarity; their love flames the hottest. Lucifer, angel of light, was the highest of these and leader of all the angels. The cherubim, a name meaning fullness of wisdom, see God less in Himself and more in His providence. The Thrones know God in his power and judgements. The next three levels fulfill God's plans for the universe. The dominions have authority over the lesser angels. The virtues receive orders from the dominions and have power to run the universe. The powers serve the virtues by fighting against the evil that is opposed to their providential plans. The last three, warriors, order human affairs. The principalities care for earthly cities, nations and kingdoms. Wars on earth may reflect wars that rage in the heavens. [Ephesians 6:12 tells us:] **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.** The archangels carry God's messages to mankind while ordinary angels are guardian angels, one for each individual. Although not official dogma, this hierarchy is an enduring tradition.



Free will is an awesome gift God bestowed on all created persons. It necessitates choice, a test. Some theologians say angels could see into the future and saw God incarnate in Christ and some refused to worship God in such a lowly human form, vastly beneath the divine nature as well as their own angelic nature. A vision of the Word Incarnate would imply knowledge of the Immaculate Conception, the exaltation of an inferior creature of body and spirit, a woman, higher than the pure spirit angels in this proposed plan. According to Bishop Sheen, the sin of the angels brought disorder to the whole universe and to man's nature as well. The angels' sin was pure sin, of their own doing, and because they could see the consequence of their act in advance, their sin was irrevocable. Man, however, sinned from

a nature disordered by the angels' sin and prompted by the devil's lies. Hence, God's merciful plan of redemption for mankind. No wonder satan hates Christ, His Church, mankind and **the** Woman destined to crush his head with such a vengeance. **When, by an act of his own free will, he rejected the truth that he knew about God, Satan became the cosmic "liar and the father of lies" (Jn 8:44).** Satan afflicts all created beings with his own lie in order to prevent them from attaining the bliss he himself lost.

On October 13, 1884, Pope Leo XIII had a vision of satan boasting to Christ that with enough time he could destroy His Church. It is said he was granted 100 years but no one knows when that hundred years began or when it would end. The Pope saw great destruction and apostasy from within the Church and was impelled to write the Prayer to St.



Michael for the protection of God's people. Pope St. John Paul II the Great called the 20th century the most evil in the history of mankind. In his August 13, 1986 address he identified satan with the serpent of Genesis and the dragon of Revelation. Although there are **many demons**, there is **one devil**, satan, **the** prince of darkness, **the** Supreme source of evil, prince of the world and leader of all demons, all the fallen angels.



History reveals how the smoke of satan has risen into high places within the Church and within governments. In Ephesians 6:11-12, St. Paul bids us suit up for battle: **Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

Lucifer's greatest defeat, now that he had become satan—the Adversary—was that he could not eradicate the last vestige of good in himself. For despite his complete and radical enmity toward God and all of God's creation, which as we know is good (Gen 1:31), satan could not annihilate himself. He is. He could not pervert his own being as a creature, although his very existence is irremediably evil. That is, his activity is thoroughly and forever opposed to God, who as Goodness itself, is still reflected in satan's own being—the ultimate and unforgettable punishment. Having created him—and all other spiritual creatures—free, God did not prevent Lucifer's choice, nor does he inflict suffering on his Adversary; it results from that very choice.... Satan's only real triumph, other than his success in becoming something other than what he was meant to be, lies in convincing other free creatures to imitate him. (Richard Woods, THE DEVIL, The Thomas More Press, Pages 88-89.) In other words, satan's continued existence still gives glory to God.

In 1956 Our Lady of America, our Patroness, warned that it is the darkest hour; great suffering and anguish will overtake mankind unless we reform our lives and turn to her Immaculate Heart to make our ever darkening world bright again. She is **the** Woman whom satan fears. **"Help me bring once again the sunshine of God's peace upon the world."**

At the beginning of that evil 20th century, Our Lady appeared at Fatima, May 13, 1917, as Our Lady of the Rosary and spoke of its great efficacy against evil. Sr. Lucia later wrote:

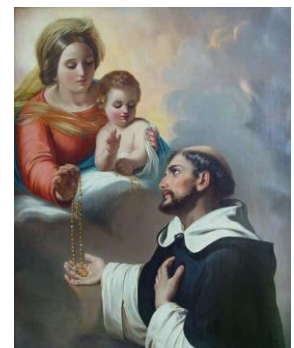
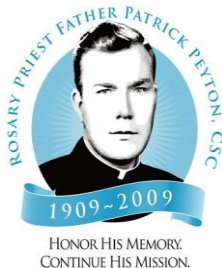
"The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary."

Pope Paul VI in *Rosaries to the Mother of Christ*, urged us to go to Mother Mary in times of trouble and to honor her especially in October, the month of the rosary.

If misfortunes increase, the dedication of the people of God should also increase. And for that reason, we are anxious for you, venerable brothers, to give a lead and urge by exhortation a more persevering prayer to the gracious Virgin Mary by the devout recitation of the Rosary during the month of October, as we have already indicated. This prayer is well suited to God's people, acceptable to the Mother of God and powerful in obtaining gifts from heaven.

(Daughters of St. Paul, *17 Papal Documents on the Rosary*, Boston, MA, 1980, Pg.12)

In *Marialis Cultis* Pope Paul VI says the rosary reflects God's redemptive plan and the singular place Mary occupies in that plan, and that authentic Christian worship necessarily leads to greater veneration of the Mother of the Lord. He recommends the family rosary, calling the Christian family--the primary and vital cell of society--the domestic sanctuary of the Church, having a common life of teaching, witnessing and communal prayer within the home. (Page 44.) Already in the 1940's, Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil came to understand that her mission from Heaven was to converge on the renewal of the family, which has been under so much attack from the atheistic errors spreading through our contemporary culture. In the Post World War II era, Fr. Patrick Peyton made two memorable claims: **the family that prays together stays together, and a world at prayer is a world at peace.** Interestingly, Sister Mildred Neuzil was blessed to meet Fr. Peyton in the Holy Land while on a trip there with relatives. We are all blessed that back in 1208 St. Dominic was given the rosary as a weapon to defeat the Albigensian heresy and as **a weapon against all heresy and vice.** [Even those of



St. Dominic

today!] (Robert Feeney, *The Rosary-The Little Summa*, Aquinas Press.)

The power of the Rosary can change history. In the Battle of Lepanto, October 7, 1571, Pope Pius V called for the recitation of the Rosary for victory for the small Christian fleets against the indomitable forces of the Ottoman empire in the Gulf of Patras off the coast of Greece. In a vision he saw the victory before it was reported. He then established the feast of **"Our Lady of Victories,"** adding "Mary, Help of Christians" to Our Lady's Litany. The Turks later regained the island, but this victory prevented their control of all of Europe. Later, Pope Gregory XIII changed the feast to **"The Feast of the Most Holy Rosary"** as we have it today. Pope Pius XII compared the Rosary to the sling shot of David whereby he overcame the giant Goliath. So must we use it to fight the giant evils of our own day.

It is not with physical force, not with arms, not with human power, but with the divine help obtained through the Rosary, that the Church and all its members, strong and undaunted like David with his sling shot, will be able to confront the infernal enemy.

Pope St. John Paul II in *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* called the rosary a “compendium of the Gospel,” for we walk through the mysteries of Christ’s life and death and Resurrection with His Mother Mary. He said we should **make the rosary the chain that binds us to God, through Mary.**



“Making the rosary a family prayer is very pleasing to me. I ask that all families strive to do so. But be careful to say it with great devotion, meditating on each mystery and striving to imitate in your daily lives the virtues depicted therein. Live the mysteries of the rosary as I lived them, and it will become a chain binding you to me forever. They who are found in the circle of my rosary will never be lost. I myself will lead them at death to the throne of my Son, to be eternally united to Him.”

(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, *The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA*, Tiffin, OH, Page 21.)



Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us and for peace in our world.

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Feast of the Holy Rosary and month of the Rosary.**

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N.B. We do not give satan the respect of a proper name.