

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. (Ps 91:10-12)

We are all familiar with the concept of angels and accept the truth of their existence; even pagans do. Then, too, we have grown up with the belief in guardian angels, though it has never been defined by the Church that every individual soul has a guardian angel. Yet that belief is 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 their 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. (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 depend on the senses for their 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. As is to be expected, their missions are related to their hierarchy. Some behold His 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 gives us the account of Raphael whose name means "God has healed" or "medicine of God." Because Archangel Raphael accompanies young Tobias (Book of Tobit) on a journey to fetch Sara for his wife and intercedes to drive out the demonic spirit that brought death to Sara's seven previous husbands on their wedding night, and because he gives Tobias a healing remedy to cure his father's blindness, Raphael is considered a patron saint of

travelers and of healing. He is also 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.

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 our Advent liturgy with respect to his announcement to Mary that she would give birth to the Savior of His people. It was Gabriel who appeared to Zachary to announce the birth of the Baptist, and 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. We assume it was Gabriel who told Joseph to flee into Egypt with Mary and the Child to escape Herod’s slaughter of the newborn sons of Israel. Was it 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 Gabriel again who told St. Joseph when it was safe to return home after the death of Herod. Truly, 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.” We remember him 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 in 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. Therefore those spirit beings made so like unto God would have to be put to the test of love, a test to acknowledge their dependence for their existence upon their Creator; in other words, to accept the truth. 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 Revelations tells us 1/3 of them failed and were cast down to earth. Those who remained faithful were lead by a valiant angel “who is like God;” hence, the leader of those faithful angels should be called Michael, for 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 self sufficient, the cause of one’s own being; in other words, that one can be God. That is the lie!

In this article we want to focus on the angels that are mentioned in the message of “Our Lady of America®” and the significance of those mentions. There are four: St. Michael, St. Gabriel, the angel Sultra and the archangel Sardus. Michael and Gabriel have both a personal mission to Sister Mildred and a mission to our nation and also the world. Sultra and Sardus are clearly sent as protectors of our nation, the United States and America.

We know St. Michael best for his leadership in battle, and in this message he directs Sister Mildred in her personal battle against Satan. He gives her 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 in Satan's endless attacks upon her because of his hatred for the Divine Indwelling and its message, which Sister brings us. But when Our Lady speaks of the mandate from heaven she has given to America to lead the world in an urgently needed renewal back to Faith and Purity, Sister questions whether America is capable of the task. Our Lady assures her that Michael and a whole host of angels will be with us. Victory in battle always brings peace, and we know Michael was victorious in battle against Satan in Paradise and he will be victorious every other time as well. Hence, he calls himself the Angel of Peace because he removes the cause of all war, Satan. We see Michael in this position of defending Israel in the Book of Daniel where he and 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."

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 Gabriel in Our Lady'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? As Gabriel fought with Michael to defend the chosen ones against the tyranny of Persia, there is no doubt he will fight alongside Michael again in protecting America from the power of darkness overwhelming our Nation from within and from without. Just as Michael is protector of Israel in the Hebrew covenant, so is he protector of God's people in the Christian Covenant, the Church, and therefore his mission is universal, over all of the world. Michael and Gabriel are the angels of peace and purity and Our Lady's call to reform is to bring those gifts to fruition both in America and throughout the world.

In the Hebrew understanding ***God sent angels in times of great need***. Since Sardus and Sultra are part of this ***private revelation*** and reveal themselves for the ***very specific purpose of guardianship of America***, much like our own guardian angels whom we do not see, nor can 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 them. They are certainly being sent 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 along with the enormous mandate from heaven to lead the world back to Faith and Purity. When God gives a mission, He gives the help to carry it out. One of the Churches in Revelations is the Church of Sardis, spelled differently than angel Sardus's 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 Revelations 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 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. 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 Revelations, we are confronted with that seeming contradiction, that it is in blood, the Blood of the Lamb, that our robes are washed clean and made white and pure.

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, "Our Lady of America®", Fostoria, Ohio, 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. "

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, and she warns against false teaching and 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, not partial truth. Those who overcome evil and falsehood shall be clothed in white, for white denotes truth which originates from the light of the sun (the Son who is the Light of the world), and white is the color of purity. 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 Revelations we hear of the white linen garment necessary to enter the glorious wedding feast of the pure unblemished Lamb with His wife, the triumphant Church.

We note similarities between these four angels. Sardus wears a band across his right shoulder that says "Strength of God," and the name Gabriel means "God is my strength. Likewise Sardus carries shafts of light that hint of the sword of Michael. He addresses the blood of the martyrs and the honor we give Our Lady. And we have Our Lady's words that Michael and a whole host of angels will assist America in carrying out the divine mandate given it, so we can assume all these angels are involved in that holy mission in our time of great need.

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's "Torchbearers of the Queen"; she identifies the torch as the flame of Divine Love. 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 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.

Note, too, on Sultra's right shoulder sits a pure white dove, the same symbol Our Lord used to address Sister Mildred's purity and humility when he called her "my little white dove," a symbol commonly used for both peace and purity, the titles by which St. Michael and St. Gabriel identified themselves to Sister. 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 One. He promises 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. (Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, 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 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 mission of the archangel Sardus and the angel Sultra as guardian angels over America. 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, it is even more difficult to discount them. Considering the “culture of death” that has taken hold of America and the cries of the faithful, begging for divine intervention, we know we need them. Since some guardian angels have revealed their names to chosen souls in the past, why should it surprise us then that Sardus and 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. So let us thank God for these angels and learn to 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!