



The Grandeurs of
Saint Michael the Archangel



ISBN 978-1-59742-017-4



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Crowning of the Virgin & Veneration by the Angels.
(1295) Mosaic from Jacopo Torriti
Apse of St Mary Major, Rome.

Front cover : Guariento di Arpo, the Archangel weighing the souls ;
painting on wood, XIVth century – Art and History Museum ; Padova



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THE GREATNESSES OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

To Most Reverend Father Pio of Pietrelcina, Capuchin, my beloved spiritual father, who always helped and supported me in my sacerdotal life, and who bears Jesus Christ's stigmata with so much humility and grandeur, I offer this work, which he requested and blessed himself, to the glory of Saint Michael. On the occasion of his sacred stigmata's 40th anniversary.

MARCEL BOUZON
Priest

On Saint Michael's feast day, September 29, 1958.

*S. Michele tu proteggi
ga e ti difende dal
nemico inferna-
le.*
p. Pio Capuchin

**D. Nicola RICCI,
Vicar – Parish Priest of Procida**

**THE GREATNESSES
OF
SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

Reproduction of a text handwritten by Father Pio.

May Saint Michael protect and defend you against the
infernally enemy.

Father Pio, Capuchin

**MEDITATIONS IN HONOR
OF THE HEAVENLY PRINCE OF ANGELS**

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1st Edition: done by Don Nicola Ricci. Curate & Vicar of Procida (with permission from the Archbishop's Revision.

Napoli-Tip. Accatoncelli -1869

2nd Edition: Reviewed by Don Cosimo Pétino in 1948
Nihil Obstat

Armandos Fares, Rev. del.
Roma, Sept. 14, 1948

Imprimatur
Rome Vicariate Sept. 15, 1948
+ Aloysius Traglia
Arch. Caesar – Vicegerens

Imprimatur
Arimini, May 8, 1958
+ Aemilius Biancheri Episc.

Imprimatur
Aiaccio, August 17, 1958
+ Jean Baptiste Adrien Liosa

NOTE

The riches of the various Christian liturgies on St Michael, his glory, in power of intercession and protection are immense and incalculable.

His glorious name has appeared everywhere in the solemn prayers of the Church: at the beginning of the mass (Confiteor), at the offertory, the preface, the canon, and at the end of the holy sacrifice.

The mass and offices on May 8 and September 29.

The mass of the dead mentions him. The Church invokes him in the sacrament of extreme unction, the prayers for the dying, in exorcisms, sacramentals and litanies, etc.

It is the most brilliant testimony of the place of honor that the Archangel occupies in the triumphant, suffering and militant Church, and in the world of Angels.

NOTE ON THE ANGELICAL CHAPLET OR CROWN

Promises of St Michael: during an apparition in Portugal to God's Servant Antonia d'Astonaco, St Michael requested that 9 salutations (reminding the 9 angelical choirs) be composed in his honor, all of which should contain one Pater and three Ave (Rosary of St Michael and the Angels, or angelical crown). The Archangel promised that whoever will recite this rosary before communion shall be accompanied to the Lord's Table by an Angel from all 9 choirs, and assisted by them during his life and after his death, and be delivered from Purgatory with his parents.

H. H. Pius IX granted an indulgence of 7 years and 7 quarantines, plus a plenary indulgence once a month, for this angelical crown.

A plenary indulgence on the following days: March 24 – May 8 – September 29 – October 2 – October 20.

100 days of indulgence when one wears the rosary of St Michael and kisses the medal attached to it. The same promises for wearing the scapulary of St Michael.

Poem from St Teresa of the Child Jesus in honor of St Michael:

*"I am Michael, the guardian of France,
a great general, in the kingdom of Heaven.
As far as hell, my very Power goes,
and the devil for that, is really envious.
Of old indeed, full of light and brightness,
Satan wanted to reign in the holy place.
But, as a thunder clash, I exclaimed
these words: "Who is like God?"*

MONTH OF SAINT MICHAEL
(MEDITATIONS)

1st DAY OF THE MONTH

1st Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN NATURE

I. Let us consider how Saint Michael the Archangel is fairer and nobler than all the noblest spirits who make up the heavenly court. He is the first among the first chiefs.

Saint Thomas teaches that Angels, created by God, were divided into three hierarchies, each hierarchy into three choirs, composed of innumerable spirits. Each spirit was embellished with gifts and perfections, fitting with the rank and duty God had prepared for him. The superior choir contains the inferior choir's perfection, and the highest choir contains the perfections and beauties of all the inferior choirs.

Saint Michael the Archangel is in the first order of the angelical troops, he is superior to all Angels for both his dignity and honors. Who will be able to comprehend how beautiful is his nature, which surpasses the ones of all Angels!

Among the blessed spirits, he is the most perfect, the fairest and the greatest.

II. Let us consider how Job the prophet, considering the nobility of the Angels' nature, would call

them the preeminent children of God, and compare them with morning stars.

With Saint Pantaleon, we must believe that Saint Michael is the first and the most brilliant angelical star, the brightest in the sky of paradise, the one who occupies the first place among all Angels.

Placed on top created beings, his spiritual nature is, after the Virgin Mary, the fairest and noblest among all the natures created by God.

Therefore, Saint Gelase declared that he is the sovereign minister of the Holy Trinity.

While other Angels cover their faces, Saint Michael sings with confidence and without fear the trilogy of the seraphim.

He is the noblest among Angels; that is why he is called Archangel, not because he is the chief of all Angels, but the highest among them all by his nature.

O admirable excellence! O really great chief!

III. Then, o Christian, consider what is your highness in the natural order.

Man is the noblest among earthly beings. He contains in himself the perfections of other species, that is, the existence of fossiles, the life of trees, the senses of animals, and the intelligence of Angels. His body is an abridgment of the world; his soul has God's picture engraved in it: a spiritual substance, provided with a mind able to know God and a will to love him; so noble a substance, that it is very similar to the Angels'.

What use do you make of your excellent nature and the gifts with which God enriched you?

Saint Michael the Archangel, created by God so noble a being and enriched with so many gifts, employed everything to glorify God the Creator. You, instead, you have used your natural gifts, your body and soul, not to praise God, but to dishonor him, not to glorify him but to further offend him.

For what did you use your body until this time?

For iniquity and filth.

What is your soul busy with? Knowing the vanities of this world and not God's glories. And your will, instead of loving the only sovereign good, has loved the false goods of this world.

Try to humble yourself, retire within yourself and learn how to appreciate your excellence and your dignity.

From Saint Michael the Archangel, learn how to pattern your life on the excellence of nature and pray to him to grant you the grace not to dishonor your nature any longer, and to live for the end that God has prepared for you.

PRAYER

O glorious Saint Michael, I rejoice in your nature, so beautiful and perfect, which surpasses the ones of all Angels, and I thank the Blessed Trinity for having created you so great.

Before you, I feel my unworthiness, not having been able to know and appreciate my greatness. I request your protection and pray to you to grant me from the divine majesty the light to know my dignity and live ever thankful to my Creator.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, first and illustrious star of the angelical splendour, put light into my soul.

SPIRITUAL BOUQUET

Kneeling before a picture of Saint Michael, you will give thanks to God for having created him so great and you will recite the Hymn in his honor.

- a) O thou, the splendour and power of the Father, O thou, Jesus, the life of our hearts, we praise thee among Angels, attentive to the orders coming from thy mouth.
- b) For thou, surrounding thy throne, thousands of chiefs are fighting; but it is Michael who victoriously unfolds the cross, the sign of salvation.
- c) He is the one who casts down, deep into hell, the dragon's proud head, and crushes the rebels and their chief, driving them out of heaven.
- d) Against the chief of pride, let us follow this chief, so that the crown of glory be given to us from the throne of the Lamb.

e) Glory be to God the Father, and to the Son, who rose again from the dead, and to the Paraclete, in the centuries to come, world without end.

PRAYER

O God, who distribute the ministries of Angels and men with an admirable order, grant, in thy kindness, that our life here below be protected by those who surround and serve thee unceasingly in heaven. Through our Lord.

IInd DAY OF THE MONTH

2nd Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XI

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN CHARITY

I. Let us consider how God has created Angels and adorned them with graces, since, according to St. Augustine's teachings, he gave all of them sanctifying grace by which he made them his friends, and even actual graces, through which they could acquire the possession of the blessed vision of God.

This grace was not even for all Angels.

According to the fathers of the Church's doctrine grace was granted to them in proportion to their nature in such a way that the one who had a nobler nature had a greater grace.

Therefore, the nobler their nature, the higher their grace. Grace was not given to Angels in equal amount. But all of them had the perfection of grace in equal amount. But all of them had the perfection of grace corresponding to their dignity and order. Angels from a higher order and a more perfect nature were granted greater gifts of virtue and grace.

II. Let us consider how great was the grace with which God wanted to enrich the glorious Saint Michael, having ranked him first after Lucifer in the order of nature.

If grace was conferred in proportion to nature, who could measure the sublimity and perfection given by God to Saint Michael?

His nature being very perfect, and greater than all the Angels', how much greater must he be in the perfection of nature? Saint Basil says that he surpasses all Angels in his dignity and honors. An immense, unswerving faith, an unfailing hope, a charity which can set others ablaze, a deep humility which confounds the proud Lucifer, an ardent zeal for God's honor; strength, power: in a word, the most perfect virtues, and a particular holiness. One can even say that he is a perfect example of Holiness, a picture of the divinity, and a mirror reflecting the divine beauty. Rejoice, you who love Saint Michael, for so many graces and so much holiness, which enrich your protector so much; rejoice for this, and try to love him with your whole heart.

III. Consider, o Christian, that you also, on the day of your baptism, you were dressed in innocence, and declared the adoptive son of God; a member of the mystical body of Christ, you were put under the Angels' care and custody. Your destiny is great: vested in so great a grace, how did you use it? Saint Michael used his grace and holiness to glorify God he glorified him, and had him be loved even by other Angels. You, on the other hand, how many times did you profane the temple of your heart by driving grace from it and introducing sin instead?

How many times, like Lucifer, did you revolt against God, satisfying your passions and transgressing his law? You have not used all these favors that you had received to love God, but to offend him. Now, having recourse to the divine goodness, repent of your faults, look for Saint Michael as your intercessor, to recover grace and keep the friendship of God.

PRAYER

O Saint Michael the Archangel, the abundance of grace with which God enriched us fills me with delight and also confounds me, because I was unable to keep sanctifying grace within myself; I feel in sorrows for having turned away from God and his friendship, and for being always tempted to return to sin again. Obtain me from God, through your powerful intercession, sincere repentance and final perseverance. Very powerful chief, pray for me, and ask for me that all my faults be forgiven.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, you whom God has placed so high, and filled with all the glory of Angels. You who are the first among Angels, deign to intercede for me.

SPIRITUAL BOUQUET

Thrice this day, you will say a sincere act of contrition, asking God to forgive you for having lost grace through mortal sin, and you will try to confess your sins as soon as possible.

IIIrd DAY OF THE MONTH

3rd Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XI

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS COOPERATING WITH GRACE

I. Let us consider that Saint Michael, seeing himself enriched with so great gifts of grace and virtue, did not bury the talents he had received, but, as a faithful servant, he had them fructify according to the end for which he had received them. He used his science to know God, and while admiring the divine perfections, he acknowledged the infinite distance which existed between God and a simple creature. Then, he humbled himself before God, saying: "Who is like God?" And seeing himself greater than all Angels by grace, he acknowledged that he was infinitely inferior to God, his Creator. Prostrating before the throne of God, he adored and thanked him with humble feelings, saying: "O Lord, who could ever be like thou art?" His heart was all burning with love for God, and he ordered all his perfections to glorify him. Confronting Lucifer, who was meditating to usurp God's throne, he lead the other Angels to acknowledge the gifts of the Most High, invited them to resist impious Lucifer, won the battle and had the faithful Angels adore God.

II. Let us consider how Lucifer and his rebel Angels lost themselves for having not corresponded to grace. As soon as Lucifer saw himself adorned with so many perfections, he became proud of his being and his excellent qualities, and he thought that he was resembling God; filled with pride, he said to himself: "I am like God and I shall be like him". Instead of humbling himself before God, his Creator, he wanted to raise himself up. Instead of acknowledging God as his supreme benefactor, thanking and praising him, he wanted to raise himself up. Instead of acknowledging God as his supreme benefactor, thanking and praising him, he wanted to overthrow his throne, and he set a war against him. Instead of acknowledging in God his supreme principle, and loving him as his last end, he preferred to look at himself, take pleasure in his own perfections, and aspire to the beatific vision without any other help than his own strength. What a monster of ingratitude and unfaithfulness!

You also, the Christian, you may be tempted to be proud. What perfection do you have that was not received from God? And if you received them all from God, then why do you want to make them your own? Why do not you thank God, honor and adore him? You also the Christian, learn how to love humility and have a horror of ingratitude.

III. Consider that the only benefit of a single grace alone is worth more than the whole universe. Therefore, whomever does not preoccupy himself with grace is losing a great deal. Lucifer lost grace in a very short

period of time, instead of taking advantage of its benefit like Saint Michael who used it for God's glory. Grace is a movement, and an inspiration to the will, of which we always have to take advantage.

Think about the lights you received from God and the vanity of earthly goods.

How many inspirations did your will experience concerning the so important business of eternal salvation? Every minute elapsing implicates eternity, and no one knows if these minutes will ever happen again.

If you have been very careless with it in the past, resolve to correspond faithfully to the voice and light of its orders, and take care not to despise any grace in the future.

Have recourse to Saint Michael and pray him to assist you with his powerful intercession, in order to use properly the graces that God is granting you.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, faithful servant of God, who have known how to make the grace that God had given you fructify, I praise you and I bless divine goodness, which gave you so many graces, such a cooperation and so heroic a faithfulness.

Having been so negligent in the past with my eternal salvation, I come and beg you, O you the chief of paradise, to make me hate my past negligence and my weakness.

Pray to God for me, so that I may be a faithful servant in the future, corresponding to grace in order to deserve the reward of the eternal glory.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, you who started the war against Lucifer, deign to pray for me in my misery, and I shall never cease praising you.

PRACTICE

Thrice, you will kiss the feet of Jesus crucified, saying: "My Jesus, may thy wounds not be useless for me".

(Hymn to Saint Michael)

IVth DAY OF THE MONTH

4th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XI

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN GLORY

I. Let us consider that Saint Michael the Archangel is the highest Angel in glory, because God created him excellent in his nature, and provided him with various gifts of grace, but also raised him to an unequalled degree of glory in heaven.

Just like an emperor's court, where there are some chiefs who are more appreciated than others, and being closer to the emperor, they can talk with him in a more familiar way, so is it in the heavenly court: there are Angels who are called by Saint Clement of Alexandria the first-born chiefs of Angels, who live closer to God and come closer, and with more freedom, to the divine majesty.

Saint Michael is one of these main chiefs. According to Tertullian, Saint Michael had been appointed by God to the highest of heaven, and consequently, is favored with all the glory of Angels, surpassing all other Angels. Saint Pantaleon asserts that he occupies the first place among the millions of Angels.

What a sublime glory! What an incomparable highness!

II. How did Saint Michael deserve such a degree of glory? Through his charity and his humility.

He has loved God more than all the hierarchies of Angels.

He was the first one to consecrate all his affections to God, and his love for him was so intense, that he reached the last degree that an angelical nature can reach.

His actions were proportionate to the customary charity infused in him.

Then, what will be his glory in heaven? If glory corresponds to love, Saint Michael, who loved God more than all Angels, enjoys a glory which is superior to all the other Angels', that is why Saint Pantaleon calls him "The Minister of the Holy Trinity" and a prince of an ineffable glory.

Moreover, Saint Michael deserved such a glory because of his deep humility.

"The one who lowers himself shall be raised" says the Gospel, his raising is related to his humility.

Who humbled himself more than Saint Michael in his state of viator? By his humility, he faced and confounded Lucifer.

He lowered himself in his nothingness and bore testimony to the infinite majesty of God.

By these words: "Who is like God?", he led all Angels to humble themselves.

Through this, he was raised to Lucifer's throne and became superior to all the angelical choirs.

No human intelligence can imagine the radiance of his face, his majesty, and all the light of his glory.

III. Consider, o Christian, that God has created you also for the glory of paradise. If, therefore, you want to acquire it, you must walk in the way of charity and humility.

“Whomever does not love remains in death”, that is: he does not enter heaven. Is there a true love of God in your heart? Think about whom you gave your affection to until now.

If you want to have a share in the kingdom of glory, start with loving God above everything else, for he alone can make you happy forever.

Drive pride from your heart, for God gives his grace to the humble, but he denies it to the proud, and grants glory only according to the degree of correspondance to his grace. Lucifer lost grace and glory because he puffed up with pride.

Saint Michael, on the contrary, was filled with glory because he humbled himself.

Maybe your heart is filled with pride?

Maybe you are looking for consideration, honor and first places? Have enough courage to admit that until now, you have lived according to the pride of Lucifer, and that you deserved hell many a time.

Drive this abject vice from your heart, and from Saint Michael, learn how to humble yourself, if you want to have your share of glory in paradise.

PRAYER

Glorious chief of paradise, Saint Michael, I praise and bless you for having exalted God. In your glory, grant to cast your eyes on the sinner that I am, prostrate at your feet and covered with confusion. Pray to God for me; then, shall blossom again in my heart the hope to be granted the grace of forgiveness, help to observe the law of God, and the heavenly glory.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, remember us, and ever an everywhere, pray to Christ for us.

PRACTICE

You will recite the hymn to Saint Michael in honor of the Holy Trinity, who glorified this Archangel more than all the heavenly choirs.

Vth DAY OF THE MONTH

5th Meditation

Michael, Great chief Dan. X

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN FAITH

I. Let us consider that Saint Michael who was created a viator as the other Angels, must have gained glory through his faith.

He stood out by his firmness in faith.

God had revealed to the Angels the mysteries of the Holy Trinity, grace, predestination, incarnation and all that was related to his glory, and he had wanted the agreement of their intelligence to faith, so they could be given in this ways the reward of the beatific vision, as a reward and a crown of justice.

Now, Lucifer, instead of humbling his intelligence before such a revelation, became proud, refused any act of faith, estimating that he was able to enjoy the eternal bliss through his own strength alone. He pursued as a final aim, the likeness with God, which is the fruit of grace. Furthermore, he alleged he would pursue it with his own natural strength alone, and without the help of God.

Saint Michael acted quite differently. He acknowledged that the true beatitude dwells in God alone and that he could not obtain it through his own strength alone: thence, his cry: "Who is like God?" Before the

revelation of the divine mysteries, he made an act of humility: "Thou alone, my God" he said, "art holy by nature and blessed in the centuries without end!"

"No one can be holy and happy without thee".

"Your gifts shall be these perfections with which thou enriched me".

"Your gifts shall be this glory that thou hast prepared for me".

O! What a really great faith.

II. How heroic was the faith of the Archangel, in the rough battle he waged against Lucifer.

As soon as the rebel Angel had conceived his scheme of doing without God, at the thought that he was the fairest among Angels, a throng of Angels united to him.

It was Saint Michael who, with the shield of faith, entered the battle field and sustained the honor of God.

No one had pushed him to perform this act. He considered it his duty to believe in the revealed mysteries, and have all the Angels believe in them also.

Therefore, seeing the attitude of Lucifer, Saint Michael the Archangel was nobler and stronger than the rebel Angel and set a war against him with an invincible faith, crying out to him: "Who is like God?"

You revolt against God who gave you all goods! God is almighty, creation belongs to him; and you want to deprive him of his power?

God is eternal, all beings are created by him; and in your insolence, you prefer your self to him? God is perfect, and you rejoice of your own perfection?

God alone is the very beatitude and is enough for himself, and you, you want to suffice to your self?

Then, turning towards the Angels, Michael enlightened them, confirmed the good ones, gave courage to the weak and comfort to those hesitating in the faith and he triumphed over the rebel ones.

III. What is your faith, o Christian? Is it the truth that you believe what God revealed to you and what you are taught by the Church, but do you live according to the maxims of the faith? If you profess one piece of truth and act differently, your faith is sterile and dead.

You believe in Jesus-Christ, and then you give in to the things of the devil.

You boast to be a Catholic, by your title and words but with the sins that you never cease committing, you show that your life is in disagreement with your faith.

On the day of your baptism, you renounced the devil, with his works and seductions, but in words only not through your whole life. What a pitiful state to which you have reduced yourself. You want to look at both heaven and earth in the same time; to be a little Christian and a little pagan; believing in God and in the Church, and offending them in the street and at home; hearing masses and mumbling something; praying and leaving a free rein to your passions!

Your faith without works is dead. It displeases God and is useless. This is not what Saint Michael did. He conducted himself according to faith, and with courage.

Prostrate at his feet, and pray to this glorious hero of paradise to make your faith shine, and enrich you with works of charity.

PRAYER

O incomparable hero of paradise, Saint Michael, I have recourse to you in my misery, because you have been the first believer and the first adorer of the Holy Trinity.

Grant that during my life, I may conduct myself according to my faith. Seeing myself guilty with the same fault which Lucifer committed, I implore your protection, so that with the help of divine mercy, I be a Christian in title and also through my works of both spirit and heart. Turn my faith fruitful, so that through it, I may deserve paradise.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, standard-bearer of the faith.

PRACTICE

Thrice, you will recite the Apostles' Creed and you will pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, to make up for the little faith of so many Christians.

(Hymn to Saint Michael)

Vith DAY OF THE MONTH

6th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XI

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HOPE

I. Let us consider how Saint Michael, who was admirable in his faith, was equally admirable for the virtue of hope; because there is a strong bond between these two virtues.

Hope is awaiting eternal happiness, which comes from the grace of God and our merits.

The object of this supernatural virtue is eternal happiness; the means to acquire it are the grace of God and the creature's cooperation.

As a motive, it has God's faithfulness to his promises.

Saint Michael the Archangel stood out for this virtue, because as soon as God had revealed the beatific vision to his Angels, the former, answering the grace with which God had abundantly provided him, rekindled in his heart the ardent desire to follow him.

Through faith, he understood the great benefits that God reserves for those who fear him, and he did not lose his confidence of being able to reach them with divine help.

Moreover, the choice graces and prerogatives that God had enriched him with constituted as many stimulations for his unswerving hope.

Knowing through a heavenly enlightenment the delights of the eternal sojourn, he would repeat unceasingly, with ardent sighs, the words that God, one day, had put in the mouth of David the Prophet: "The only desire of my heart is to live in the Lord's dwelling place".

II. Let us consider how constant was Saint Michael's hope, as opposed to the presumption of proud Lucifer, who, seeing himself adorned with great natural and supernatural gifts, instead of using them with ardor for God's everlasting enjoyment, became the admirer and adorer of his own self, as if God had suddenly stopped to be the only source of beatitude for him.

But as soon as Lucifer had conceived this proud scheme, he saw the dream of his greatness vanish away, which was to lead him to his definite loss.

Before this horrid fall, Saint Michael's hope was a triumph. Indeed, seeing how easy it is for a high creature to fall, instead of going away, he came even closer to God, saying to himself: "My happiness is to be united with my God". Therefore, defying himself, he put his hope in God and faced Lucifer, with this cry: "Who is like God?"

Never will it be possible for a creature to be happy without God; all that I am and all that belongs to me is the fruit of his grace, and God, through his infinite goodness, will open for me the door which leads to the beatific vision. O greatness of Saint Michael's hope.

III. God has revealed to man an everlasting rest, an immense joy, for which we must hope and long; with ardor and confidence! Now, how many a man do not reach this rest and enjoyment, because of their accursed presumption! Presumption kills hope in them. Whomever presumes on his own strength, may he have reached the stars, will be cast down into the abyss.

Peter the apostle had this presumption, and there he was, a renegade.

David as well, and there he fell into adultery.

How many, these days, have the strange presumption that they will save themselves through faith alone, without works! They believe, however, in the remission of sins through the merits of Jesus Christ, but they neither believe in the necessity of doing satisfactory works, nor that the Lord wants worthy fruits of penance.

Therefore, those who do not make any efforts towards perfection and refuse to fast, mortify themselves and pray, sin against hope.

What a monstrous error! Saint Peter warns us to ensure, through good works, our election and vocation to eternal happiness.

May Lucifer's downfall be always before our eyes to drive presumption from us.

The victorious hope of Saint Michael must be for us the noblest example, to be different and put our trust in God.

God has made a promise, and he shall not fail to keep it, with whomever is faithful.

PRAYER

Merciful God, thou art all my hope, I place all my desires in thee, who promised me eternal happiness. The wounds of Jesus Christ, my Savior, are my merits. And you, Saint Michael, through your invincible hope, grant me the grace to obtain the everlasting glory.

Drive presumption from me, so that diffident of my own strength, and putting my trust in God's alone, I may work my eternal salvation.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, help those who put their trust in God.

PRACTICE

You will say nine times the act of hope in honor of the nine choirs of Angels, admirers of Saint Michael's great hope.

(Hymn)

VIIIth DAY OF THE MONTH

7th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XI

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS CHARITY TOWARDS GOD

I. Saint Michael kept a great love for God.

Angels are the world's perfection, for God has given them perfect gifts.

They are perfect beings in science, for in every cause, they see effects; perfect in their nature, because without stain, without fault, and without defect; perfect in their power, for they can destroy the world in one single instant; perfect in their will, for they long unceasingly towards the sovereign good; so much to say that they are very rich in charity.

Such appeared Saint Michael, whose name means "Who is like God!"

As soon as he came out of God's hands, he turned towards his creator, and said in his heart: "My God, love thee, for thou art my strength, my support and my shelter.

Whom could I give my love to, but thee alone. Who, more than thou, must be honored, blindly obeyed and sincerely loved? No one".

Saint Michael's love for God surpassed the Angels'.

Love is always related to knowledge: the greater the knowledge of the object, the greater also your love for it.

Now, Saint Michael had a greater knowledge of God and his perfections than any other Angel, greater than you can even imagine.

As soon as the first moment of his existence, he started loving God, foreseen in a great light.

And what must be his charity, as soon as he was admitted to the beatific vision of the divine nature.

He is to God the closest one; he occupies the place of fallen Lucifer; he is a seraph of love; his love cannot be surpassed.

II. Works are the proof of charity; and Saint Michael's works show his charity towards God.

Lucifer set a war in heaven to dethrone God.

It was the time of danger and trial.

Then, Saint Michael showed all the ardor he was consumed with.

He heard the battle cry, watched the revolt, and observed Lucifer, who attempted on God's honor; though he was still inferior to Lucifer, his heart was consumed with love, and transported by his charity, he attacked him with courage, telling him: "Who is like God!"

God is the principle with no beginning; you, on the contrary, you have just come to light. He is infinite in his attributes: simplicity, immensity, eternity.

He is infinite in his intelligence, in his will, and in his perfections.

You, o Lucifer, and those who have served you have a finite and limited spirit, and never will you be able to resemble God.

God is all-powerful, with an infinite goodness with no weakness, righteous without any severity, merciful and sovereign master, knowing all things in light and possessing all goods.

You have raised against the All-Mighty, but you will not be able to defeat him, no one being superior to him.

Then, he turned to the Angels: "Whoever loves me follows me", he said; and he attacked Lucifer and his followers, defeated him, and drove him from heaven.

Immediately, peace and serenity reappeared in paradise. God's honor was defended, the creator glorified and a great part of Angels were saved. What a great love! The Archangel worked for God, worked and triumphed.

III. And you, the Christian, what is your love for God?

A soul who loves God, says St Augustine thinks but of God, despises everything, has a horror of everything, is looking but for God.

Are your thoughts for God? Maybe, God is the least of your thoughts?

The soul that loves God despises whatever does not lead to God; does not it happen to you to take God into little account, and appreciate what makes you lose God?

A loving soul is disgusted with all things and takes delight in God alone. In your heart, on the contrary, does not prayer bother you?

The loving soul provides honor to God, cries when she sees an offence is being made to him, and has zeal to avenge his honor.

O Christian, your heart is consuming with love, but an earthly love, not a divine love.

Humble yourself, prostrate at the feet of Jesus Christ, ask for forgiveness through the intercession of the first seraph of heaven, and in the future, preoccupy yourself with loving God with all your heart.

PRAYER

My God, I have not loved thee. I have loved creatures and I have despised thee, my creator and master, who happen to be more enclined to forgiveness than punishment.

Raise your merciful hand upon me and deign forgive me in my repent, for having loved you so little, and in my resolution to consecrate all my thoughts and affections to thee.

And you, Saint Michael the Archangel, intercede for me with God and put in my heart the same love as yours;

teach me to despise the goods that will pass and love the sovereign and eternal good.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, you are the first among the seraphim.

PRACTICE

At every hour of the day, you will say: "My God any my all".

(Hymn)

VIIIth DAY OF THE MONTH

8th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST

I. Let us consider how great was Saint Michael's love for Jesus Christ. This love began at the world's genesis, when the mystery of the incarnation was revealed to Angels, which was the occasion for Lucifer to revolt.

Knowing that the Word of God would, in the fulness of time, take the human nature, and become also the chief of Angels and men, and be adored by the ones and the others in the "Hypostatic Union", Lucifer refused to adore the Word in a human nature, and fomented the Angels' revolt.

But it happened that Saint Michael rushed up to defend Jesus Christ's honor, preached to the Angels the adoration due to the Word incarnate, confronted Lucifer and won a brilliant victory against him and his followers.

Through the love he was nourishing towards the future Redeemer, he kept vivid in the patriarchs the faith in the Messiah, promising Abraham that from his race would be born the one in whom all nations shall be blessed.

He stopped Abraham's arm, when he was about to sacrifice his son Isaac, by showing him in the bushes

and among the thorns the Lamb that should later be slain for the world's salvation.

Abraham saw Jesus Christ spiritually and he was glad.

It was Saint Michael also who confirmed Jacob in the divine promises and made himself the protector and guardian of the elected people, freeing them from Egypt with extraordinary prodigies, accompanying them in the desert, introducing them in the promised land, and speaking to the prophets about the future Messiah.

II. Let us consider that Saint Michael, as soon as the Savior was born, went without delay, with Angels to adore him in the grotto of Bethlehem, and had the wonderful news of the Savior's nativity announced to the shepherds.

Through a star, he manifested this prodigy to the kings and led them to adore God made a man.

He gave Saint Joseph notice in his sleep to flee to Egypt in order to save the child Jesus from the fury of Herod, who was looking for him to kill him.

Who will ever be able to tell how many times he helped Jesus during the journey to, and the painful stay in Egypt?

It was Saint Michael again who gave notice, once anew, to Saint Joseph in his sleep, to return to Judea, after Herod's death.

After the fasting in the desert and the threefold

temptation by Lucifer, Saint Michael came and served Jesus with Angels.

During the agony in the garden of Gethsemane, he came to give Jesus some comfort, telling him: "I offered to the Father your prayer and your sweat of blood before all the heavenly court, and we, all your Angels, kneeling before the Father, begged him that this chalice of suffering may pass, but your Father replied that the Redemption of men could not be performed but through the shedding of your blood ; therefore, it is proper to accept it".

Then, Saint Michael followed Jesus in his passion; after his death, he accompanied his soul to limboes; on Easter day, he rolled the stone of the grave. On the Ascension day, he led the angelical troops to meet the Savior in his glorious entering heaven.

III. Let us consider how Saint Michael, who loved Jesus Christ so much, desires that we, the believers, love him with all our hearts, and that he cannot stand Redemption to be despised.

His love for Jesus Christ was as ardent as his hatred for Lucifer and his followers was great.

In the same way he has feelings of contempt and anger against bad Christians who do not love our Lord and who offend him.

You, the Christian, love your Redeemer after the example of Saint Michael.

Endeavor to always progress in divine love, and you shall deserve a special protection from the Archangel.

If your love for Christ is languishing, weak of failing, invoke him, so that he may make your love grow in your heart.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, defender of the throne of God, glorifier of the divine Savior, I honor you, I praise you and I beg you to grant me a sincere and perseverant love for Jesus Christ, in order to deserve to enjoy him forever.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, who, in heaven, defend the throne of Jesus Christ against the assaults of the infernal dragon.

PRACTICE

You will visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and make a sacramental communion, or an hour of spiritual adoration on the love of Jesus in the Eucharist.

(Hymn)

IXth DAY OF THE MONTH

9th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS LOVE TOWARDS THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

I. Let us consider how Saint Michael loved, not only the Most Holy Trinity, but also the Holy Mother of God, the Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin Mary.

He loved her ever since creation.

God showed him in spirit, with the other Angels, the future mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God.

Lucifer did not consent to venerate a creature inferior to his noble nature, and to acknowledge her as sovereign. But Saint Michael raised to defend the honor of the future Mother of God. He drove Lucifer from heaven, and with all the faithful Angels, he acknowledged and venerated the glorious Mother of the future Redeemer.

II. Let us consider how great was the affection of Saint Michael for the Most Holy Virgin during her earthly life.

At the time appointed by God, Mary, according to God's convenience, appeared in the world.

Must the Archangel not have been appointed by God to take the most pure soul of Mary, and carry her, as resplendant with grace, into the womb of Saint Anne?

He jealously guarded her in her immaculate conception and did not allow the devil to sully her with the original stain.

As soon as she was a child, he protected her, followed her in the Temple, where she pronounced her vows of virginity, as the Lord had inspired her.

During her stay in the Temple, he probably did many service to her, and revealed to her the holy mysteries.

He would attend her fervent prayers, collect them and offer them up before the throne of God.

III. But Saint Michael's love for the Virgin Mary was made visible also when she died and at the time of her glorious assumption into heaven.

He was commissioned to greet her, and present her to God, because it is his duty to present righteous souls to God.

With innumerable legions of Angels, he saluted and venerated the Queen of Heaven and Earth, Mother of God and Tabernacle of the Holy Trinity.

Learn, O Christian, after the example of the Holy Archangel, to have for Mary a filial love, and practise towards her a tender devotion.

Learn also that the one who loves truly the Virgin Mary strives never to offend Christ, who is the blessed fruit of her womb, and who wants to see shining in us the

virtues of his Mother.

Emulate Mary's Spotless life, her Purity and her Humility, and Saint Michael will protect you.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, who glorified Mary, the Mother of Christ, I bless you and I pray you to obtain me a filial love for this divine Mother, in order to serve her faithfully.

Ask this Queen and Mother of grace for me to be counted among her servants.

This grace will be for me the gage of being placed among Angels in heaven, seeing and enjoying Mary, and praising and singing her forever.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, defender of the throne of Mary.

PRACTICE

You will recite nine times the "Hail Mary" to the Virgin, Queen of the nine choirs of Angels, and thrice the "Gloria Patri" in honor of Saint Michael.

(Hymn)

Xth DAY OF THE MONTH

10th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XI

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS CHARITY TOWARDS HIS NEIGHBOR

I. "God is love", writes Saint JOHN, and the one who comes close to him is consumed with the same love.

Now, Saint Michael is among all Angels, the one who is the closest to God; therefore, he is consumed with the same love.

And since God is all love for men, Saint Michael is the Angel who loves men the most. The Holy Church presents him to us as the intercessor for human kind before the Lord, perpetually solicited to implore for the prayers forgiveness and pity of the Savior.

His prayer is not sterile or fruitless, but grants numerous graces to those who pray to him and whom he leads to heaven.

O deep love of this Archangel for men!

Happy in the beatific vision, he turns toward unhappy humanity, for which he is filled with tenderness and always praying.

II. Not only does Saint Michael pray for men but, because of his degree of glory in heaven, he collects

the prayers of the blessed for the benefit of unfortunate mortals.

Saint John saw him in the Apocalypse, close to the altar of the Temple in the heavenly Jerusalem, holding a golden censer in his hand: "Many perfumes and incenses were presented to him, to be burnt before the throne of God".

The golden censer means the dignity of Saint Michael who is so pleasing to God that he presents the supplications of the saints himself, and ennobles even more their prayers in favor of humanity.

Therefore, when, during the holy sacrifice of the mass, the Church offers incense to God, she invokes Saint Michael, and commissions him to present the sacrifice of the Spotless Lamb to God.

III. It would be easier, says St Pantaleon, to count the stars in the sky or the grains of sand in the sea, than to celebrate the benefits of Saint Michael's charity.

From him, o Christian, learn how to love your neighbor, not in words, but in deeds; and be assured that the smallest good and charitable action done to your brothers will not be left unrewarded in heaven; and find your consolation in having an Archangel in paradise, who prays for you unceasingly.

IV. Charity is not content with good words; it implies good deeds, as teaches Saint John.

Therefore, the true proof of charity lies in works of charity.

Then, how great is the charity of Saint Michael who grants unceasingly so many graces.

Through him, many Angels were saved. Adam after his fall, was led to weep over his fault, plough the ground and not sin again. Noa was notified to move the people to penance; the Hebrews were helped in their crossing the Red Sea, when they were pursued by the Pharaoh's army; manna was sent to them in the desert for their nourishment.

Lastly, who will tell of the graces that were granted by the Archangel to the faithful in the New Testament?

PRAYER

Glorious Saint Michael, chief of Angels, I have recourse to your charity, I a miserable sinner, and implore your help to save my soul. Pray for me and come to my help during my life and especially in the time of my death, by giving me the strength to overcome the devil.

Defend me in the battle of life, so that I may not perish in the dreadful judgement.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, my support in my necessities.

PRACTICE

You will perform almsgiving to a poor people of Jesus Christ.

(Hymn)

XIth DAY OF THE MONTH

11th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS LOVE FOR ANGELS

I. The love of Saint Michael for Angels made him deserve the beautiful title of "Father of Angels", for, in heaven, the Angels who take care of other Angels are called Fathers of Angels (Saint Jerome).

If we can assure this of the angelical choirs' chiefs, how much more of Saint Michael, chief of the chiefs, greater than them, taking precedence of them, and extending over them all his authority and prestige.

A father's duty is to feed his children.

The famous Archangel, by taking care of God's honor and the salvation of Angels, fed them with the milk of charity, and protected them from the venom of pride. That is why Angels venerate and honor him as their father.

II. Let us consider how great is the glory of Saint Michael, in the fact that he is the beloved father of Angels.

If Saint Paul the apostle calls the Philippians his joy and his crown, whom he instructed and converted to the faith, what must be the joy and glory of this Archangel,

for having supported the other Angels and saved them from perdition!

Like an affectionate father, he warned the Angels not to let themselves be blinded by the idea of a revolt and he confirmed them in their faithfulness to God.

He can tell them what Saint Paul told the first Christians: "I have begotten you in faithfulness and gratefulness towards the creator, in firmness of faith in the revealed mysteries, and in courage to resist the temptation of Lucifer.

I have begotten you to a humble obedience and the respect of the divine convenience.

I have loved your salvation, I have fought for your happiness you have followed me, blessed be God!

III. O Christian, what love do you have for your neighbor who is in difficulty, in ignorance or in the peril of perdition?

How many children do not even know the basics of the faith?

Do you care to teach them the mysteries of the faith and the commandments of God and the Church? Religious ignorance increases more and more every day perhaps there is no one to teach them that, for it is not the duty of the priests alone; this duty is also the father and mother of the family's: do they teach Christian doctrine to their children at an early age?

Every Christian has the duty of instructing his neighbor; how many sins would not be committed, if

we cared about teaching the ignorant on the things of religion! Everyone is content with himself. Now, God has commissioned each one to care for his neighbor.

Blessed is the one who saved a soul; he has already saved his own. Think about it, o Christian and you will see that you do not love your neighbor. Have recourse to Saint Michael and pray to him to give you the love for your brothers, and use all your strength to care for their eternal salvation.

PRAYER

O heavenly apostle, so filled with zeal, through the zeal you showed for the salvation of Angels and men, grant me from the Holy Trinity the desire of my salvation, and zeal to cooperate to the sanctification and salvation of my neighbor; filled in this way with merits, I shall be able to enjoy God forever.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, chief of the heavenly hosts, guide me.

PRACTICE

You will try to approach someone who lives far from the faith, and convince him to come close to the sacraments.

(Hymn)

XIIth DAY OF THE MONTH

12th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XI

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS APOSTLESHIP WITH ANGELS

I. The greatness of the glorious Saint Michael is also manifested by the fact that he has been the apostle of Angels in heaven.

Saint Thomas and Saint Bonaventure think that in heaven, Angels from a superior order instruct, enlighten and communicate their perfections to Angels of an inferior order.

They instruct them, communicating to them their more perfect mode of knowledge; and they make them more perfect, by deepening their knowledge.

As some in the church are apostles, prophets, and doctors to enlighten and perfect the faithful, in the same way, among Angels, there are various orders, so that the highest ones be the guides and light for inferior orders.

In this way, God was well pleased to do by means of Angels what he could have done by himself.

Thus, it is said by the Psalmist: From the eternal mountains, you have sent an admirable light”.

Saint Augustine says that these mountains that give light are the preachers of heaven, that is to say superior Angels who enlighten inferior Angels.

II. The peculiar note of Saint Michael is to enlighten Angels. He did so when Lucifer wanted to lead them into the sin of revolt, while he had already succeeded in convincing a great number to attribute to themselves and not to God the greatness and magnificence of their nature, and ability to enjoy the eternal beatitude without divine help.

When he replied: “Who is like God?”, Saint Michael had Angels understand that their being had been created by, and they had received everything from the hands of God, and that to him alone, they had to pay honor and gratitude.

He made Angels understand that without grace, they would never be able to reach eternal happiness nor contemplate the face of God in the light of his glory.

The exhortation of this master and doctor was so efficient that millions of blessed spirits prostrated before God, worshipped him, and were and remained, from then onwards, faithful and happy forever.

III. How great is the glory of Saint Michael in heaven, for the one who teaches others the ways of the Lord will be resplendent with the firmament’s light! What must be the glory of the one who enlightened, not a few Angels, but innumerable troops of Angels! What must be his reward! His charity towards Angels places him above all angelical choirs and makes him greater, and close to God.

Therefore, to come out of your state of ignorance, have recourse to Saint Michael, so that light may shine to your eyes, and you may not remain in the death of sin.

Pray this heavenly apostle, to keep you in faithfulness and the respect of God during your life, in order to enjoy him forever.

PRAYER

O heavenly apostle, I praise and bless God for having enriched you with such a great wisdom, to enlighten and save Angels.

Deign enlighten my soul through my guardian angel, to always walk in the way of your divine commandments.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, the doctor of angelical troops, enlighten us.

PRACTICE

You will teach an ignorant about the mysteries of the Faith.

(Hymn)

XIIIth DAY OF THE MONTH

13th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS LOVE TOWARDS ANGELS

I. Saint Michael, by making himself the defender of Angels, gave them the benefit of faithfulness and eternal happiness.

How powerful were his words, uttered to Angels: "Who is like God?"

Let us imagine this fight in heaven: Lucifer, filled with pride, willing to resemble God, seduces and takes in his following a great portion of the angelical troops, under the standard of revolt, and utters a cry of war against God, in his scheme to overthrow his throne.

Many others Angels would have been seduced by Lucifer and blinded by the smoke of his pride, had not the Archangel taken their defence.

Placed ahead of Angels, he cried: "Who is like God?", meaning by this: "Beware, do not let yourselves be seduced by this example; it is impossible for a creature to become like God, its Creator.

He alone is the depth of all perfections, and the inexhaustible source of happiness, and before him, we are but nothingness."

II. It was a frightful war. On one side, Saint Michael with all the faithful Angels; on the other, Lucifer and the rebel ones.

Saint John calls it "A great war": great by the fighters, for Angels are strong by nature; great by the number of fighters, millions, according to Daniel the Prophet; finally, great by its motive.

This war had not been set for a triviality, as are the wars among men, but in order to overthrow God from his throne, and refuse to acknowledge the Son of God, in his future incarnation.

O terrible war! They came to blows; Saint Michael and his faithful Angels gave an assault to Lucifer and the rebel ones, and won victory over them, chasing them from paradise, and casting them out in the abyss.

The Angels of Saint Michael saw that they were saved, and rendered homage and blessings to God.

III. O Christian, this war in heaven has not ceased for Lucifer is still fighting against God on earth.

In heaven, he worked the loss of great numbers of Angels; every day, he does the same with a great number of men here below.

In a salutary fear, the good Christian acknowledges that Lucifer knows every means to do harm, and that he is wandering, like a starving lion, for the perdition of souls.

Therefore, we have to be watchful, according to Saint Peter's exhortation, and repel temptations with courage

How many times, o Christian, were you caught into Satan's nets, and did you let yourself be seduced by him! How many times, taking pleasure in temptation, did you revolt against God. Perhaps, at this very hour, you are caught in his nets, unable to free your self?

Then, remembering that Saint Michael's Angels did not let themselves be seduced, put yourself under his protection, and you shall defeat the devil, for Saint Michael shall give you the strength to overcome the assault of your enemy.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, very powerful defender of Angels, assailed by the infernal enemy, I have recourse to you. The war Satan is waging against my soul is a terrible, very hard and continuous one, but your arms are strong and your protection is powerful.

I find shelter under the shield of your protection, firmly hoping to gain the victory.

Ever defend me, and I shall be saved; defend me in the battle of life, so that I may not perish on the dreadful judgement.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, you who, with your Angels, never cease, day and night, to fight against the devil, take my defence.

PRACTICE

You will pay a visit to a Church consecrated to Saint Michael, praying to him to take you under his protection.

(Hymn)

XIVth DAY ON THE MONTH

14th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS CHARITY TOWARDS MEN

I. Let us consider how Saint Michael, so filled with zeal for God's honor, is filled with zeal for men.

To inferior Angels, God has given the guardianship of individuals, in such a way that there has never been, and will never be anyone without the assistance of an Angel.

Saint Michael was not given guardianship of one person only, but of all men. He is more occupied with, and solicited by men than all Angels, as writes Saint Cesaire.

More than all Angels, he exercizes his watch over men; his charity surpasses the zeal, care, and affections of Archangels, principalities, powers, virtues, dominions, thrones, cherubim and seraphim.

It is true that the diligent car of Angels for men is intense, and more especially from the part of those of whom God revealed us the names, to manifest to us their very special protection.

Among these is Saint Michael, by far the most excellent, and among the chiefs, the greatest.

He is our chief also, since he has been appointed to defend men. Our chief also because he ennobles our prayers and protects us until the end of the world.

II. All men are the object of the charity of Saint Michael of Archangel.

He is the guide of those disoriented by error; he takes up and assists those who are falling; he defends souls, fights and drives devils from us, and enlightens all creatures.

He started to show his love to Adam himself, our first father, exhorting him to do penance for his sin by teaching him how to plough the ground, in order to provide for his own subsistence, at the sweat of his brow.

Moreover, he taught him how to lead a holy life by the observance of natural law, and he revealed to him future mysteries.

And Saint Michael's teachings were so efficient that afterwards, Adam never let himself be seduced by the devil, or fall into evil again. O what a great charity from the part of this heavenly chief!

III. Now, this love of Saint Michael for men came from his love for God, because the love of one's neighbor is born from the love of God.

Whoever loves God loves also his neighbor, who is God's picture, and the more you love God, the more you love your neighbor.

Lucifer is the enemy of men, because he is deprived of the love of God.

Saint Michael, on the contrary, stood out by his love of God; that is why he has loved, and still loves men more than other Angels.

Now, consider, o Christian, if you have in your heart the love of your neighbor. You close your ears to the cries of the afflicted; you shut your eyes before the tears of the sick, indifferent to the plight of your neighbor? This means that you do not have the love of God within yourself, because if you did have some love for God, you would be pleased to relieve the unfortunate in their suffering. Have recourse to the seraph of charity, Saint Michael, and pray to him to enkindle this love of your neighbor in your heart, as it was commanded by Jesus.

PRAYER

Glorious Saint Michael, prince of charity, I have recourse to you with confidence, and I pray you to put in my heart a great love for God and my neighbor.

Make that, after your example I may be merciful towards others, so that I may also find mercy with God for myself.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, you who are so loving, and so filled with solicitude for men. Help me.

PRACTICE

You will pay a visit to a sick person and practice almsgiving to someone in need.

(Hymn)

XVth DAY OF THE MONTH

15th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS LOVE FOR THE RIGHTEOUS

I. Saint Michael has a special love for the righteous souls who are on earth.

He leads them by enlightening their reason and making them come out of the spiritual sleep of lukewarmness.

Like the Lord's Angel appearing to Saint Peter in the prison where Herod had cast him, in the same way, he reveals himself to the righteous one who is neglectful in prayer, and becomes present through his special protection.

Enlightening his mind, he shows him the dangers of lukewarmness, stirs up his will to put a holy fear of God in his heart, makes him come out of his negligence, in order to do good also and ascend towards God.

II. We know that the righteous one, as long as he lives, is subject to error.

The false goods of this world sicken his soul; concupiscence, little by little, corrupts his senses.

Our will being weakened, we choose evil, thinking it good, and we drag ourselves along, mistaking good for evil.

“Men’s hands hold false scales” says the Psalmist.

Leaving the eternal goods aside, men cling to the false and shortlived goods of this world.

Saint Michael saves the righteous one from this disorder; he shakes his will, lessens his torpor, enkindles him with a holy fervor, and leads him onto the way of divine principles.

He, who is consumed with an ardent and never-to-be-lost charity, sets the soul aflame with this very charity and makes her generous in goodness.

III. Beware, o Christian, that even if you are in a state of grace, state in which every Christian must be, yet you need the help of Saint Michael. How much negligence is in your prayer! Perhaps are you asleep in the baneful sleep of lukewarmness? If the Archangel does not come to enlighten you and shake your will, we can fear the sleep of lukewarmness will be fatal to you, and may turn mortal. How many faults, committed by the false judgement of your will, which was mistaking evil for good. How many times were you solicited by the low spheres of your being and you wallowed in impurity.

Pray the holy Archangel to kindle his ardent charity in your heart, and teach you how to despise the short-lived goods of this world.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, in my lukewarmness, I have recourse to you, to find with you a ray of your ardent love.

Drive lukewarmness from me, enlighten my mind with your inspirations; lead my will so that it may strongly avoid sin and practice virtue, which is the true and only good.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, divine messenger for the spiritual benefit of righteous souls, come to my help.

PRACTICE

Today, you will receive holy communion, which increases charity.

(Hymn)

XVith DAY OF THE MONTH

16th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XI

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS CHARITY TOWARDS SOULS

I. The righteous soul is exposed to another disorder. Indeed, she often loses strength, decreases or even stops the exercise of virtue, and ends up neglecting the good works that she should be performing.

Now, Saint Michael loves the righteous soul when he takes her back onto the path of virtue. He comforts and consoles the pusillanimous hearts, as indicated by Saint Bernard; he helps them in their works, by turning them free and unattached, and by lifting all difficulty.

He does with the righteous soul what he did with Elias, pursued by Jesabel. Tired of his ordeals, Elias laying down under a geniffer tree, was asking God for death. Saint Michael appeared to him, revived him, and comforted and consoled him by these words: "Stand up and have this food, and go on your way".

Elias, with this new strength, resumed his journey towards the mountain of God.

In the same way, Saint Michael gives comfort and courage back to the righteous soul; "Stand up", he says

to her, "eat some food and resume your journey; stand up to overcome difficulties; taste the delights of grace from above, and walk steadily on the way of God's holy law, in order to climb the mountain of perfection".

II. Let us consider what a great love Saint Michael has for the righteous souls, love which leads him to turn the prayers of the righteous more pleasing to God, so that they may be granted more quickly.

In the Apocalypse, Saint John saw Saint Michael the Archangel, standing by the altar of the heavenly Temple, with a censer in his hands, in which he was burning the incense that was being presented to him; now, incense and perfumes symbolized prayer.

Therefore, the prayers of the righteous are being presented by guardian Angels to Saint Michael, who places them in his golden censer, and makes them more pleasing to God with his own prayer, so that they may be better accepted by the Lord.

III. Acknowledge, o Christian, what a need you have of the help of the heavenly chief. You are languishing and lukewarm in prayer; the way to perfection seems filled with difficulties to you; you think that it is painful to lead a holy life, mortify your senses, resist your passions and lead a life of sacrifice. What a deplorable state! You are neither cold nor hot; if it is the case, "God will vomit you out of his mouth".

For goodness' sake, listen to the Archangel, who urges you to acquire the gold of charity. Beg him to purify your heart, give you fervor, and carry your prayers to God as an incense of pleasing scent, before the throne of God from whom you will receive a timely help.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, Angel of charity, I ask and beg for your charity; I implore your assistance; make me generous in goodness, and through your charity, encourage me to walk on the path of the Lord's Commandments. Cast your loving eyes upon me and I shall grow fervent in the service of God; I shall despise with courage the difficulties encountered on the way to holiness. If you protect me, my heart will love God fervently, and I shall enjoy him for eternity.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, who console timid souls, remember me, pray to the Son of God for me, now and ever.

PRACTICE

You will pay a visit to a prisoner, or send him some support.

(Hymn)

XVIIth DAY OF THE MONTH

17th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS CHARITY TOWARDS THE RIGHTEOUS, TO DEFEND THEM AGAINST EVIL

I. The life of the righteous is a continual fight, not only with visible and carnal enemies, but also with invisible and spiritual ones, who unceasingly set up snares for the life of the soul.

With such enemies, the fight is continual, and the victory difficult, and only possible when you have the protection of Saint Michael.

To the righteous who have fear, he commissions Angels to guard them, and have them gain the victory.

In this, remember, o Christian soul, that if the devil turns around you like a roaring lion, to turn you into its prey, then, the Archangel commissions his Angels to help you. Rejoice; you shall not be defeated.

II. All the righteous were tormented by the devil and had recourse to Saint Michael, that is why they gained the victory in the battle.

It is said that Blessed Ringa, threatened by the devil and scared by terrible visions, invoked Saint Michael who, immediately rushing to her help, put this infernal

spirit to flight.

Once, St Magdalen the penitent saw, in the grove where she was living, a multitude of vipers and a proud dragon that, opening its mouth wide, wanted to devour her; having invoked the Archangel, the latter drove the terrible beast away.

O power of Saint Michael, and terror of hell! His name alone is the ruin of hell. Let us bless God who willed Saint Michael to be glorified in this way.

III. Consider, o Christian, how many victories were gained over the tempting enemy! You moan and are afflicted because the devil does not leave you a single moment.

He astonished, seduced and defeated you so many times.

Why do not you have recourse to the chief of the heavenly hosts, since he is so powerful against infernal forces?

If you had invoked him, in the past, you would not have been defeated.

If you had had recourse to him, when the devil would set within you the fire of impure passions, and try to seduce you by the attractions of the world, then you would not have fallen! Now, this war is not finished.

Therefore, turn towards the heavenly warrior. The Church exhorts you to invoke him; if you want to gain the victory call him to your help with the very words of the Church.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, defend me in the battle, so that I may not perish in the terrible judgement. Prince of the heavenly hosts, fighting against infernal forces, I implore your powerful help in the fight of life, which the devil still wages against me, to overthrow my soul.

Be my defender during my life as well as in death, so to gain the crown of glory.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, who destroys infernal plots, help me never to let myself be seduced by Satan.

PRACTICE

You will abstain of a piece of fruit or some food you like.

(Hymn)

XVIIIth DAY OF THE MONTH

18th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. X

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN CHARITY TOWARDS SINNERS

I. Saint Michael's charity for men urges him to exhort sinners to put an end to their life and state of sin and return to God. In the book of Genesis, we read that Agar, persecuted by Sarah, her patroness and Abraham's wife, was fleeing in the desert.

There, she found herself face to face with an Angel: "Agar", he said, "Where are you coming from? And where are you going to? Return to your mistress' and humble yourself under her hand". Agar, the foreigner, is a figure of man, a foreigner and pilgrim in this world.

Sarah, on the contrary, means mistress, and symbolizes God, the master of everything, from whom the sinner departs, every time he transgresses divine law.

The sinner flees and runs in the desert of the world where he is unable to find a single drop of water to quench his thirst.

Now, here is how Saint Michael is calling the sinner: "Where are you coming from? And where are you going to?"

Look from whom you are departing: God, the supreme good. How will your life end? Return to God

your creator and master, center of souls and a source of faithfulness. Humble yourself under his hand, in perfect observance of his law".

II. Saint Michael performs this ministry towards the sinners who honor and pray him. Thus he appeared to Carvin, an adviser of Philippe, King of France, and told him: "If you want to be saved, leave the court, or you shall be damned; have mercy on yourself".

A paladin of Emperor Otton had a temple built in honor of Saint Michael, asking him the grace to enjoy the king's consideration.

The Archangel appeared to him and told him: "I do not want your temple because you had it built using the money of the poor, while you were also taking advantage of the king's Favor.

God condemned you to hell a long time ago, but I have prayed for your salvation. Know that the Emperor will change his behavior towards you and pursue you with his justice; if you die in this way, you shall not be damned".

Afraid at the news, the paladin promised to change his life, by leaving the world and doing reparation for the injustices he had committed. Having become a religious, he changed his life and made his salvation. Goodness of Saint Michael for sinners.

III. O Christian, the Archangel has performed this charity very often towards you. How many times did he cast light unto your mind to show you your miserable state.

How many times, speaking to your heart, did he let you have a glimpse of the unavoidable damnation, if you would not change your ways.

He used the advice of a superior, the sudden death of a friend, or a trial for yourself: so many signs to warn you to change your life. Thank him and follow his warnings in order to save your soul. Even today, he tells you: "Return to God and humble yourself under his hand". Down on your knees, before the crucifix, promise to quit the bad path.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, prince of charity, I have recourse to you, and from the mercy of God I implore light to know my faults and a sincere contrition to loathe them. O you who have such a great love for man, please do not cease to enlighten me through my guardian Angel, so that I may resume my walking on the path of virtue, love God and be assured of my eternal salvation.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, you who urge sinners to repentance, help my soul to abandon sin.

PRACTICE

You will say 9 times the "Gloria Patri" to your guardian Angel, so that he may obtain for you the grace to know your sins and repent from them. (Hymn)

XIXth DAY OF THE MONTH

19th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS CHARITY TOWARDS SINNERS

I. Let us consider all that Saint Michael is doing to free the sinner from the bonds of sin; not only does he inspire him repentance, but he also helps him not to fall again. It is a holy enterprise to overcome the obstacles of passions and weaken them in ourselves; to reject every sensual enjoyment, and free oneself from the filth of vice.

But the great difficulty is to correct oneself wholly of evil. A sick person admires the art of the physician, who frees him from his infirmity, but if the physician abandons him, then he immediately relapses into his first state, and from this relapse, he will recover with more difficulty.

In the same way, it is not enough to free a sinner from his bad state and have him abandon his vice; you have to secure him against any relapse into it. Now, Saint Michael's charity helps the sinner to abandon his fault and not relapse into it any more.

II. Let us remark how great was Saint Michael's love for Adam the betrayer, for, after his fall, he gave

him so salutary advice, that he sinned no more. To us, he teaches to flee from occasions of sin, free ourselves from vice, and stay away from it.

Of old, he told Loth not to turn her eyes toward Sodom, nor return to her former delights; in the same way, he teaches the sinner not to look at the object of his sin any more, so that he does not fall into it again. His charity urges him to reconcile himself with God, and not to depart from him any more.

III. To the Christian, Saint Michael gives the same advice of fleeing occasions of sin, for, the one who is seeking an occasion is lost. He said to Loth: "Flee to the mountains".

To the Christian, he gives advice to flee such person, house or business that would serve his spiritual ruin; to defy one's own human wisdom: Salomon, the wise man, having met some occasions, fell into them.

Your life spent for God does not ensure you of the future; David was a man according to the heart of God; however, having not fled an occasion, he sinned by neglecting to resist temptation.

How will you be able to vanquish occasions, you who have so little piety and who are so little learned in the science of the saints, and so deprived of virtues?

Therefore, be thankful for the charity of the great Archangel, who, not to see your loss, teaches you to flee occasions.

With his help, intend to flee occasions of sin in the future, and not to go astray from the path of virtue.

PRAYER

Saint Michael the Archangel, prostrate before you and convinced of my weakness and easiness to fall into sin, I implore your powerful help; grant me not to fall into sin again, and, henceforth, to walk in the laws of the Lord. Help me as long as you see that I am not saved, in order to praise you forever.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, defender of those who put their hope in the Lord; come to my help.

PRACTICE

You will make a spiritual reading on the Gospel.
(Hymn)

XXth DAY OF THE MONTH

20th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan.

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS CHARITY TOWARDS SINNERS WHO HAVE CONVERTED

I. Saint Michael, filled with love for men, after having turned them away from sin, becomes their guide, chief and master in holiness. In his solicitude, he wants to see the disciples of Jesus Christ adorned with virtues.

Thus, when Adam had sinned, the Archangel taught him to make a worthy penance and lead a holy life; he instructed him on the things of salvation and the observance of natural law, and revealed to him the secret mysteries of the times to come.

He did the same with Eve, for all that was related to her state. Adam, burdened with years, died without relapsing into his fault, rich in virtues and merits, thanks to the good help of Saint Michael, whose charity is as great as the ocean.

II. All sinners who convert can taste of the charity of the glorious Archangel. Those who honor and invoke him experience his charity.

Through his protection, the elected people gained the victory over their temporal enemies; in the same way, the sinner who has converted is victorious over his spiritual enemies: the world, the flesh and the devil.

He blessed Jacob, and he fills the sinner with blessings; he frees Loth from the fire, Daniel from the lions' pit, Suzanna from her accusers, and sinners, from the fire of hell and from temptations and calumnies.

His charity sustained the courage of martyrs and confessors in the purity of faith; he helps souls to perfection; he urges sinners to repentance by keeping them in humility, obedience and piety.

Through his charity, he is really the father and defender of Christians.

III. O Christian, the charity of the Archangel towards you comes from his love for God, whom he wants to see loved.

God loves very much the sinner who has come back to him, like the prodigal son.

Therefore, obtain the love and benevolence of Saint Michael, who experiences a great joy when he sees a sinner converting.

Even though you are a sinner, you shall receive the benefits of his favors.

Do penance for your faults; put an end to your bad life, return to your heavenly Father and pray with a contrite heart.

PRAYER

By my sins, o Lord, I have inspired disgust to thy infinite goodness. I apologize to thee. I would rather die than turn away from thee again. Saint Michael, be my defender, guide and master in the expiation of my sins through penance. Grant me from divine Mercy to produce worthy fruits of penance.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, from you descends upon the faithful the grace of light and virtue. Enlighten me.

PRACTICE

You will meditate upon the wounds of Jesus Christ crucified and kiss them, promising him not to fall into sin any more.

(Hymn)

XXIst DAY OF THE MONTH

21st Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS CHARITY FOR AFFLICTED FAITHFUL

I. Let us consider the special care that Saint Michael is taking in pouring graces of consolation on afflicted faithful. The first occurrence when the Holy Scripture speaks about the Archangel sent by God (for, according to the Exegetes, it is Saint Michael about whom they speak), it is to console a soul in sorrow: Agar, filled with bitterness in the desert. It is the first apparition of this Angel of the Lord; that did not happen at the time of the Flood; nor in the confusion of the tongues in Babel, nor in the chastisement of these hardened peoples. Why? if not to emphasize that the great glory of Saint Michael is meant to serve the afflicted, so that they be comforted in their trials, and give hope back to those who suffer. He consoles Abraham and Sarah, by promising them a son in their old days.

He consoles Elias afflicted in persecutions, and Daniel with the lions. Therefore, he is the consoler of whomever is in affliction.

II. Quick to console, the Archangel is slow to punish. Sent by God to chastize Sodom, he went first to Abraham, with two other Angels, and revealed him the impending chastisement, which gave him an opportunity to pray God that he may withhold the scourge which was to befall on Sodom and punish its inhabitants.

How many times, seeing God in great indignation and about to strike, did he invite righteous souls to ask God to take chastisement away.

He entered the city of Sodom only late in the evening, to let Abraham some time to intercede so that the city be spared.

He acts in the same way with us. He differs, awaits, and tries to drive revenge off. He loves us and wants to pour forth consolations upon us, instead of chastisements.

III. The ministry of Saint Michael, O Christian, is one of consolation. Every time you happen to be in a very serious trial, have recourse to him, invoke this consolation and you shall be consoled.

He and his Angels are always ready to come to your help. He has innumerable means to comfort you.

All those who had recourse to him have found consolation. In this way, the Bishop of Manfredonia had recourse to him during the plague of 1656, and his city was spared from the scourge.

In trials of spiritual and temporal order, invoke Saint Michael and you shall be consoled.

PRAYER

*Saint Michael, my father, my friend, my consolation and support, make me take part in the benefits of the Lord: keep all plague, earthquake, storms and other scourges away, for you are the consoler. Stand by me at the moment of my death.
Console me during my life, and take me before God, to be with him forever.*

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, who give hope to Christian Churches, console me in the present ordeal.

PRACTICE

You will adorn the altar of Saint Michael with flowers, or do the cleaning of your church.

(Hymn)

XXIInd DAY OF THE MONTH

22nd Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS INTERCEDING FOR MEN

I. The true mediator between God and man is Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, who is the "Great Religious of his Father, living to intercede for us, our advocate before him".

However, God wants us to have other intercessors in order to obtain graces and favors from his mercy: they are the saints and the Angels, who, being close to and pleasing him, can speak faithfully in our favor.

And among Angels, our first intercessor is Saint Michael, who, in his solicitude for men, obtains everything for them. He is the mediator for sinners before God: he implores for forgiveness, and his voice is always heard.

II. Let us consider how powerful is the intercession of the Archangel. He interceded for the Hebrews. For long years, this people had been under slavery in Babylon, oppressed and without any hope to be freed. Gabriel the Archangel interceded so that the adventures of this people under oppression may come to an end.

Saint Michael joined his supplications to Saint Gabriel's, he presented to God the humiliations that the Hebrews had been suffering for 70 years, and he was granted their freeing. How powerful is Saint Michael's intercession! He obtains what other Angel's prayers cannot obtain. That is why the Church entrusts herself to him, and is heard.

III. An intercessor for man, he takes care of him from the midst of his glory. He comes down from heaven, as fast as lightning, goes throughout the earth, heedful to man's complaints; he listens to his prayers, collects his desires and takes them before the throne of God.

O Christian, win the favors of Saint Michael, pray to him in all your needs and entrust your prayers to him. When your body is afflicted with some disease, you are desolate by an ordeal, or your mind is troubled by temptation, if calumny falls upon you or your country, have recourse to him and he shall intercede for you, he will offer your prayers to God, with the Angels and the saints, and you shall be consoled.

All the cities, nations and kingdoms that were placed under his protection have experienced his power of intercession. Families, homes and religious communities can speak about his protection, for having experienced it.

PRAYER

I have recourse to you, o glorious Saint Michael, my faithful intercessor and advocate before God.

Remember me and pray for me to Jesus, the son of God. Your prayers will ever be heard and I shall be freed from this unhappy life, and enjoy happiness forever.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, who lead men to heaven through your prayers; pray for me.

PRACTICE

You will pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, and pray for the conversion of sinners.

(Hymn)

XXIIIrd DAY OF THE MONTH

23rd Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL DEFENDER OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

I. When Jesus died on the cross, Saint Michael received the government of the Catholic Church. God has vested him with his authority to direct, protect and defend her with his power. The Catholic Church glorifies herself to have him as her protector; this is what she sings in the liturgy of the feast of the Archangel's apparition.

The Fathers and Doctors of the Church themselves have celebrated his title of Patron of the Holy Church; only a non-Catholic person can deny him this title. Many countries have chosen such or such saint as their protector, but the Catholic Church, through the will of God, has chosen him. Therefore, after the Blessed Virgin, he is the one who rules, governs and sustains her.

II. Saint Michael has always shown that he is the first and great defender of the Catholic Church.

The devil, the enemy of God, is also an enemy of the Church, against which he has been fighting ever since her founding on calvary and on the day of the Pentecost.

Saint John in his Apocalypse, speaks about this enemy of the Church, the infernal dragon, which has the power to wage a war against the saints, remove the cult of God from the earth, and turn men away from their salvation.

Saint Michael, according to the predictions of Daniel the Prophet, defends the Church. Since the beginning, Satan has fought against the Church in several ways.

First of all, he raised up tyrants to persecute her, as soon as she was born. Saint Michael has sustained the faithful in their faith by making them overcome all torments, and by multiplying their energy when their faith was flickering.

The blood of martyrs, says Tertulian, is a sowing that fecundates the Church. The second battle was the one with hereticals. Now, Saint Michael, by enlightening doctors and assisting the Church in her councils, made the truth of the Catholic Faith shine forth.

And the third battle, he wages it through bad Christians, who, by the immorality of their customs, sully the immaculate garment of the Spouse of Christ. Now, Saint Michael, by reviving glory and joy to the Church. The last battle will be the one against the antichrist, and Saint Michael will defend the Church again, and succeed in killing the beast which is the antichrist.

III. Let us consider how Saint Michael is the watchful guardian of the whole Church and of everyone of her children until the end of the world.

He governs her constantly and is the channel that guides torrents of graces of the whole mystical body.

Today again, the church of Christ experiences all these fights which we have described. That is why every Christian must call upon the invincible arm of the archangel, the defender of the Church. In these sad days, heresy, impiety and iniquity, boasting with the name of justice, give to the Church a terrible persecution, so much more cruel because it puts on the mask of hypocrisy.

Every snare is set for the faithful to lose faith in their mind and turn away from the See of Saint Peter the Apostle, center of Catholicism. Satan creates confusion and stirs up passions and the clash of false ideas. Thus, every Christian must pray, with a humble confidence, to the Chief of Angels, so that he may send the heavenly hosts to guard the Church and make her gain the victory.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, chief of the Heavenly hosts, victor of wicked spirits and protector of the Church, free those who have recourse to you in adversity.

Through your ministry and intercession, grant that we may ever make progress in the service of God.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, pillar of the Holy Church.

PRACTICE

You will do 15 minutes of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, for the exaltation and defence of the Catholic Church.

(Hymn)

XXIVth DAY OF THE MONTH

24th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS CHARITY TOWARDS THE VICAR OF CHRIST

I. The special love of Saint Michael for the Church manifests itself especially in the protection, guardianship and defence of the Sovereign Pontiff, who presides over the destinies of the Church, as the Pastor of pastors, a visible chief, and the center of Catholicism.

He has solicitude for all the churches; and the redoubtable task of saving all the faithful, watching over them, keeping them, and leading them to the eternal pastures.

If the zeal of Saint Michael is great in his protecting the faithful, it is more special even towards the one who is the foundation of the faith and the chief of believers.

That is why the Archangel watches first on the Vicar of Almighty God, who is Christ on earth.

II. Let us consider the zeal with which Saint Michael has watched over and defended the Roman Pontiffs.

He freed Saint Peter, chief of the apostles, from the hands of Herod and the prison of Jerusalem.

Then, he appeared to him in Rome, helped and protected him against the craftiness of Simon the

magician. In 536, St Agapit the Ist was assisted and encouraged by him, during his visit in Constantinople to convince Justinian to drive his army away from Italy.

Before leaving for Constantinople, the holy Pope implored the protection of Saint Michael and went to his sanctuary on Mount Gargano.

The Archangel helped him convert Justinian to the faith, resist courageously Emperess Theodora who was granting her favors to the schismatics, and save Rome.

He protected St Gregory the Great during the plague of 590. He helped Pope Leo IX resist the Norsemen who had taken possession of the Papal Estates.

Defeated, they submitted humbly and restored the Church's possessions.

He watched over, and defended Pope Calixt II who, on the very day of Saint Michael's Feast, received from the Emperor assurance of peace, as a promise to the Church.

The Archangel has kept the Roman pontiffs so unswerving and firm in the faith, that not even one of them has ever erred in the faith, and all of them have kept it unchanged throughout the centuries.

III. Let us consider the attachment and veneration with which the Roman Church's hierarchy always honored Saint Michael, in order to deserve his protection. Pope St Gelase wanted to see with his own eyes the wonders of Mount Gargano's grotto; he instituted the solemnity of the apparition of the Archangel on May 8 ; the one of the Basilica's dedication on September 29; he added

a few words to the mass' preface, to praise Angels, and composed a hymn for the office of Saint Michael. Pope Alexander III visited also the basilica on Mount Gargano and gained the victory over Frederick Barberousse.

PRAYER

O powerful protector of the Catholic Church, defender of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, to you, after the Holy Trinity and the Virgin Mary, goes our hope, in the difficult times which afflict the successor of Saint Peter. Grant to send your Angels to enlighten, comfort and sustain him in the fight that he is waging against hell and the infernal enemy which assails him.

Grant that the heart of the Sovereign Pontiff may rejoice at the sight of justice and peace, in blossom again among the faithful and nations; faith spreading out ever more in remote countries, and good works increasing unceasingly for God's greatest glory.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, worker in the field of the Lord, keep the Sovereign Pontiff, chief of the Catholic Church.

PRACTICE

You will be registered for the missionary work of the propagation of faith, and help them with both your prayers and almsgiving.

(Hymn)

XXVth DAY OF THE MONTH

25th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS MAINTAINING PEACE

I. He is the Angel of peace, because peace is serenity of the soul, and because he forces wicked spirits away from souls.

When she praises Saint Michael, the Church uses three names: Chief of the heavenly hosts, Angel of victory and Angel of peace. These three names are synonymous, for, fighting against devils, defeating them and obtaining peace, all have the same effect. Who else would deserve the title of a peace maker? He is the one who restored peace in heaven, by driving away the rebel Angels that had troubled it, and bringing serenity back into heaven, I admire you, o prince of peace.

II. Saint Michael obtains peace between man and God. The Church represents him imploring for pity and forgiveness before the throne of the divine majesty. The object of his ministry, soothing the wrath of God and imploring his forgiveness, is peace and reconciliation between God and man. The Archangel's heart is filled with clemency and piety, and can desire but peace and reconciliation; because of his great love, he also works to

move man to regret his sins, and in the same time he begs God not to get angry. Thus, through his efficient prayers, he obtains reconciliation and peace.

III. Likewise, he loves to put peace in homes and families. Just like he cannot stand discord in heaven, in the same way, he cannot stand to see agitation and enmity in the hearts of men, or discord among parents and in families; his thoughts are thoughts of peace.

Therefore, whoever wants to see peace reigning among parents and families must invoke the Holy Archangel and pray to him with confidence.

O Christian, take the prince of the heavenly host as the protector and defender of your soul; pray him to maintain peace in your home and family, and quietness, serenity and peace in your heart. And if you work for your salvation, you shall deserve to enjoy peace forever.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, Angel of peace and charity, I have recourse to you and I implore your intercession, before the divine goodness. Be my advocate and grant me peace of heart.

Trusting in your assistance, grant that peace may reign in my family. Through your prayers, give victory and tranquillity to the Church.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, worker of victory and Angel of peace; pray for peace and for our salvation.

PRACTICE

You will mortify your eyes and your mouth.
(Hymn)

XXVIth DAY OF THE MONTH

26th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS OBTAINING PREDESTINATION

I. Saint Michael loves so much those who pray to him that he obtains them predestination. The Church calls him: "The standard-bearer of salvation", not only because he carries the cross, sign of our redemption and salvation, but because he marks the elect souls with an invisible seal, so that they may not be damned. That is how Saint John describes him to us in the Apocalypse, when he sees him, coming from the East with the sign of the living God in his hand, crying to the four Angels and to the sea not to do any harm, before he has marked the servants of God on their foreheads. He marks the elect with the sign of predestination.

The antichrist marks his followers; likewise, Saint Michael marks the predestinate. Pray to the Archangel to mark the sign of predestination on your forehead.

II. Standing by the throne of the Holy Trinity, Saint Michael receives graces from her, in order to communicate them to the souls elected to predestination. As written by Saint Bonaventure, he raises a barrier against evil, resists our enemies, drives them away by force, enlightens us

and excites us to penance; he prays and obtains the graces of salvation.

Furthermore, he fortifies, strengthens and comforts us in the exercise of virtue, reveals to us the mysteries of heaven, sets our hearts aflame with heavenly desires, carries our good works and merits before God and introduces the elect into heaven. He is powerful enough to make us defeat the world, the flesh and the devil, which are the three enemies of our souls.

The universe created obeys his commands, just like, of old in heaven, God willed to triumph over Lucifer through him. If the Church teaches that the prayer to Saint Michael leads the elect into heaven, who, then, will not be saved, if he has invoked him?

III. Consider, o Christian, that of all the fears man has in his heart, the greatest is not knowing if he will be among the predestinate. If it is certain that a degree of predestination exists, if it is certain that the number of the elect has been set, it is also uncertain for man to know whether or not his name will be written on the book of life. God has reserved this knowledge for himself alone, and without a special revelation, man cannot know it. That is why one reads in the life of saints that, even though they were living in virtue and in a heroic holiness, they would tremble at this thought. Now, among the signs of moral certainty given by theologians concerning predestination, the most important is the devotion to Saint Michael, for

he is the support of elected souls.

Therefore, if you want to save your soul, pray, love and honor the heavenly Archangel; honor him by the holiness of your life, emulate his humility, sweetness, goodness, obedience, purity and love for God and his neighbor.

Promise him not to spend a single day without honoring and invoking him; he shall help you in the painful journey of this world, and introduce your soul into paradise.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, I praise and bless you for the power with which God enriched you. Count me among your servants. Obtain me from God the grace to serve him faithfully; assist me with your protection; make me strong against the temptations of hell, so that through you, I may arrive into heaven, and enjoy God forever.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, mark my soul with the seal of predestination

PRACTICE

You will not speak badly about anyone, and if you have done so in the past, you will do reparation for it.

(Hymn)

XXVIIth DAY OF THE MONTH

27th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL TOWARDS THE DYING

I. Great is the charity of Saint Michael, who helps those who invoke him and assists them, not only during their life, but also at the hour of their death. God has given him power over all the souls who are about to leave this world. On May 8 and September 29, the Church celebrates solemnly the Holy Archangel; that is in spring and fall, thence the comparison of saint Bonaventure, on the protection of the faithful, both when they are born to, and when they leave this world.

Saint Pantaleon calls him the visitor of the sick. When your parents cannot help you any longer, your friends abandon you, and riches become useless, then comes Saint Michael, to visit, comfort, console and help his servants.

II. The moment of death is terrible, because of the violence of the devil's assaults against the soul, about to leave this world. Through the hardest temptations, he comes to aggravate your fright, he redoubles his assaults, and sustains a cruel war for the eternal loss of the soul.

The dying person is by him tempted of distrust,

despair and pride; even the greatest saints have feared the last moment. Heroes of penance, like Saint Hilarion, who had lived in all sorts of mortifications for 70 years, dreaded that instant. What will happen to you Christian? Fortunately, God has given you Saint Michael, to help you overcome the dangers of this dreadful fight.

Often turn towards the Archangel, and pray him to defend you at the hour of your death.

III. His goodness towards his faithful servants is so great that, often, in order that their death be holy, he converted them and prepared them for a good death.

Saint Wilfrid, having fallen seriously ill, Saint Michael appeared to him, told him he would die in 4 years, and cured him miraculously; 10 years earlier, he had warned Saint Cuduald of the day of his death. To Saint Frontorius the Anchorite, he promised to come assist him with other Angels at the hour of his death. Who would not love the Holy Archangel, for all the benefits he has poured forth on those who love him, both during their life and at their last moments?

Honor him with respect and through a life of purity, so that, at the hour of your death, when your family will be left helpless to assist you, he may come and help you, defend you against the devil and carry your soul into heaven.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, when the hour of my death comes, assist me in my agony, defend me in the last fight, so that my soul may not perish in the judgement which I dread.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, appointed by God to receive all the righteous souls; welcome my soul at the hour of my death.

PRACTICE

Kissing your crucifix, you will say: "Into your hands, o Lord, I commend my heart and soul". "Saint Michael, I entrust myself to you".

(Hymn)

XXVIIIth DAY OF THE MONTH

28th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS HELPING THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

I. Saint Michael does not content himself with exercising his charity towards those who honor him during their life and at their death, but he relieves them also in Purgatory, where they comply with divine justice. In the service for the Dead, the Church sings that holy souls are introduced by him into paradise. As soon as they are purified from their pains due to sin, he makes them come out of the prison of Purgatory and leads them from darkness to heavenly light. During their trial in purgatory, he offers his merits up in their favor, is granted mercy and frees them from this place of torments.

II. So much to say how salutary is the prayer of the Archangel for souls in Purgatory. The soul of a young man, whose name was William, appeared to a holy monk and revealed him that he could not see God, as long as one would not have prayed Saint Michael for him. The monk prayed and had others pray to Saint Michael, and the soul of the young man entered paradise right away.

Souls who have a devotion to the Prince of Angels are fortunate, even after death, for if they are in

purgatory, they know that he will help them to come out of it. So many titles and motives to pray to, and love Saint Michael.

III. Consider o Christian, how easy it is to fall into purgatory, how painful to stay there, and difficult to come out of it. A fault, a curiosity, or an unnecessary word make us deserve this fire! Many are the torments of souls in purgatory. This fire is more cruel than all the pains of life. All the sufferings and torments of this life are nothing, in comparison with the fire of purgatory, from which one does not come out before being wholly purified. What will happen to you, for your defaults and the venial sins to which you gave your consent? Who knows how long will be your purgatory? Therefore, pray to Saint Michael, to come and console you very quickly after your death, and free you from it.

PRAYER

Glorious Archangel, deign to take me under your protection. You are my father, my friend, my advocate, my consoler and my relief. Through your charity, do not abandon me, either during my life and at death, or later. Then, free me from the flames of purgatory. If I fall into this fire, help me quickly and take me with you, to enjoy God in heaven.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, who lead souls into the holy light.

PRACTICE

You will have a mass celebrated for souls in purgatory in honor of Saint Michael, and you will attend it. You will receive holy communion for them in his honor.

(Hymn)

XXIXth DAY OF THE MONTH

29th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS POWER AGAINST THE ANTICHRIST

I. The war that the devil started against God in heaven and which he is still waging on earth will cease only with the end of the world. Then, it will be even more cruel, for the devil, knowing that he has but little time left, will stir up tribulations and persecutions everywhere against the faithful, says Jesus in the Gospel, worse that all that the world has ever seen before. The antichrist, assisted by devils, will work such prodigies, that even the faithful would be mistaken, if that was possible. Everywhere, it will be the time of apostasy, the languishing faith of Christians will be weakened even more by persecutions, and only a small number will remain strong in the faith and be martyred by the antichrist. He will make people adore him like God, and many will let themselves be seduced by him, and will believe in him.

II. Appointed by God the chief of his Church, Saint Michael will not fail to defend her against the haughty and impious war of the antichrist, who will be Satan's instrument against her. After Mary, no one but Saint Michael will assist her better in this final fight.

In the person of the antichrist, the devil will concentrate all his malice, and Saint Michael will use all his zeal in defending the honor of God, Christ and the Church.

III. Let us consider how great is the power of Saint Michael, and numerous the triumphs of this heavenly warrior; find shelter under the wings of such a chief, and pray to him unceasingly, so that he may free you from the seductions of the antichrist's supporters, who are not in small number, in these times of iniquity.

Many Christians spread erroneous opinions against morals, the Gospel and the Church's discipline. They induce others into error and seduce ignorant and weak souls. Their bad examples lead others to their perdition.

Pray Saint Michael the Archangel to enlighten you, so that you do not fall into error, and strengthen your heart against corruption and iniquity, so that it may remain pure and ardent in the love and service of God. Moreover, pray him to glorify Holy Church, and give her the victory over heresies and impieties.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, defend us in battles ; may your powerful arm defend the Church against Satan and his supporters, who do not cease to despise, insult, afflict and persecute her. Saint Peter's boat has been entrusted to you.

Both in her and in us, increase faith, revive hope, fortify charity, make us resist Jesus Christ's enemies and grant us to triumph through faith.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, minister of the Lord and his armies, defender of Christian faith. Defend me against the enemies of faith.

PRACTICE

You will mortify your pride through interior and exterior acts of humility.

(Hymn)

XXXth DAY OF THE MONTH

30th Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS POWER AT THE LAST JUDGEMENT

I. The charity of Saint Michael towards the faithful will be exercised also at the last judgement, when he will present the predestinate into heaven, at the sound of Saint Michael's trumpet the mysteries of the elect's glorification and the reprov'd's damnation shall be unveiled. At the sound of the trumpet, all the dead shall rise again.

What a great authority! What a powerful voice, which shall resound in the four winds and be heard even from the center of the earth! Graves opened shall return their scattered ashes and souls shall reintegrate their bodies.

II. Then, by Jesus Christ, the sovereign judge, shall be approved and confirmed the life or death sentences, already passed at the particular judgement.

Subsequently, the chief of the heavenly hosts and standardbearer shall mark the elect's foreheads with the seal of eternal predestination.

Lastly, with the help of his Angels, he shall separate the just from among the wicked and place the wicked at his left hand, and the elect at his right, and give palms to the latter, as a token of their victory.

III. At the universal judgement, it shall be given to the glorious Archangel to rejoice the elect by the announcement of eternal glory, proclaiming the sovereign judge's sentence : "Come forth, you whom my Father has blessed, and take possession of the kingdom that has been prepared for you since the beginning of the world".

As it is said by Origene, he shall be the intendant of the Lord's vineyard, appointed to give the righteous, after this life, their reward for their good deeds.

Be consoled, o Christian, for Saint Michael is the protector and advocate of the predestinate. Serve and honor him, pray to him, for he is the one who, one day, shall put upon your head the crown of glory.

PRAYER

Glorious Saint Michael, through your boundless charity, do not abandon me and make me worthy of your special assistance. Be my advocate and consoler before God on judgement day, and take me with you to heaven, to enjoy the eternal delights with which God inebriates his elect.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, to whom God entrusted souls to be cared for; count me in the number of the elect, so that I may be placed into the kingdom of heaven.

PRACTICE

You will practice almsgiving to the poor.
(Hymn)

XXXIst DAY OF THE MONTH

31st Meditation

Michael, Great Chief Dan. XII

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS VERY NAME

I. Let us consider how Saint Michael's very name is admirable. "Admirable is his name", this is what he answered to Samson's father (Judges XIII-18). Admirable is his name, whatever may be the way you want to interpret it. It can mean two opposite things: Humility of God or Chastisement of God.

Humility of God, through the solicitude with which the Archangel bends down on the humble and the unfortunate, loving the humble and raising the little.

Chastisement of God, through the terror that he inspires to the impious. He lowered himself to console Adam the sinner, gave comfort to Jacob, fed and encouraged Elias, and kept Danief safe among the lions, but he was, and still is also the terror of Satan and devils.

II. Let us consider how admirable and mysterious is the name of Michael, which also means "Defence". By his presence and his protection, he consoles men, defends them against devils with great power, helps them with

all his force and brings assistance to those who implore him.

He is invoked by the little, the humble and the weak, and all are defended by him.

III. Lastly, his name also means: "Who is like God!", which expresses his humility, despite his nature's exceptional gifts of grace and glory. Being the noblest among all spirits, he acknowledges his nothingness before God, and such a humility gives glory to, and exalts God. "In spite of the gifts that I have," he says to God, "I cannot resemble you". Learn, o Christian, how to venerate the name of Saint Michael, and pronounce it with respect and confidence, every time that the devil threatens you with trials, and you shall enjoy its admirable results.

PRAYER

Glorious Saint Michael, your name is great and glorious; blessed be God for having given it to you himself. After Jesus and Mary, there is no other name, among creatures, that be more powerful and more admirable than yours. May your name be my help in dangers, my support in falls, my relief in anguish, my comfort in sorrows and my happiness against the infernal enemy, during my life and at the hour of death.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, whose name is so venerable and so sweet.

PRACTICE

You will say 9 times "Blessed be the name of Saint Michael" and recite 9 times the "Gloria Patri" to the Holy Trinity, to thank her for the name that she gave the chief of Angels.

(Hymn)

**NOVENA
IN HONOR OF SAINT MICHAEL
(MEDITATIONS)**

1st DAY OF THE NOVENA

**GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL
IN AUTHORITY**

I. Among all the names given to Saint Michael the Archangel, none gives more brilliance to his dignity than the one which contains the name of God: "Est Nomen meum in illo" (In him is my name) Exod XXIII, 21".

In Hebrew, God is called "Jehovah", which means the supreme majesty, and Lord of all creatures; and "Elohim", which means: orderer of the world, judge and avenger of sin. Saint Michael, who is named after God, takes part in his divine authority to rule the world, govern men, and punish them as a judge, for the outrages they commit against God.

Just like God raised Moises and gave him authority over the pharao, by appointing him a chief, judge and avanger, in the same way, God has places Saint Michael to be our chief and our judge. Therefore, what must be his majesty ? A dignity somewhat similar to God's, a majesty or reflection of God, the majesty that scared the guards at the sepulchre of Christ, when, on Easter dawn, he went to roll the stone.

II. How great must be our respect for the Archangel if he rules, governs and judges us! If he has to punish our faults, how greatly must we, within ourselves, have them in horror and aversion, and fly from them, even the

smallest ones! If he is the "Vicar of God", what should be our veneration for him! Saint Bernard tells us to have a great respect when we utter the name of Saint Michael. If he has the solicitude of our salvation, then we must fear nothing under his protection. After Jesus and Mary, there is no power superior to his, and no one can defeat him. He is powerful and prudent, what shall we fear? Let us have confidence in his protection and we shall lack nothing to work our salvation.

III. Saint Michael takes care of us, to drive evil away, especially moral evil; he takes us away from danger by an inner foreboding, and above all, in bad occasions, which he feels will be fatal to virtue. Without these forebodings, of which we ignore the exact meaning, we would have been lost. Therefore, may respect and confidence be rendered to the Archangel, who is so watchful in guiding and preserving us from physical and moral evil, and in defending us; this must increase in us our motives to put our trust in his protection.

PRAYER

Bowing deeply before you, Saint Michael, representative of God on earth and our protector, I give you thanks for all your benefits, and for having freed me from corporal and spiritual dangers. I entrust myself to you in order to be led in wisdom and obtain eternal salvation.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, minister of the Holy Trinity.

PRACTICE

You will avoid useless words.
(Hymn)

2nd DAY OF THE NOVENA

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL, REFLECTION OF THE DIVINITY

I. The dignity of Saint Michael is so great that it resembles the Holy Trinity's. Saint Pantaleon calls him the "Minister of the Trinity, image of the three divine persons".

In him resplends the power of the Father, for he performs numerous wonders; the wisdom of the Son, for he is the doctor and master of Angels whom he has enlightened and saved; the goodness of the Holy Spirit, because he is the benefactor and advocate of men.

II. Saint Michael is the reflection of divinity, because he expresses her attributes, that is, sovereignty, goodness, glory, power, justice and providence. God used him as if he were his own arm.

Habacuc the prophet was carried by him from Judea to Babylon. Moses could not look at him in the face; for 10 years, he led the Hebrews across the desert by a cloud in the daytime, and a column of fire at night, feeding them with manna.

III. Dignity embellishes authority. There is a kind of dignity which comes from pride, like beauty and riches. But the dignity that comes from God is grounded

on virtue. Now, Saint Michael's dignity is the fruit of his zeal, and a reward for his merits and great virtues.

What dignity did you acquire through virtue, o Christian? What are your merits? Does not your dignity dwell in your pride, and on your vanity or riches? Did you often try to practice humility, mildness and obedience?

Enter within yourself and consider that your dignity is carrying your cross in humility, for the one who humbles himself shall be raised up in dignity.

PRAYER

Be blessed, Almighty God, for all the benefits and graces you give us, and for the dignity with which you vested Saint Michael. And you, heavenly chief, and most worthy representative of God, defend before God the cause of my salvation. Grant me your lights, to know my dignity as a Christian, and keep it through a virtuous life.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, superior in your dignity and honor to all other angelical spirits.

PRACTICE

You will mortify your life by putting a guard to your eyes.

(Hymn)

3rd DAY OF THE NOVENA

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL AS VICAR OF THE MOST-HIGH

I. Let us consider that the created world has never seen and will never see as excellent a dignity as Saint Michael's, after the dignity of the Mother of Christ; for God has appointed him his vicar on earth. Great was the dignity of Daniel with Nabuchodonosor, and Joseph's, with pharao, but neither of them had the name of the great king, nor the authority of the Archangel, who is close to God by both his authority and name.

II. The dignity of God's vicar is such that Saint Michael is named: the pre-eminent Angel of the Lord, Angel in primacy, obeyed and respected by other Angels as if he were God. When Jacob had faught for the whole night with Saint Michael, he said: "I have seen the face of God", for S. Pantaleon and S. Paulin asserted that the Angel who faught against Jacob indeed was Saint Michael.

Samson's father told his wife: "We shall die, because we have seen God". Now, they had seen Saint Michael.

How great is the dignity of God's vicar!

III. Therefore, what a great respect, honor and cult is due to the Archangel, as vicar of God! In her liturgy,

the Church sings that all Angels honor him in heaven, and God himself wants him to be honored on earth as in heaven, and even in hell which trembles before him.

God himself commanded Moses to have him be honored by the Hebrew people. In the life of Saint Bridget, it can be read that Jesus Christ commanded her to raise a church in his honor, and erect an altar to Saint Michael in this church.

Learn, o Christian, to honor Saint Michael, whom God himself wanted to honor a great deal.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, vicar of God on earth and in heaven, I honor you and I rejoice for your dignity, with all Angels. I pray you to remember me, sinner, by obtaining me, from God, to be forgiven for my faults, in order to be able to glorify God with you forever.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, vicar of God.

PRACTICE

You will visit a church dedicated to Saint Michael, and pray for 15 minutes for peace and concord among nations.

(Hymn)

4th DAY OF THE NOVENA

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS PRIMACY OVER ANGELS

I. When Lucifer had fallen from heaven through his sin of pride, Saint Michael occupied his place and became the chief of all good Angels, while Lucifer became the chief of rebel Angels. That is why the Church calls Saint Michael "The Chief of angelical hosts"; and again, the Chief of chiefs of Angels, according to the words of Gabriel the Archangel to David the prophet: "Michael, the first among the main chiefs". Holy Scripture gives proof of this primacy by some facts. Saint Michael commanded Gabriel the Archangel to explain the vision to Daniel. The former obeyed immediately, even though he is among the first ones among angelical spirits.

Through this primacy, Saint Michael surpasses in dignity all Angels, and all the kings of the earth.

II. Saint Michael exercises his primacy over the nine choirs of Angels. What if a king would reign over the five parts of the world, what a nobility! What a greatness! What a wonder! Not only does he reign over nations and men, but he does also over the choirs of Angels, that no one can number. They are more numerous than the stars in the sky, the grains of sand in the sea, or the leaves on trees. His primacy is exercised equally over the

seraphim, cherubim, thrones, dominions, virtues, powers, principalities, Archangels and Angels.

God has marked Saint Michael with the seal of his greatness. Saint Michael surpasses, and reigns over the most saint seraphim, the wisest cherubim, the highest thrones, the majesty of dominions, the force of powers and the glory of virtues and principalities; he has the nobility of Archangels and Angels.

III. Let us consider how great is the love of God for Saint Michael, by willing his primacy over angelical choirs.

God has loved you also, o Christian, for, when he created you, he made you participate in divine nature.

Do you know how to keep this dignity and honor?

Have not you debased your dignity through sin? Humble yourself before the chief of Angels and pray him to live under his protection, according to the dignity which God has conferred to you, by giving you his grace, which is the greatest gift of all.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, amiable chief of Angels, be my advocate before divine majesty and grant me the grace to keep, and live out my title of son of God, so that I may be found worthy to be close to you in heaven.

SALUTATION

*Hail, Saint Michael, chief of the heavenly hosts,
leader of Angels, worthy of veneration and praise.*

PRACTICE

You will have a picture of Saint Michael, which
you will salute when entering and leaving your house.
(Hymn)

5th DAY OF THE NOVENA

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN GRANTING GUARDIAN ANGELS

I. Saint Michael's authority is so great that it befalls
to him to give guardian Angels to men, as it is written by
Saint Bruno.

This task is his for two reasons: first, because he
is the chief of Angels and the vicar of God; that is why
he governs Angels, and give his duty and ministry to each
one; then because he received the government of men,
and consequently he has to defend and protect them, using
guardian Angels. Having received from him an Angel to
guide us, we owe him much gratitude.

II. It is with a great love that Saint Michael keeps
the faithful, which means: those who live according to
the faith, after the very etymology of the word.

As soon as they are born, he assigns them an
Angel, in charge of guarding and defending their very
person from all moral and physical evil; however, he
needs the cooperation of the subject, who has to respect
his presence and listen to his voice, and he is also in
charge of defending and guiding him. While the devil,
as Saint Peter says, is always wandering about us, as a
starving lion, on the look-out for its prey and trying to
devour it; Saint Michael, who is an attent father and a
watchful friend ever fighting on the foreline, sends Angels

around the faithful to repel the infernal enemy and his assaults. His affection for the faithful surpasses the one of Angels, for he takes care of all men and not satisfied with his sending Angels, he himself watches over the special needs of each one. He gives orders to Angels to take the defence of the faithful, him whom Daniel calls: "The vigilant". Jacob and Elisea saw legions of Angels coming to them. Therefore, the Archangel works, now in a visible way, and now in an invisible one.

III. Therefore, how great must be our veneration for Saint Michael, for this noble act of charity!

Jesus recommends in the Gospel not to despise any little child, for God has committed an Angel to guard him. If we could, in a great light, acknowledge the greatness of his authority, and perceive the splendours of his majesty, then we would praise and glorify him at all times as Angels do themselves, as it is asserted by the Church, praising and venerating him. To us befalls to act after their example.

PRAYER

Glorious Saint Michael, I praise and bless you with Angels in heaven, for your authority, and the ineffable gift of a guardian Angel; deign to cast your watchful eyes on the sinner that I am; and send your Angel in my necessities, to defend me from the devil and from dangers, and keep me in the grace of God.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, guardian of the faithful.

PRACTICE

You will give homage to your guardian Angel, pray to him and never despise his inspirations.
(Hymn)

6th DAY OF THE NOVENA

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS SOVEREIGN POWER OVER DEVILS

I. Saint Michael is the minister of God's justice and he exercises a great power over devils. The Scripture calls him: "Extermination", because he crushed the devil in heaven and will defeat him until the end of the world.

Jean Gerson, Paris' Chancellor, remarks that he sustained a double fight against Lucifer in heaven: the first one through reasoning, in order to convince him to humble himself before the Creator; and the second, through his obstination, to strike him down by the power of his zeal and cast him into the abyss. Since that day, says S. Bruno, his power over devils became so great that he became their main enemy, their exterminator, as shown by S. John the Apostle in the Apocalypse.

II. Now, this power over devils is really great, and beyond anything we can imagine, The Apocalypse reports that Saint Michael tied the devil down with a chain and cast him into hell. Lucifer is called a dragon for his violence, a snake for his astuteness, a devil for his arrogance, great through his infernal power, and Satan, that is to say the adversary.

III. Devils have the power to mislead by their lies, confound by their jealousy and malevolence, and punish by their wickedness. But Saint Michael's power is greater, to guide man against all diabolical artefacts, which he destroys, scatters, and annihilates.

He defeated them in heaven; he does the same everyday in the Church, and in souls on earth. Therefore, he is called "The Angel of victory, the worker of victory".

O Christian, in your heart, the devil never ceases to fight through renewed assaults, temptations, lies and artefacts. Have recourse to Saint Michael and you shall gain the victory.

PRAYER

O powerful minister of divine Justice, come to my help, for the devil never ceases to wage a merciless war against me, Repress his audacity and arrogance and succor me. I entrust myself to your powerful protection, to triumph over the devil and be saved.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, victorious over devils.

PRACTICE

In temptations, you will invoke Saint Michael. "Saint Michael, defend me in the fight".

(Hymn)

7th DAY OF THE NOVENA

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN PARADISE

I. The Church calls Saint Michael “The chief of paradise”, “Praepositus paradisi”. Therefore, she raises him to the greatest honor that can ever be made to a creature.

Like Peter, here below, has been appointed the Church’s visible chief and the vicar of Christ, in the same way, Saint Michael is, through God’s will in heaven, the chief of the triumphant Church, the closest one to God’s throne, the most powerful and highest in dignity.

II. Pharaoh, king of Egypt, had placed all the business of his kingdom in the hands of Joseph and had raised him in dignity, making him almost an equal to himself in power. In the same way, Saint Michael has been appointed by God over all the matters of the militant and triumphant Church. He presides and watches over everything. His power and protection are boundless over Angels, Saints, the righteous, and all men. He has everything and everyone under his orders.

In heaven, he communicates his charity to the ardent seraphim, his majesty to thrones, his nobility to dominions, his power to powers; his wonderful force to virtues, his vigilance to principalities, his providence to Archangels, and his faithfulness to Angels.

And in the militant Church, no victory can be gained without him, no difficulty solved without his intervention; no necessity leaves him indifferent; an officer in paradise, he has the same title in the holy Church.

May God be blessed for having raised Saint Michael in such a way!

III. The whole earth has resounded with the names of Saint Michael’s benefits and every day can narrate his benefits and tell of his power. That is why one has to pray to him frequently, for there is no one that ever had recourse to him, and was not heard. Those who love him are strong with his power against hell and the world. Those who put their trust in him always find him by their side, as a delicate and distinguished benefactor.

You must avoid inspiring disgust to him by wrongdoing, because then, instead of giving consolation, he chastises. If we please him through a holy life, he will assist us in all our spiritual and temporal needs.

PRAYER

O glorious chief of the kingdom of heaven, I prostrate before you. I rejoice at the idea that you are so great through the will of God. May all the peoples on earth acknowledge you as their protector and honor you like the Angels and saints do in heaven.

May I receive your beneficts every day and obtain the grace to ever observe the law of God with failfulness.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, who are worthy, after the Virgin Mary, to be loved and honored more than all creatures of heaven and earth.

PRACTICE

You will prepare your confession for Saint Michael's day.

(Hymn)

8th DAY OF THE NOVENA

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN BEATITUDE

I. Saint Michael is the angel shown to us by the Apocalypse, wearing on his head a crown of three different colors, a symbol for his glory and pre-eminence over the blessed.

According to St Thomas' teachings, the aureola is a special reward, a sign for a special triumph. In heaven, it is given to virgins, martyrs and doctors.

Indeed, virgins have won the battle over the flesh; martyrs have triumphed over the world; and doctors over heresies. But the aureola of doctors is more brilliant, because they have faught the battle with their intelligence, for the sake of eternal truth.

How brilliant must be the aureola of Saint Michael, which casts its light on doctors, and educates not only men but Angels even.

II. Indeed, it is for having educated Angels even, that Saint Michael is enjoying such a high degree of glory in heaven; he is the chief of Angels and doctors.

On Judgement day, even doctors will appear before him. Around them will be present all those they have educated with the holy doctrine, and who have put it into practice. But around Saint Michael, how many

Angels and doctors will be present, as jewels on his crown of glory!

Saint Peter will have before him all the first Christians that he converted through his speech; Saint John, the faithful from Asia; Saint Andrew, the faithful from Achaia; other apostles and doctors will be surrounded with an innumerable throng of souls that they will have saved; but, as for Saint Michael, he will have around him all the apostles and doctors, and all the elect.

III. Let us consider how all the elect add even more glory to the crown of the Archangel, by acclaiming him as their father and defender against Lucifer; as their doctor, since he preached the truth to them; and as their savior; for he snatched them from hell.

All the peoples that he is leading to the heavenly Jerusalem also increase the splendor of his crown of glory and triumph; to them he lavishly granted benefits and his protection, for them to be worthy of heaven.

O incomparable glory of Saint Michael! Emulate, o Christian, the protection of King Ferdinand of Portugal, who prayed to him every day and honored him through his fastings and mortifications, in order to prepare for his feast days. Emulate Saint Francis of Assisi, who prayed to him assiduously, and from him you will be granted everything you need.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, through the glory which radiates from you among Angels and Saints, obtain me from the Blessed Trinity the virtues and graces which I need, in order to reach the eternal happiness. Grant that I also, in heaven, may increase the glory of your crown, for having been saved through your protection.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, raised so high in the presence of God, and dressed in the garment of glory.

PRACTICE

You will abstain from some food or drink you like, in honor of Saint Michael.

(Hymn)

9th DAY OF THE NOVENA

GREATNESS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN HIS PROTECTION

I. The glory Saint Michael enjoys in heaven mainly comes from the protection he exercises on Angels, and the one he never ceases to extend on men, from the investiture of God himself.

This protection does not cover only a single family, or single nation, or city, or kingdom, but it covers the family of men in its universality: he has been conferred this protection because of his merits. Just like Pharaoh intrusted the whole of Egypt to Joseph, and appointed him a master over all his possessions, in the same way, God, by raising Saint Michael, appointed him a master of the heavenly court, close to him; to him he entrusted the inexhaustible treasures of his grace, to be spread among men. According to Pharaoh's orders, no one could enter or come out from Egypt without Joseph's consent; no one can enter heaven without Saint Michael and no grace can descend from it without his mediation.

II. It is God's absolute will that Saint Michael be glorified on earth and that men may have recourse to him in their needs. When hunger started to be felt in Egypt, the people asked Pharaoh for wheat, and the latter told them to address Joseph: "Ite ad Joseph", "Go to Joseph".

To the peoples that are in misfortune, God says: "Go to Saint Michael, for he has the keys to my treasures, and he is my intendant and authorized agent". To everyone of us, God says: "The devil is putting you to the test, and you want to gain the victory over him: go to Saint Michael". He is the unfailing helper of Christians in wars, plague, calamities, famine, temptations and hardship. History is full of the wonders worked by the Archangel. The evils which he puts a term to cannot be counted any longer, and every people can tell of his benefits after they had invoked him.

III. But the surest way to obtain his protection remains to have a pure heart and forcefully keep purity in your soul. Being himself a pure spirit in the highest degree, he finds his pleasures in dwelling within pure hearts. A debased heart or a will attached to evil have never attracted the eyes of Saint Michael.

PRAYER

Saint Michael, I find shelter under the shield of your protection; being a sinner, I implore your protection to have the strength to go away from sin. Through your seraphic charity, grant me from Jesus Christ to keep his grace in my soul and body, far from any stain.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, whose name is glorious and famous throughout the whole world; spare me from sin.

PRACTICE

You will avoid venial sin because it is against the love of God and it offends him.

(Hymn)

SEPTEMBER 29, SAINT MICHAEL'S FEAST DAY

“ON THE PATRONAGE OF SAINT MICHAEL”

I. The Archangel's patronage turns beneficial, profitable and a consolation through his power and love. Love leads him to compassion, and penance grants you his help. Power and love make up his defence. His power? are his merits, close by God, which no one will ever be able to tell or count, and which make him so pleasing to God, so close to him, and his friend. If Moises and other prophets had a great power to command the weather, so much more for Saint Michael, who commands the beings of heaven and earth alike, as vicar of God.

II. His clemency and love for men picture his unequalled power in heaven. Through his wonderful charity, he is the first among seraphim, because more than every other Angel, he desires ardently the eternal happiness of men. Knowing that they are the members of Jesus Christ's mystical body, he wants to fill them with benefits; therefore, his charity leads him sometimes to perform humble ministries. Now, a fosterer, now, a physician, his charity saved rebel Angels, and still saves souls through the grace of conversion. For souls who repent, his charity implores God's pardon and makes grace live again in them, it drives lukewarmness away and keeps in compunction, it makes you surmount temptations, and defends you at the moment of death.

How radiant is Saint Michael's charity!

III. If one would ask human kind about Saint Michael's charity through his patronage in every place, one would be amazed! Can we number his apparitions in France, Italy, Spain, Germany, America and England, not to mention his apparitions in favor of the Hebrews in the Old Testament. He gave many victories to Christian kings and emperors, and also to the Catholic Church, during persecutions, heresies and schisms.

He obtained the greatest benefits to peoples, cities and men; but as for the Christian people, he defends it in a very special way, in dangers and calamities of every kind.

You also, the Christian, manifest to him your anxieties, and invoke him in the needs of both your body and soul; he shall protect you, and never abandon you.

In the name of Saint Michael and under his patronage, all things become quiet and serene, everything finds appeasement and comes back to order, because devils run away before his face.

PRAYER

Angelical protector of the Catholic Church, protect her faithful who are your servants.

Through the charity and dignity with which you were clothed by God, remember us in our needs. I put myself under your protection, help me and defend me so that I may be saved.

SALUTATION

Hail, Saint Michael, take me under your protection.

PRACTICE

On this feast of Saint Michael, you will receive communion.

(Hymn)

PRAYERS TO SAINT MICHAEL

CONSECRATION TO SAINT MICHAEL

O great heavenly prince, and very faithful guardian of the Church, Saint Michael the Archangel, I... , though I am quite unworthy to appear before you, yet trusting your special goodness, and moved by the excellence of your admirable prayers and the multitude of your benefits, I dare appear before you, accompanied with my guardian Angel, that I choose to witness the devotion that I have towards you, I elect you today as my protector and particular advocate, and I firmly resolve to always honor you, and have you honored, through all my power. Assist me during my whole life, so that I never offend the very pure eyes of God, neither in works, nor thoughts. Defend me against all the temptations of the devil, especially in what regards faith and purity, and, at the moment of death, give peace to my soul and introduce her into the eternal fatherland. Amen.

(50 days of indulgence)

Theophile Marie

Bishop of Constances and Avranches.

Since then, he has remained attentive to the voices which, from the earth, implore his help and intercession, in order to fully perform his beautiful mission: to defend souls, societies and nations against wicked spirits. "Qui est ut Deus" remains his battle cry; may our great Saint Michael, through this triumphant cry and at the forefront of the heavenly hosts, restore concord and peace here below, through the reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL

O Saint Michael the Archangel, I join you in your adorations and thanksgiving towards God, and in your praises towards the Most Holy Virgin; please make up for my insufficiency.

Saint Michael, I consecrate myself to you, protect me today and during my whole life, and at the moment of my death.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle so that we may not perish on the dreadful day of judgement.

Saint Michael, pray for us, repel Satan and his supporters into hell and save the world.

(100 days of indulgence)

PETITION TO SAINT MICHAEL

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle, be our safeguard against the snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And you, prince of the heavenly host, repel into hell, through divine virtue, Satan and all wicked spirits, who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

VERY EFFECTIVE AND POWERFUL PRAYER AGAINST DEVILS

August Queen of Heaven, Sovereign Mistress of Angels, you who received from God the power and mission to crush the head of Satan, we humbly ask you to send your holy legions, so that under your command and through your power, they may chase devils, fight them everywhere, repress their boldness and repel them into the abyss.

Who is like God? O good and tender Mother, you will always be our love and hope! O Divine Mother, send holy angels to defend us and keep the cruel enemy away from us! Holy Angels and Archangels, defend us and keep us.

(300 days of indulgence, Pius X, July 3 1908)

PRAYER TO MARY, QUEEN OF ANGELS

O Mary, Queen of Angels, send me Saint Michael your Archangel, to defend and succor me during all my life, and assist me on my last moment.

O Immaculate Mary, our sweet Mediatrix who are the Queen of Heaven and earth, we beseech you very humbly, deign to intercede for us again. Ask God to send Saint Michael and his Angels to clear all the obstacles that hinder the reign of the Sacred Heart in souls, in families, and in the whole Christian society. Amen.

(Novena to Saint Michael)

Mary, our hope, have mercy on us.

(300 days of indulgence, Pius X, 1908)

Mother of Mercy, pray for us.

(S. Pent., 1927)

EXORCISM AGAINST SATAN AND THE REBELLIOUS ANGELS

Published by Order of H.H. Pope Leo XIII (translation)

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Glorious prince of the Celestial Host, St Michael the Archangel, defend us in the conflict which we have to sustain "against principalities and powers, against the rulers of this world of darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places" (Ephes. VI, 12). Come to the rescue of men, whom God has created to His image and likeness, and whom He has redeemed at a great price from the tyranny of the devil. It is thou whom Holy Church venerates as her guardian and her protector; thou whom the Lord has charged to conduct redeemed souls

into heaven. Pray, therefore, the God of Peace to subdue Satan beneath our feet, that he may no longer retain men captive nor do injury to the Church. Present our prayers to the Most High. That without delay they may draw His mercy down upon us. Seize “the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil and Satan”, bind him and cast him into the bottomless pit...” that he may no more seduce the nations”. (Apoc. XX, 2,3).

N.B. This prayer, composed to put the devil to flight, may preserve from great evils in the family and society, in particular, when it is said with fervor, even by the simple faithful. One can especially use it in cases where an action of the devil, manifesting itself, may be supposed: either through the wickedness of men, or through temptations, diseases, storms and calamities of every kind.

EXORCISM

In the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, strengthened by the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God, of Blessed Michael the Archangel, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and all the Saints, (and powerful in the holy authority of our ministry), we confidently undertake to repulse the attacks and deceits of the devil.

PSALM 67

(standing)

Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish away; as wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish in the presence of God.

V/. Behold the Cross of the Lord! flee, bands of enemies.

R/. The Lion of the Tribe of Juda, the Offspring of David, has conquered.

V/. May Thy mercy, Lord, descend upon us.

R/. As great as our hope in Thee.

We drive you from us, whoever you may be, unclean spirits, Satanic powers, infernal invaders, wicked legions, assemblies and sects. In the Name and by the virtue of Our Lord Jesus Christ +, may you be snatched away and driven from the Church of God and from the souls redeemed by the Precious Blood of the Divine Lamb +. Cease by your audacity, cunning serpent, to delude the human race, to persecute the Church, to torment God's elect, and to sift them as wheat +. This is the command made to you by the Most High God +, with Whom in your haughty insolence you still pretend to be equal +. The God “Who will have men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (I Tim. II, 4). God the Father commands you +; God the Son commands you +; God the Holy Ghost commands you +. Christ commands you +,

the Eternal Word of God made Flesh; He who to save our race, out-done through your malice, "humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death" (Phil. II, 8); He Who has built His Church on the firm rock and declared that the gates of hell shall not prevail against her, because He dwells with her "all days, even to the consummation of the world" (Matt. XXVIII, 20). The hidden virtue of the Cross requires it of you as does also the power of the mysteries of the Christian Faith +. The glorious Mother of God, the Virgin Mary, commands you + ; she who by her humility and from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception crushed your proud head. The faith of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul and of the other Apostles commands you +. The blood of the martyrs and the pious intercession of all the Saints command you +.

Thus, cursed dragon, and you, wicked legions, we adjure you by the living God +, by the true God +, by the holy God +, by the God Who "so loved the world as to give His only-begotten Son; that whosoever believes in Him may not perish but may have life everlasting" (John III, 16). Cease deceiving human creatures and pouring out to them the poison of eternal perdition; cease harming the Church and hindering her liberty. Retreat, Satan, inventor and master of all deceit, enemy of man's salvation. Cede the place to Christ in Whom you have found none of your works. Cede the place to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church acquired by Christ at the price of His Blood. Stoop beneath the all-powerful Hand of God, tremble and flee at the evocation of the holy and terrible

Name of Jesus, this Name which causes hell to tremble, this Name to which the Virtues, Powers, and Dominions of heaven are humbly submissive, this name which the Cherubim and Seraphim praise unceasingly, repeating: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord, the God of hosts.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer

R. And let my cry come unto Thee.

V. May the Lord be with thee.

R. And with thy spirit.

LET US PRAY

God of Heaven, God of earth, God of Angels, God of Archangels, God of Patriarchs, God of Prophets, God of Apostles, God of Martyres, God of Confessors, God of Virgins, God Who hast power to give life after death and rest after work: because there is no other God than Thee and there can be no other, for Thou art the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, of Whose reign there shall be no end, we humbly prostrate ourselves before Thy glorious majesty and we supplicate. Thee to deliver us from all the tyranny of infernal spirits, from their snares, and their furious wickedness. Deign, O Lord, to protect us by Thy power and to preserve us safe and sound. We beseech Thee through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the snares of the devil, deliver us, o Lord.

That Thy Church may serve Thee in peace and liberty: We beseech Thee to hear us.

That Thou wouldst crush down all enemies of Thy Church: We beseech Thee to hear us.

(Holy Water is sprinkled in the place where we may be).

LITANY IN HONOR OF SAINT MICHAEL

Lord, *have mercy on us.*

Christ, *have mercy on us.*

Lord, *have mercy on us.*

Christ, *hear us.*

Christ, *graciously hear us.*

God the Father, who are in Heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, *Redeemer of the world,*

God the Holy Ghost,

Holy Trinity, one God,

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*

Saint Michael, *pray for us.*

Saint Michael, chief of the nine choirs of Angels,

Saint Michael, chief of paradise,

Saint Michael, prince of the heavenly hosts,

Saint Michael, victorious over Satan,

Saint Michael, the favorite Angel of God,

Saint Michael, who stand next to the throne of God,

Saint Michael, defendor of God's honor,

Saint Michael, defender of Angels,

Saint Michael, defender of the Virgin Mary,

Saint Michael, defender of the Catholic Church,

Saint Michael, defender of the Sovereign Pontiff,

Saint Michael, defender of Catholic missions,

Saint Michael, defender of righteous souls,

Saint Michael, defender of peace,

Saint Michael, liberator of the souls in Purgatory,

Saint Michael, good towards sinners who converted,

Saint Michael, consoler of the afflicted and the oppressed,

Saint Michael, our intercessor before God,

Saint Michael, who give a guardian angel to every man,

Saint Michael, who present our prayers to God,

Saint Michael, who offer our good deeds to God,

Saint Michael, great through your faith and charity,

Saint Michael, ready to help the dying,

Saint Michael, who obtain predestination for the faithful,

Saint Michael, terror of devils,

Saint Michael, reflection of divinity,

Saint Michael, who exert your power over the Church and the world,

Saint Michael, strength of apostles and missionaries,

Saint Michael, light of doctors,

Saint Michael, support of martyrs,

Saint Michael, defender of confessors of the faith,

Saint Michael, adorned with every grace and virtue,

Saint Michael, guardian of virgins,

Saint Michael, benefactor of all souls,

Saint Michael, victorious over hell,

Saint Michael, our guide and our hope,
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Spare us o Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, o Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

V. Pray for us, Saint Michael the Archangel,

R. So that we may be made worthy of the promises of
Christ.

LET US PRAY

*Almighty and eternal God, who gave us Saint
Michael as a protector and defender, make that our
prayers obtain us to be always protected from every evil
and the fire of hell.*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANGELICAL CHAPLET

V. O God, come to my help.

R. Lord, hasten to my succor.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

1st Salutation

One Pater and three Ave to the first choir of
Angels.

Through the intercession of Saint Michael and
the heavenly choir of Seraphim, may the Lord make us
worthy to be enflamed with a perfect charity. Amen.

2nd Salutation

One Pater and three Ave to the second choir of
Angels.

Through the intercession of Saint Michael and
the heavenly choir of Cherubim, may the Lord grant us
the grace to abandon the way of sin and run on the one
of Christian perfection. Amen.

3rd Salutation

One Pater and three Ave to the third choir of
Angels.

Through the intercession of Saint Michael and the
heavenly choir of Thrones, may the Lord fill our hearts
with the spirit of a true and sincere humility. Amen.

4th Salutation

One Pater and three Ave to the fourth choir of
Angels.

Through the intercession of Saint Michael and
the heavenly choir of Dominions, may the Lord grant us
the grace to dominate our senses and mend our ways of

wicked passions. Amen.

5th Salutation

One Pater and three Ave to the fifth choir of Angels.

Through the intercession of Saint Michael and the heavenly choir of Powers, may the Lord deign to protect our souls against the snares and temptations of the devil. Amen.

6th Salutation

One Pater and three Ave to the sixth choir of Angels.

Through the intercession of Saint Michael and the admirable heavenly choir of Virtues, may the Lord not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

7th Salutation

One Pater and three Ave to the seventh choir of Angels.

Through the intercession of Saint Michael and the heavenly choir of Principalities, may the Lord fill our souls with the spirit of a true and sincere obedience. Amen.

8th Salutation

One Pater and three Ave to the eighth choir of Angels.

Through the intercession of Saint Michael and the heavenly choir of Archangels, may the Lord grant us the gift to persevere in faith and good deeds, in order to reach the glory of paradise. Amen.

9th Salutation

One Pater and three Ave to the ninth choir of Angels.

Through the intercession of Saint Michael and the heavenly choir of all Angels, may the Lord deign grant us to be kept by them during this mortal life, in order to be later conducted to the eternal glory of heaven. Amen.

Upon the request of Saint Michael the Archangel, finish with one Pater in his honor, one in honor of Saint Gabriel the Archangel, one in honor of Saint Raphael the Archangel and one in honor of you own guardian Angel.

HYMN IN HONOR OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Jesus, splendour and virtue of the Father, Jesus, the life of hearts, we praise you in union with the Angels, your dutiful and obedient servants.

One million of heavenly princes, in close ranks, fight for you. But Saint Michael, bearing the ensign of salvation, unfolds, victorious, the standard of the cross. He repels to the deepest of hell the ferecious head of the dragon.

He strikes and casts down, from the heavenly city, the chief of the revolted and his rebel Angels. Let us follow this glorious prince, against the master of pride, so that from the throne of the Lamb, may be given to us the crown of glory.

To the Father, to his Son and to you, o Holy Ghost, as it was, is and ever shall be, eternal glory, world without end. Amen.

PRAYER

O God, who provide with admirable order for the ministries of Angels and men, grant us in your goodness, to have, as protectors during our life on earth, those who, unceasingly in heaven, surround and serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE NINE GRACES

I. We ask you, O Saint Michael, in union with the Seraphim, to enkindle in our hearts the holy love of God, and give us contempt and disgust for false pleasures of the world.

(Pater, Ave, Gloria)

II. We ask you humbly, prince of the heavenly Jerusalem and chief of the Cherubim, to remember us, especially when we shall be assailed with the infernal enemy's suggestions. Victorious over Satan with your succor, we offer ourselves up in sacrifice to the Lord.

III. We beseech you devoutly, o glorious champion of paradise and chief of Thrones, never to allow that we, your faithful, be oppressed by hell's wicked spirits.

IV. Prostrate before you, we beg you, o great minister of God, with Dominions, to defend Christianity in their needs, and especially those who govern us, giving them wisdom and prudence.

V. We pray you, O Saint Archangel, with Virtues, to free your servants from the hands of their enemies, false witnesses, bad tongues and discords; and for our fatherland and our city; in particular, free us from hunger, pestilence, war and all the evils that the enemy of souls provokes to do us harm.

VI. We conjure you, o chief of the heavenly hosts, and we pray you with Powers, to provide for our needs, and those of our city, by giving fecundity to the earth, and concord and peace to Christian leaders.

VII. We ask you, o primate among Archangels, united with Principalities, to be kind enough to free us, we your servants, along with our city, from bodily, and above all, spiritual infirmities.

VIII. We beseech you, Saint Michael, with the choir of Archangels and the 9 choirs of Angels, to take care of us and assist us at the moment of our agony, and especially when we shall breathe our last, so that, victorious over Satan, we may enjoy divine goodness in paradise.

IX. We pray you, glorious chief, defender of the militant and triumphant Church, to be kind enough, with the 9 choirs of Angels, to keep us, we your faithful, and our families, and those who recommended themselves to our prayers, so that, leading a pure life with your help, we may enjoy eternally the contemplation of God, along with you and all the Angels.

APPARITIONS OF SAINT MICHAEL

(narratives and traditions)

FOREWORD

Among all creatures after the Most Holy Virgin, Saint Michael the Archangel is the most glorious and the most powerful. He was chosen by God to command the heavenly hosts.

This devotion is very ancient. The Old and the New Testament alike talk about Saint Michael, his power, his intercession, his apparitions, his ministry close to men, and the place that he holds in the Church, as of old, in the elected people.

Not too long ago, the sovereign pontiffs Pius IX and Leo XIII recommended unceasingly the devotion to Saint Michael, defender of the Church and of souls.

How could we deny that at this time, hell is ruling? How could not we recognize Satan and the devils, in deeds, in pride, crimes, hatred and betrayals, which throw society and the whole world into confusion.

It is comforting to see the action and power of the great Archangel, shining upon the devils that have broken loose over the whole surface of the earth, he who is the protector of all peoples.

The story of the chief of Angel's apparitions, in the history of the world and the nations century after century, will be for us a source of confidence in these troubled times, for Saint Michael is the watchful guardian of the Church, and of the nations which entrust themselves to him, and lastly, of the souls that invoke him in their sorrows or in persecutions.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL TO THE ARGONAUTS

Long before the coming of Jesus Christ, God willed that Saint Michael the Archangel be honored on earth.

Nicephore and other historians narrate that Jason and the Argonauts (they got their name from their 50-oar convict ship, built by Argon) were favored by Saint Michael, who appeared to them and freed them from a certain peril, while they were sailing from Greece to Thrace, around the year 1262 before Jesus Christ.

He promised them victory over their enemies, which happened, for with his help and encouragement, they won a brilliant victory. In memory and thanksgiving of which they built a temple, where they placed his image with great honors. They depicted him with his wings stretched out, just like he had appeared to them.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL TO CHONAS

St John the Evangelist, while he was crossing a city in Phrygia called Chonas, fatherland of historian Nicetas, was revealed that God wanted Saint Michael the Archangel, his prime minister, to be honored with a singular cult in a particular place of this territory.

This place was Cherotype, and the apostle started celebrating the greatnesses of this heavenly chief of Angels, and was confirmed about his preaching. A source with a rare virtue sprund out on that spot, which would cure many infirmities, with the invocation of Saint

Michael and the sign of the cross in honor of the Blessed Trinity. Numerous pagans came to this spring and many were healed and recovered a good health again, they were given faith and the grace of their souls' salvation.

Saint Michael appeared in the city of Lodice, close to Chonas, at the same time, to a man, the father of a young girl who was born mute. He commanded him to lead her to the miraculous spring and make her drink of this water. The man went there with his daughter, and had her drink the water, while saying these words: "In the name of Saint Michael, prince of the heavenly host". Instantly, the young girl spoke, invoking the Archangel, and she gave thanks to him...

The father and his daughter were taught of the Christian faith and received baptism. He himself had a somptuous church erected on that spot, in honor of Saint Michael.

The care of this temple came to the holy Archbishop of Lodice, of whom the pagans could not suffer the holiness. Pagans, who could not suffer either the virtues of the miraculous water, decided they would put the holy Archbishop to death, by dragging him along the way by his hair and beating him with clubs. But, o wonder! their hands withered, for their greatest surprise, as if they had been put into fire. While other pagans wanted to destroy the spring, fire came out of it and they took to flight. Instead of benefiting from such a prodigy, they went further in their stubbornness and tried to sully the blessed water and mix it with the Chyros River waters, so that it may run on the very spring, but the river turned away from its bed and went running even further away

from the spring.

The unfaithful's hearts were so hardened, that they planned to bring the waters of other rivers into River Chyros, so that in their violence, they may submerge and engulf both the spring and the holy temple.

The holy Archbishop, having been given news of this plan, started to pray before Saint Michael's altar, and was granted through his intercession that such efforts be useless.

Now, while he was praying, a voice could be heard and it was Saint Michael. The prelate went out of the temple and saw a column of fire which was coming up from the earth to heaven. The voice commanded him to regain courage and fear nothing. When the impetuous waters arrived before the spring and the temple, Saint Michael, with the sign of the cross, stopped and derided them.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL TO CONSTANTINE THE GREAT

While Constantine was fighting fiercely, during his war against Maxence in Gaul, Saint Michael, desirous to grant peace to the Church, appeared to him with many Angels, in order to succor him and assure him that he would gain the victory.

At high noon, he showed him a luminous cross in the sky. The inscription surrounding it read: "Through this sign, you shall conquer". The cross was topped with the two first Greek letters for the name of Christ, XR, interlaced.

Constantine was wondering what this sign in the sky meant. Saint Michael appeared to him in his sleep and gave him the command to place the cross on the labarum (standard) that was born by troops in front, for battles. The Emperor obeyed this command from heaven and had the labarum made after the pattern of the cross he had seen.

He unfolded it in front of his troops and marched on Rome. There, under the Roman ramparts, on October 27, 312, he defeated his enemy. Maxence, who was fleeing ahead of him, fell into the Tibre River and drowned himself.

The victor entered Rome, with the triumphant Cross in front of his legions, and published, towards the close of that very year, the decree which was granting peace to the Church.

(Cf. Eusebe: Life of Constantine)

He willed that the first statue which the senate erected of him would represent him with the cross in his hands, and with same inscription.

OTHER APPARITION TO CONSTANTINE

Nicephore recounts that Saint Michael appeared to Constantine the Great and declared him that he had favored him in his victories.

Then, the grateful Emperor had the city of Constantinople erected and dedicated to the Savior, O.L.J.C, saying: "To you, o Christ, who is God, I entrust this city (Tibi Christe Deus urbem hanc commendo)".

He had several churches built there, and also a somptuous temple, to the glory of Saint Michael, on the

spot where the apparition had taken place.

Zisomene, one of the chonicler of that time, narrates that the faithful were coming from everywhere, to pray there for their infirmities, calamities and the hopeless cases, and that they would always find succor for all their needs.

OTHER APPARITION TO CONSTANTINE

According to Nicephore, Saint Michael appeared again to Constantine the Great, when Byzantium was menacing to revolt, and assured him of the victory, which he effectively gained, the next day, against his enemies.

The historian asserts that the Archangel told the Emperor: "I am Michael, chief of the heavenly host of the God of Hosts, defender and protector of the faith of Christ, I protect you through my help in the war you wage against impious tyrants.

You are granted the help of my heavenly hosts.

Not only did Saint Michael help Constantine in his battles, but also Gallien, his general, on the occasion of the expedition against the Scythians, during which things were menacing to deteriorate; but he was convinced by Saint John and Saint Paul to make the vow to convert to Christianity.

After that, he saw a young man who was bearing a cross as a standard. He was accompanied by several friends.

The Scythians remained tributaries of the empire.

Terentien asserts that this mysterious young man was Saint Michael. One he became a Christian,

Constantine had a great number of Churches built in honor of the Archangel, whom he called his protector.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL TO EMPEROR MARCIAN

Emperor Marcian was favored with an apparition of Saint Michael and he dedicated himself wholly to serve him in the Temple of Chonas.

For each one of his diseases, he always refused to use any other medicine than the succor of this Archangel, who would restore his health.

God, in order to show the great power he had given the chief of Angels, allowed Marcian to fall seriously ill.

The Emperor refused all the medicine he was given and did not want at any cost to be taken away from the venerable sanctuary. For his doctor, this was recklessness. Therefore, he gave the command to apply on the patient, against his will, certain unguents.

The next night, Marcian was rapt in ecstasy; he saw the doors of the church open before him, and a beautiful rider, mounting his horse, come down from heaven and land on a pillar, accompanied by Angels, then, filling the air with pleasant scents, he placed himself by Marcian, and casting his eyes on the medicine given by the physician, he asked who had dared to give this prescription in his house. Marcian having answered the truth, Saint Michael turned towards two of his Angels and gave them the command to strike the physician on his head and make the unguents disappear.

Then, he dipped his finger into the oil of the lamp which was burning in the sanctuary, and made the sign of the cross on the Emperor, got back on his horse and went out, with those who accompanied him. The next morning, Marcian recounted what he had seen to a priest. The latter, noticing on his forehead the sign of the cross which had remained printed, and not finding the medicine prescribed the day before, went to the physician's. He found his house in great disorder, and the physician dying and lamenting, his mouth full of purulent spots, shouting: o Christians, have mercy on me and cut my head off, for I cannot stand my suffering any longer".

The priest, having reported Marcian's vision to him, he had people carry him to the church of Saint Michael, when he found Marcian, cured. The latter stood up, walked to the physician who was groaning, took some oil from the lamp and anointed the forehead of the patient, who was cured instantly from his atrocious suffering and spots, and consecrated himself to the Holy Archangel, like to his master.

FIRST APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL ON MOUNT GARGANO

(In the Pouilles, Italy)

In 490 of the Christian era, on the 17th year of Emperor Zenon's reign, and the 8th of Pope Saint Felix III, on May 8, took place the memorable apparition of Saint Michael the Archangel on Mount Gargano. A rich lord of Siponto, who owned an important ford, and who was pious and charitable towards the poor, owned a mountain, about 6 miles away from Siponto (today, Manfredonia)

which he used as pasture land for his cattle.

He had a ferocious and huge bull, always on its guard, that split from the rest of the fold. They looked for him unceasingly for a few days; finally, they found him in a deep cavern, to which access was difficult. Unable to get him alive, he resolved to kill him.

Taking his bow, he threw an arrow to the bull, but this arrow turned back to the one who had throw it and injured him.

Gargano and his friend, amazed by this accident, and thinking there was a mystery in it, had recourse to the bishop of Siponto, to get some advice from him, concerning its possible meaning.

Already knowing about it through public rumor, bishop Lorenzo Maloriano, originally from Greece, a citizen of Constantinople and relative to Emperor Zenon, had recourse to God in prayer, to ask him for light and understanding.

The prelate ordered 3 days of fasting and exhorted the faithful to pray, on their side, in order to be given from God the meaning of this strange fact.

After 3 days, Saint Michael appeared to him and declared him that the cavern, where the bull had found shelter, was under his protection, and, henceforth, becoming his domain and that God wanted it to be consecrated under his name, in honor af all Angels. Then, the Archangel disappeared.

Great and unspeakable was the holy bishop's happiness, who convened the people right away.

He went to the grotto in a procession, accompanied by the clergy and the faithful, to identify it, and he found

it already designed to be a church. Cut out of the stone, fairly deep and with a convenient access: which filled the people with admiration and fear, especially when, from the end of the grotto, resounded angelical voices "Here, God is adored. Here, the Lord is honored. Here, the Most High is glorified".

The bishop began celebrating the divine offices there. The event was known throughout Italy and Europe, and the devotion to Saint Michael and Holy Angels went increasing. People also came from everywhere in Europe; popes, kings, emperors, heads of states, bishops and innumerable pilgrims consider it an honor and a duty to visit, and pray in the sacred grotto.

Crusaders on their way to Holy Land would stop there and consecrate themselves to Saint Michael.

Many graces of every kind were obtained, and numerous miracles happened there.

SECOND APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL ON MOUNT GARGANO

During the first year of Emperor Anastase's reign, and the first year of Pope Saint Gelase's pontificate, Saint Michael appeared a second time to Saint Laurent Malorien, bishop of Siponto, that is, two years after his first apparition. The army of Odoacre, king of the Goths, considering that Siponto's people were allied to Theodoric, his rival to the crown of Italy, besieged the city, menacing to exterminate its inhabitants, who had recourse to the help of the heavenly hosts.

While the Goths hurried to dig the ground and make ditches for their attack bastions around the city, Saint Laurent, imitating Moises, went up to Mount Gargano to ask the holy warrior for the victory.

On Monday September 25, 492, the Goths sent a messenger, carrying a war ultimatum. The bishop requested a 3 days truce, during which he asked his people for prayers, fasting, and to approach the sacraments, which was followed.

We are on the dawning of September 29, a Friday.

The bishop was in prayer in Saint Mary's Church. Saint Michael appeared to him, promising victory and giving him the command not to attack the enemy before 2 PM (which is 4 PM local time) so that the sun may witness his power.

The bishop spread the news to the people and fortified them through the sacrament of the eucharist, early in the morning.

At the appointed time, the inhabitants of Siponto came out of their city assailing the Barbarians. The sky was serene. All of a sudden, thunder clashed, a cloud covered the top of Mount Gargano, and invaded the fields, ready to engulf the Barbarians, if they had not been already destined to the fires of hell.

Saint Michael, letting fly enflamed arrows from the Gargano, clearly showed that, under his command, were fighting the four elements. Thunder bolt was striking the Barbarians without touching any one from Siponto.

The Goth army, afraid and defeated, took its flight.

The inhabitants of this city pursued their enemies all the way to Napoli. The bishop, together with the people, went to Mount Gargano, to thank the Archangel, this heavenly defender, for so great a victory.

At the entrance of the grotto, where they did not dare enter, the clergy and the people saw footprints from a man standing, engraved on rock, indicating Saint Michael's presence.

And everyone kissed his footprints, which were a testimony of the Archangel's presence.

THIRD APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL ON MOUNT GARGANO WHEN THE BASILICA WAS DEDICATED

On May 8, 493, the bishop of Siponto went to Mount Gargano with his people, to celebrate the third anniversary of Saint Michael's first apparition in the sacred grotto. No one, not even the holy pastor, dared to enter there, despite their desire to penetrate into it, and offer the holy sacrifice, and dedicate it according to the usage in the Roman Church.

Out of fear and respect for the resounding of the angelical hymns, nobody entered it on that day, and it was decided that one would wait for the sovereign pontiff's decision.

Therefore, a delegation was sent to Pope Gelase, who was at Saint Sylvester Pass at that time.

The latter, considering the wonderful apparition of the Archangel, answered that, according to him, it would be better to choose the day of September 29, date

when the Goths were defeated, but that one had to wait for the Archangel's own will, he who would not be long to manifest himself.

"We shall pray to him for three days", he said, "in honor of the Blessed Trinity. You will do the same in your city."

After this answer, the bishop invited seven bishops from neighboring areas to come to Siponto as early as September 21, for the three days of fasting and prayer, and for the dedication.

Therefore, the 7 bishops invited arrived to do homage to the Archangel. A legend even tells that, during their trip under an ardent sun, a huge eagle, with enormous wings, made some shadow for them on the roads and refreshed the air by the fluttering of its wings. On September 26, they came together in order to start by fasting, prayers, masses and holy watches, in the same time with the Pope, who was doing the same in Rome.

These public prayers were heard, but the honor to receive Saint Michael's oracle was given to the bishop of Siponto.

For the third time, the Archangel appeared to him, and told him: "Laurent, stop thinking of consecrating my grotto, I have chosen it as my domain, and have consecrated it with my Angels; you shall see the obvious signs of this consecration, say: my image, which I have placed myself, the altar erected by Angels, my mantle and the cross.

Tonight, only you, the bishops, will enter my grotto, and, with my help, you will pray. Tomorrow only, you shall celebrate the august sacrifice, and give communion to the

people; them you shall see how many blessings I have lavished upon this temple".

Immediately, the bishop transmitted the Archangel's words to his colleagues, them to the people assembled.

Before dawn, they all left, walking in a procession towards the sacred grotto. For the first hour, the trip was easy, but then, as soon as the sun had started to flash its beams on rocks, and when they had to climb the slopes of the mountain, it became more difficult. Here again, the legend tells us that four eagles were protecting the crowd walking under the sun, with their enormous wings, and refreshed the air with their fluttering.

When they arrived at the Gargano, no one was bold enough to enter the grotto, but the bishop had an altar erected at the entrance, and the holy sacrifice began.

When they started chanting the "Gloria in excelsis", suddenly were heard the melodies of Angels singing in the bottom of the grotto.

Before this heavenly invitation to sing God's praise, the bishops and the people entered the grotto through the long North corridor and found, in the rock, the Archangel's foot prints, after the human shape. From there, they found, on the Eastern side of the heavenly basilica, where one had access through a flight of steps, the miraculous image of Saint Michael fighting against Lucifer, which had been brought from heaven.

Proceeding even further in, at the chant of the "Te Deum", Bishop Laurent found, in the darkness of the place, full of the glory of God, a stone altar, erected there, consecrated by Saint Michael and adorned with a five-palm cross of crystal, a mantle of the purple color,

symbol of charity; in the bottom, a miraculous spring. The entrance on the Northern side was inexistence before, and had been mysteriously opened, in the form of a long corridor.

Once all this was ascertained, the bishop of Siponto continued, holy mass on the altar erected by Angels, inside, and gave communion to the faithful. Then, three more altars were placed in this grotto and consecrated.

Mount Gargano's basilica is the only one in the world to have been consecrated by Saint Michael and the Angels; the dedication by the Angels is what the Church celebrates on September 29, every year.

All the people benefited from the Archangel's benefits: conversions, cures, sight restored to the blind, and countless miracles.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN ROME

In 590, during the pontificate of Saint Gregory the Great, the plague ravaged the city of Rome.

Its inhabitants would die by the hundreds every day, and streets were strewed with corpses. Through his public prayers, the holy pope wanted to appease God's wrath and implore his pity.

One day, they carried the Holy Virgin's image, - told to have been painted by Saint Luke - in a procession, from the "Ara Coeli" all the way to St Peter's basilica, Saint Michael appeared on Adrian's mole (since then, Holy Angels'), he was holding a long spade in his hand, from which blood was dripping, and then he sheathed it as a token that the plague which had afflicted Rome

had ceased. (For the time of the procession alone, eight hundred people had died from the plague).

When the holy pontiff saw the Archangel sheathing his sword, the singing of Angels could be heard around the image of the Virgin, which he was bearing himself. The Pope had started the "Regina Caeli", and Angels sang it with him, in honor of Mary's joy for the resurrection of her Son, Jesus Christ. (It was also a resurrection for the people of Rome).

"O Queen of heaven, rejoice, Alleluia, for the one whom thou didst merit to bear has arisen, Alleluia"; and the Pope added, and commanded to add from that day: "Pray for us to God, Alleluia".

Therefore, it was thanks to the Holy Virgin and Saint Michael that Rome was freed from the plague. A church was built there in memory of this event, whose name is "Regina Coeli", and henceforth, Adrian's mole was called: Holy Angel Castle".

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN FRANCE

In France also, Saint Michael wanted to be given a special cult, his name to be famous, and numerous his benefits, by manifesting his power.

In the year 709, he appeared to St Aubert, tenth bishop of Avranches, and declared him that God's will was that he would have a church built in the middle of the sea, on top of the rock named "The Grave".

The holy bishop, thinking he was being deluded, did not obey right away. New apparition, but he did not believe.

At the third apparition, the Archangel pressed his finger on his forehead and left a deep print, which can still be seen today on his skull, venerated in Avranches.

Thus, he had to yield to the facts. Followed by his clergy and several architects, he went to the place where Saint Michael requested his church. On this particular place, he found a bull, which had been tied down.

Two major difficulties aroused: there were two (pyramid shaped) mounds, and no fresh water in the area.

Saint Michael had them overcome both of those. He ordained the bishop to bring a child, still an infant, there, and that he may strike each one of the mounds with his little foot; once done, they were both miraculously overthrown.

Then he commanded him to take a stem and strike the mountain; as soon as he had done so, water sprung out abundantly. This water was used for both the men and the construction of the temple; it still runs today, and has cured many people.

When they saw that, the inhabitants started working. Once the church completed, Saint Michael commanded the bishop to send a delegation to Mount Gargano, in order to take a piece of the purple coat he had left there, and a piece of marble with his foot print.

Mount Gargano's canons, moved by this enterprise and believing in the declarations of the bishop of Avranches' envoys, gave them the precious relics, which were transported with great veneration and worked many miracles in the regions which they crossed.

For one place alone, ten blind people recovered their sight.

On October 16, on year after their departure, the carriers of those precious relics arrived at the mount of "The Grave", since then renamed Mount Saint Michael. The bishop received these relics with joy and respect and put them in the church the same day, October 16. Since then, that day ever remained a great solemnity, and a feast is celebrated on the very day also on mount Gargano.

Along the centuries, the church was endowed with great riches in honor of the Archangel. At first, it was administered by regular canons, then, it was entrusted to the monks of St Benedict. During the Middle Age, it was a very much visited place of pilgrimage.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN IRELAND

In Ireland, a frightful snake, spitting from his mouth so stinky a venom, that the grass and trees were withering as soon as they would receive it, and killing both animals and men, to the point that the area was not proper for living any longer. The bishop had recourse to God's help and prescribed three days of prayer and fasting.

Both the clergy and the people went, with spiritual and material arms, to meet the beast, and they found it was dead.

Close by it were some arms. Saint Michael ascertained the prelate that he had killed the beast himself with these arms, which he asserted, were his.

"Moved by the people's prayers and fasting", he told him, "I killed the beast; the shield and sword that you

found next to it are my arms, so that men may believe in the power I was given by God”.

The shield is oblong in shape, and adorned with a cross at each corner. The sword has a handle. The two objects are made with the same material. These arms are kept in the church of mount Saint Michael, in France.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN CASTELLAMMARE, (ITALY)

Saint Michael always showed his power on elevated places.

On mount Gauro, also called Holy Angel, close to the city of Castellammare di Stabia, Saint Michael appeared to bishop Catello and to a holy abbot called Anthony, who had retired there to enjoy loneliness and rest in the mounts, and he exhorted them to build a church, on the place where they would see an ardent torch.

Both of them built a wooden chapel, roughly covered, to attend there to their spiritual exercises.

Now, the bishop of this town, having been calumniated by impious people, who, being enemies of all good, pursued him in order to cast him into prison in Rome.

Saint Michael did not want it that way. The Pope, having acknowledged that the illustrious accused bishop was innocent, let him free; furthermore, he gave him a marble statue of the Archangel, in order to adorn the modest church, started in honor of his liberator.

The church was completed with love by the

population of Castellammare, and is still up, despite the ravages of the weather.

Since that time, the feast of Saint Michael is celebrated solemnly there, on August 1st, because in May and September, the cold and clouds make the place unpropitious for a pilgrimage. And when the priest who celebrates makes the sign of the cross to start the first vespers, one uncovers the marble statue, once given by the Pope; then comes out of it a sweat which, when recollected with some cotton, can be applied to the sick.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL TO SAINT EUDOXY

Saint Michael's great charity shines forth in the case of this famous sinner and penitent, and finally, a martyr for the cause of Christ, St Eudoxy, under Emperor Trajan, in the beginning of the second century.

Originally from Samaria (In Palestine) she came to live more freely in debauchry.

The monk Saint Germain converted her. She distributed to the poor her great riches, acquired through a shameful trade, gave freedom back to her slaves, and spent seven days alone, in prayer and fasting, before receiving baptism.

The holy monk supported her with his advice and prayers, and gave her proof that her conversion was in favor of Saint Michael's hand. "Thank God, Father, she said aloud, "For the graces he was good enough to grant me, in spite of my indignity.

I spent 6 days weeping over my sins and doing the holy exercises that you had prescribed me.

On the seventh day, prostrate on my face, I saw myself surrounded by a great and dazzling light.

The I saw a young man, serene and dressed in white, who took my hand and led me up towards heaven, where I saw an immense host of people dressed after his fashion, happy to see me, and knowing that one day, I shall have the same glory as theirs.

While I had this vision, I saw a horrible monster that was fighting against God with frightful howls, because he was taking a pray from him, which was his by many a title. But a voice coming from heaven started saying that the infinite goodness was well-pleased to have pity over the sinners who do penance.

The same voice promised me a special protection, for the rest of my life, and I heard it was Saint Michael the Archangel”.

This penitent Samaritan woman was so well protected by Saint Michael, that after a life of mortification, with resounding miracles and conversions, she won the palm of martyrdom in great triumph, through the testimony of her Christian faith, on the first day of March, in the year 114.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN THE KINGDOM OF NAVARRA

Famous was Saint Michael’s apparition in the kingdom of Navarra, if we consider the church built on

top of the Pyrenees, on mount Arabar, on the slopes of which the river Araia has its source.

The erection of this temple was due to an apparition of the Archangel at the same time when some Moor invaders were sacaging Spain, to a horse back rider from the city of Gonni; seven bishops attended the consecration of this temple.

In the misfortune of the Moor invasion, Saint Michael offered himself before St James was chosen and invoked as such by the Spaniards.

After another apparition, an ermitage was erected to Saint Michael, which, later, became the patriarchal Church of Ontinente, in the Valence Province.

Great was the protection of the Archangel for the kingdom and cities of Spain, since historian Escolan asserts that his country owes him its liberation from the Moor, for the victory and their destruction happened at the first vespers of his feast.

However, many Moor people remained in the Valence area. Now, one day, some children took a picture of Saint Michael and carried it to a Moor Mosque where they started to shout: “Three cheers for Saint Michael and the faith in Jesus Christ”. Many of these Moor people became Christians, received baptism, and their mosque became, later, a parish church, which was consecrated to the Holy Archangel.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL TO SAINT AGNEL IN ITALY

St Agnel witnessed the Apparition of Saint Michael, while he was praying in the grotto on mount

Gargano. He went back to Napoli where he had been appointed to the administration of hospital St Gaudius.

The Archangel sent him to James De la Marre, to let him know about the victory. The Archangel showed himself to him again, carrying the standard of the cross in his hand and putting the Saracens to flight.

At the place where the Saracens were defeated, a church was build under the title of the Archangel and it became one of the oldest parishes. A marble plaque was placed there to commemorate the event, not far from Napoli. Since then, the inhabitants of Napoli started honoring Saint Michael, for his protection. Cardinal Errici Minutolo had a statue carved and it was placed above the main door of the cathedral.

During the earthquake of 1688, many stones fell on the statue, which remained untouched, only the dragon's head was damaged.

The many churches built in Napoly in honor of Saint Michael are an eloquent testimony of the benefits which were granted through him. Saint Michael's Church, dating back from the IX century, was restored somptuously in 1650.

In 1688, for the price of six thousand ducats, a silver statue was made, which was carried in a procession and put in the treasure of the "Saint Angelo a Nilo Church", Napoli's inhabitants acclaiming Saint Michael as their protector.

Many churches with the title of the Archangel testify to his favors, spread over this great city.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN SPAIN

It was the time when the city of Saragosse was occupied by the Moor; which had tyranized it for 400 years.

King Alfonsius meditated to free this city from their barbary and to get it with an onslaught. He had requested the help of a portion of the population, close to river Guerba.

The Navarrians had come to the rescue. In the core of the fight, Saint Michael, chief of the heavenly hosts, appeared to the king and let him know that the city was under his protection, and that he would favor his army with a resounding victory.

As soon as Saragosse was taken, a church was erected, where the Archangel appeared. It is one of the oldest parishes in town, and it still bears the name of Saint Michael of the Navarrians.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL ON MOUNT ALVERN (ITALY)

The Alvern, famous to be one of the mounts which cracked at the death of Christ, with the earthquake, is known to be the place where St Francis of Assisi received the stigmata in his body.

This holy religious, having come there, far from the world, in order to attend to the contemplation of divine things, after the example of Jesus Christ, happened to doubt as if the cracks he was seeing on the mount had trully happened when the Savior died.

Saint Michael appeared to him and gave him certainly of the fact, such as was reported by an immemorial tradition.

St Francis developed a true veneration for the place and was following lent piously in honor of the heavenly Archangel, when, on the day of the exaltation of the holy cross, the latter appeared to him, under the form of a winged and crucified seraph, and after having put into his heart a seraphic love, he impressed on him the sacred stigmata.

St Bonaventure asserts that this seraph was really Saint Michael, and historian Vegos gives it for certain.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN SICILY

A bishop of Sicily, named Clotonio, recited every day on his knees, a prayer to St Michael, and followed every year a lenten season in his honor. The Archangel appeared to him on the eve of his feast and told him that he was well pleased with his devotions towards him, and that he had prayed for him to the Lord, who had heard his prayers.

Then, the good bishop requested him three graces: that his parents may come out from the flames of Purgatory; that he may himself attend him at the moment of his death, and that he may give him to understand all the greatness of the mystery of the Incarnation.

Saint Michael granted him all this from God. Indeed, he saw his parents entering heaven, and they were thanking him.

He enlightened him on the beauties of the mystery of the Incarnation, and helped him just before his death.

The bishop's prayer was the following: "Glorious Saint Michael, chief of the heavenly hosts, victor over devils, admirable chief of the Church, great through your nature and your virtues, free those who cry towards you from all adversity, and make us progress every day in the service of the Lord. Saint Michael, chief of the Church, pray for us".

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN MEXICO

When, in the new world, the missionaries implanted the Church, Saint Michael wanted to manifest himself through various apparitions, specifying each time that he is the protector of the Church.

Four leagues away from a little village, called St Mary of the Nativity, lived an Indian man, Diego Lazzer, known to be pious. While he was going to a procession there, Saint Michael appeared to him, and commanded him to let the villagers know that, in the hollow part of a rock, located between two oak trees not far from there, he had had a miraculous source run, which would cure every illness.

But the man did not say anything, for fear people would not believe him. Some time later, he fell sick, and was close to death, his getting cured was hopeless. His parents attended him, expecting his death. Now, on the eve of the feast of Saint Michael's apparition, that is on May 7, 1631, around midnight, his bedroom was lit with a great light, which stunned those who were in it, and they

took to flight, frightened, leaving the sick man behind. But taking upon themselves, they entered the bedroom again, for they feared the thatched cottage would set ablaze.

But the light disappeared and they found the sickman like a dead person. Little by little, he recovered his senses, opened his eyes, and started talking. He told them that this light meant the apparition of Saint Michael the Archangel, and then, he revealed to them the place and virtue of the famous source, as he had been ordered to.

He told them that he was feeling well, and that he had been cured, that Saint Michael had taken him to this miraculous spring, where the people could go without fear.

His illness had been a punishment for his disobeying the Archangel.

By drinking of this spring, according to the apparition, the Indians should receive great benefits, find the grace of faith, and penance for their sins, and recover a good health in case of illness; himself happened to be the first beneficiary of the virtue of this water.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN MEXICO (CONTINUED)

A few days after he had been cured, Diego went, with his father, to see the spring, at the place which the Archangel had indicated.

Both of them climbed the slopes of the rock and found the access easy. The miraculous water was springing up from a cavity between two oak trees.

They both spread the good news to the place's inhabitants, assuring them that in this water they would get cured from all their illnesses.

Many disabled people went to the spring, drank of its waters and washed themselves in them; all recovered the use of their limbs.

Diego fell seriously ill again, but as soon as his parents had fetched him some water from the spring, he felt better and enjoyed a good health again.

The local population got used to go there and fetch their drinking water, and they even sent it far away, to some sick people.

A Church was erected there, where Saint Michael worked numerous miracles, giving people to experience his power and charity towards men, in the gift of a good health, and faith.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL CLOSE TO SALERN (ITALY)

In the Olevan area, in the diocese of Salern, can be seen a grotto where tradition asserts that Saint Michael appeared. The old fashioned altars it contains and the devotion of the people really show that there is a great part of truth in this belief.

Old manuscripts call it "The Angels's Grotto", and "Saint Michael's Grotto". The water which springs out of it is said to be miraculous, and one can even hear its wonders on sick people.

It is told even that this grotto was consecrated to the Archangel by Pope St Gregory VII, while he was staying in Salern.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL TO A DYING RELIGIOUS

St Anselm recounts that a holy religious man, on the verge of dying was attacked three times by the devil, and three times defended by Saint Michael.

The first time, the devil attacked him by bringing back to his memory the sins he had committed before baptism, which he had not expiated, but Saint Michael comforted him by telling him that they had been forgiven through baptism.

The second time, Satan showed him the sins he had committed after baptism, discouraging the infortunate religious.

Again, the Archangel comforted him, telling him with goodness that they had been forgiven through the sacrament of penance.

The third time, the devil presented him a great book in which were written all his negligences, and failures to comply with his order's rules.

Saint Michael comforted him anew, telling him that all of it had been expiated through penances, and his obedience and patience.

Consoled and comforted, this religious man gave his soul back to God, in holiness and serenity.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN SALA

On a hill, located two miles away from the city of Sala (Italy) can be seen a grotto, dedicated to Saint Michael, who appeared there to a shepherd who, afraid by

thunder bolt and lightnings, invoked the Holy Archangel, who showed himself to him, requesting there a chapel in his honor, to protect, in similar cases, those who would come and pray to him.

This chapel was raised, and Sala's inhabitants got the promise that they would ever be heard in their prayers against calamities and thunder bolt.

In 1715, several priests went there together by devotion, in order to request good weather, and an end to hail, which was falling often in the country, subsequently endangered with famine.

They also requested that the Christian armies be victorious over the Ottoman power.

While they were celebrating holy Mass, at the time of the consecration, the image of Saint Michael, which was painted in a fresco on the wall, gave out from his face drops of water resembling oil, which even wet the altar.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN TRANSYLVANIA

Malloathe, king of Dacia, today Transylvania, was in affliction, not only for a fault in his language, but above all, to see his throne without a successor. The queen had given him many a child, but all of them died after a year.

A holy monk advised the king to entrust himself to the protection of Saint Michael, by addressing him a prayer every day. The king obeyed him. A few months later, the queen bore two children, but both of them died, again. The sovereign was very afflicted of that, and with

him all his kingdom, but he continued to pray. He had the bodies of the children carried to the church of Saint Michael and wanted them to be laid down on the altar.

With all the people, he prayed to be granted a favor from the Holy Archangel.

As a token for his sorrow, he covered his face with a rough veil. Saint Michael showed himself to the king during his prayer: "I am Saint Michael, the chief of heavenly hosts", he told him. "Your prayers, and those of the people, and also mine in your favor, have been heard by God, who wants these children to live. But you have to lead a better life, and reform your manners and those of your court.

Do not listen to bad advisors, restore to the Church the things that have been usurped from her, for God's wrath is upon you because of all that. Now look at the altar, your children are alive, and I shall protect them myself, and keep them alive.

Furthermore, your fault of language shall cease, but do not be ungrateful for so many benefits".

Then, the Archangel, holding a scepter in his hand, blessed him, and disappeared.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL ON MOUNT GARGANO IN 1656

In 1656, the plague ravaged almost the whole of Italy, especially in the city of Napoli, where one counted four hundred thousand victims.

In turn, the city of Foggia was stricken, to the point that it was losing its population. The city of Manfredonia,

seeing the plague almost past its walls, posted guards at its doors, in order to prevent anyone from coming in.

Archbishop Giannolfo Pucinelli, using against this menacing evil spiritual remedies, and trusting in Saint Michael's protection, after a solemn procession in his honor, and to move divine mercy, ordered a triduum of prayers and fasting in his diocese. Feeling that the plague was coming near, he convened the college of priests and ordered another triduum of prayers and fasting.

In the name of the whole city of Manfredonia, he addressed a petition to the Holy Archangel and laid it on his altar, so that he may act as a mediator between God and the people.

Results were soon to be seen, for God granted the grace, and Saint Michael came personally to bring the news to the bishop.

Indeed, at about 5 in the morning, while he was praying in his bedroom, his episcopal family still sleeping, he heard a noise, like an earthquake, and saw a great light around him in the middle of which was Saint Michael. "Know, pastor of these sheep," he told him, "that I have requested the Blessed Trinity that all those who will wear, or have in their house, city and everywhere, with devotion, stones from my basilica, shall be spared from the plague. Announce this news to all. You shall bless the stones, engraving the sign of the cross and my name in them. Make it known also that there will soon be an earthquake".

Attracted by such strange noises, the prelate's servants run up to his bedroom, and found him prostrate on the floor, and like a dead person. They took him up.

He uttered a sigh and shed tears, pronouncing the name of Saint Michael. A messenger of God's peace and mercy, he appeared in his church the next day, before the public, after having convened his people. He could not say much, except: "Long live Saint Michael, long live Saint Michael!" Not losing any time, he had stones (brought from the Gargano's basilica) be split into pieces and blessed them, after having had the cross and Saint Michael's name, "S.+M." carefully carved on them, and every faithful carried back home with him, a little stone.

On October 17, the same year, happened the earthquake foretold by the apparition. Neighbor cities, like Castella, suffered a lot of damage, but Manfredonia was miraculously spared.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL AT PROCIDA (ISLAND OF ITALY, IN THE GULF OF NAPOLI)

The isle of Procida, several times victimized by the Barbarians' cruelty, witnessed three times the burning of its church, built on top of the rocks, not to mention the evils of the invaders. In 1535, she would have been destroyed, had not Saint Michael, who is the island's protector, come to help its frightened inhabitants.

Barbarousse the corsair, at the head of an important fleet, which was anchored in the isle's waters, had disembarked his troops, which had reached the iron gate, at the place called Castello, before the high walls behind

which the Procidians had found refuge. Discouraged and in want of everything, they implored with confidence the heavenly help and the protection of the Archangel, the island's patron saint. Seeing their consternation, the latter heard their voice and their prayers were granted. At the moment when they were about to become prisoners of the Barbarians, Saint Michael came down from heaven and one could see flames of fire surrounding the ramparts, thunderbolt cracking and arrows raining down everywhere.

The ships' mooring ropes were cut, their cables broken, and the Barbarians fled, in terror and confusion, repeating: "This place is terrible".

Procida's citizens celebrate annually this freeing performed by Saint Michael, both on May 8 and September 29, through a solemn procession, where the Archangel's image is borne in great triumph, from the parish church to the place of the apparition, and back to the church, after the blessing of the island with the painting.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL TO ERICK THE LAME

In 1022, Erick, duke of Bavaria, called the lame, wanted to drive from Italy the Greek, who had, under Basil, Emperor of the East, infiltrated the Pouilles in great numbers.

From there, he ridded them and confined them into a corner of Calabria, and destroyed their "New Troyes" (as it is called by historians) from where they would come out, to ravage the surrounding countries.

Erick wanted to pay the basilica of Saint Michael a visit, on Mount Gargano, where he stayed for several days to make his devotions. He even decided that he would spend a full night in prayer there, in the holy grotto. While he was absorbed in prayer, in a deep silence, all of a sudden, he saw, behind the altar of Saint Michael, two handsome young men, appearing, who were busy ornating the altar; they were two Angels.

About minight, he saw coming, one choir at a time, a multitude of Angels; among them stood their chief, Saint Michael. Finally, with a great majesty, Jesus, Mary and other figures joined them, in a great light.

The Angels dressed the person of Jesus with pontifical vestments. Attending as a deacon and a sub-deacon were two handsome young men, who were St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist.

The Sovereign priest offered himself the holy sacrifice of Mass to the Eternal Father.

The emperor was stunned, at such sight; but he saw better things even. After the song of the Gospel, Saint Michael the Archangel, who was acting as a master of ceremony, brought to Erick the book of the Gospel to be kissed by him, after Jesus Christ had kissed it himself.

The emperor was scared when he saw the Archangel coming near with the book of the gospel, but the latter had him kiss it, with goodness; then, touching his side, he told him: "Do not fear, Erick, elect of God, stand up and joyfully receive the kiss which Christ sends you. I am Saint Michael, one of the seven spirits attending at the throne of God.

I have touched your side, so that, henceforth, you

may not be lame any more; may on one, from this day onwards, dare enter here at night, for what you have seen happens here".

The next day in the morning, the emperor recounted to the priest what he had seen that night, and now it is a common belief that on Mount Gargano, in the diocese of Siponto (Manfredonia) Jesus Christ, every night, celebrates Mass, surrounded by Angels and Saint Michael, in this basilica, where no one enters at night any longer.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN FRANCE, AT DOMREMY

France was nearing disaster, in 1415, for the English occupied the main part of her kingdom. King Charles V had fled. "It was a great pity in the kingdom of France", when Saint Michael, a protector of this noble nation, let himself be moved by the prayers of the king and the people, and raised a young girl, Joan of Arc.

Let us listen to her very words, in front of the iniquitous judges, when she explained the fashion in which she knew of her providential mission.

"It was on a summer day, by noon, I was only 13, and happened to be in my father's garden. I heard a voice to my right, on the side where the Church was, and in the same time, I saw an apparition, surrounded by a great light.

It had the exterior of a young man, very good and virtuous; he had wings and was surrounded on all sides

with a great deal of light, and accompanied by heavenly Angels, for Angels often come to Christians, without they noticing them. It was Saint Michael the Archangel. It seemed to me that his voice was very respectable and sweet. But I was still a child; I was very scared by this apparition, and doubted greatly that it was an Angel. It is only after I had heard his voice for the third time, that I recognized it as being his. I saw him, along with the other Angels, with my own eyes, as clearly as I see my judges at this time!

The Angel was telling me that first of all, I had to be a good child, behave well and go to church often, and that God would support me. He recounted me the pity of the kingdom of France, and how I had to go and help the king!

When I see Saint Michael and the other Angels coming to me, I am filled with a great joy not to be in a state of mortal sin; for if I were so, I think they would not come.

When they left, I kissed the earth where they had stood, and bowed before them”.

Assisted with Saint Michael, Joan of Arc drove the English from France. The Archangel's feast, on May 8, saw the victory of Orleans, which was the beginning of the final defeat of the English, who were driven away from France.

Joan, a modest and pure young girl, of whom no one had ever been able to say any evil, died in Rouen, on the stake, condemned by her iniquitous judges, bought by the enemy.

No doubt that Saint Michael came to take her beautiful soul, when, dying in torture, she cried out

the name of Jesus, and repeated: “The voices of Saint Michael and my saints have not deceived me”.

The English were, once for all, driven from France, and the king recovered his throne.

It was said that she would often repeat these words, which she had probably received from Saint Michael: “Grant, Lord, that your name be kept on this our ground of France, and that in her people never lack the Host and Sacrifice”.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN PORTUGAL

The kingdom of Portugal was being invaded by the Moor, and its people was in affliction. These Barbarians had come through Andalousia, in Spain, of which they had become the rulers. The cruelty of their chief, Albert, who was ruling over Sevilla, was proverbial.

The king of Portugal, Alphonsius Enriquez, had recourse to Saint Michael and received from him a wonderful help, for the Portuguese, during their fighting against the Moor, invoked him and received his aid. Their king, shouldered by the Archangel, who was fighting by his side, was given the joy to hear that not one among his people had perished and that all the Moor had fled out of his kingdom.

It is in honor, and as a memory of this prodigious event that Alphonsius Enriquez and Louis XI, king of France, instituted two military orders under the patronage of Saint Michael, for both of them were sure that under the protection of the chief of the heavenly host, their army would always gain the victory.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL TO ST GALGAN SIENA

In the time of Emperor Frederick the 1st, was born Siena Galgan, who spent his teens in pleasures.

Saint Michael appeared to him in a dream and recommended him to change his life and become a soldier of Christ.

Thrice, he repeated this warning to him. But his mother and other people in his surrounding dedicated all their energies to divert him from this way and found even a beautiful and rich woman for him.

Convinced by his family, he jumped on his horse and set off to see his future spouse. But his horse reared up and refused to go any further.

Remembering clearly the words of the Archangel in his sleep, he understood that an invisible force was preventing the animal from proceeding.

Touched by an inspiration of grace, Galgan retired in a lonely place, where he led a quite heavenly life, in fasting, prayer and austerity.

A year later, he died, while hearing a voice saying to his ear: "Your mortifications are enough before God, for you to deserve the heavenly glory".

He was 33 year-old; his grave was the theatre of several miracles. The Roman martyrologue indicates his feast day on December 3rd, and historian Phillip Ferrari, in his "Lives of the Saints of Italy", gave an account of his life, conversion and holy death.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN FRANCE

Ximenes, Patriarch of Jerusalem, reports, together with Garcia of Loaisa, Archbishop of Toledo, in his reports on the Spanish Council, that a holy bishop, watching in France in a church dedicated to Saint Michael, on his way back home, saw in spirit, coming to his altar, the guardian Angels for the kingdoms of Spain, France, England and Scoltand; they were telling him about the little fruits they were reaping from their duty of protecting these kingdoms, since even their benefits were unsuccessful in reforming morals, nor threats in diverting them from their sins. Therefore, they were asking the Archangel, their chief, to enquire before God about what they should do in the given provinces.

Now, Saint Michael revealed to them what God had ordered about it, and what would happen to these kingdoms and to their kings, and the chastisements they would incur for their great sins. To the Angel in charge of the kingdom of Spain, he showed the ordeals that would swoop on this country, because its inhabitants did not defend enough the honor of God before the Moor, but were only occupied with their own interests.

He announced also that Spain would experience betrayals and the malvolence of impious Moors, who would finally be drawn from the kingdom forever.

Saint Michael's words proved to be true under Phillip III, for it is under his reign, in 1611, that Spain was freed definitely from these Barbarians.

APPARITIONS OF SAINT MICHAEL TO THE DUKE OF SINIGAGLIA

Bishop Equilinus liked to tell about Duke Sinigaglia, stricken by leprosy, who had spent large amounts of money with various physicians and for all kinds of medicine, for nothing, since his state was even worsening; he had even lost all hope of being cured. Saint Michael appeared to him twice, telling him that if he wanted to be cured, he had to go and visit his church in Brendal. But the Duke not knowing where the church was, the Archangel told him he would commission his Angels in order to head him there.

Therefore, he took a small boat and Angels lead him so well that, with the wind on his side, he reached Brendal in a fortnight (today, Brindolo, on the Adriatic, on the Italian coast).

In the morning, the small boat touched land on a shore unknown to the duke, who, having enquired on the land, knew that he had reached the place mentioned by Saint Michael, where his church, consecrated to his cult, happened to be.

Bare footed, the duke and his suite went to the sanctuary. As soon as he had passed through the door, he was cured, his leprosy had entirely disappeared, and he entered the holy place, thanking Saint Michael the Archangel with tears.

As a token of gratitude, the duke and his wife decided to stay in that place to serve God and the glorious Archangel there, after they had distributed one half of their possessions to the poor, and the other to Saint Michael, for the upkeep of his church.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHEL IN FRASANELLA

Famous indeed, is the grotto, called of the Saint Angel, in Frasanella, fief of the lords of Galeota, either for the beauty of its natural architecture, or for its wonderful discovery, through which was known that it was dedicated to Saint Michael.

Manfredi, prince of the antique city of Frasanella, having freed a falcon during a hunting party, this one entered a cavity in some rocks, and stayed there. The prince, having marked the spot where he thought the bird was hiding, came close and heard angelical harmonies, which was for him a very pleasant surprise.

At night fall, he went back home, but decided he would go to the cavity the next day, with both the clergy and the people.

Upon arrival on the spot, they saw the falcon coming out, and setting on the hand of his master, quite happy, and leading him to the opening of the grotto, still unknown. Inside was a stone altar, already erected, and marked with the crosses of its consecration. It was a great joy for the people, and the starting point for great pilgrimages in France, Italy and Spain, whose donations were used to build an abbey, which was named after the Archangel.

APPARITIONS OF SAINT MICHAEL IN VARIOUS PLACES

In Turinge, where St Boniface was fighting against heretics, Saint Michael appeared with the cross, encouraging this apostle of the faith to defend the Catholic doctrine. He had a church erected in honor of Saint Michael.

In Austria, apparition of Saint Michael to Blessed Benvenuta, who spread the devotion to the heavenly chief of Angels in this country.

In Sweden, apparition to St Bridget. Saint Michael exhorted her to go to his sanctuary of Mount Gargano in a pilgrimage, with her daughter Catherine. Her biographer reports that she did go there, and heard Angels singing.

In Flanders, apparition to a holy bishop, to whom Saint Michael asked to erect a church in his honor, where numerous miracles were performed.

In Kiev, Russia, the Barbarians destroyed all the churches except the one consecrated to Saint Michael, miraculously spared, and where the devotion to the Archangel grew stronger.

In Poland, Saint Michael appeared to Lesk Ngram, duke of Cracow, in a dream, gave him courage back and assured him he would defeat the Lithuanians, whom he put to flight without losing a single Polish soldier. It was then that the Archangel was proclaimed the protector of this kingdom.

In Hungary, apparition of Saint Michael, who announced and promised the triumph of Christian armies over the hordes of Mahomet II, emperor of the Turkish.

In the province of Basilicate, which is former

Lucany, (Southern Italy), in Frasanella, can be found a famous grotto, called grotto of the Archangel, which is a place of pilgrimage, and where Saint Michael worked many miracles of healing. Beneath it has been built an abbey in honor of the Archangel.

VENERATION OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

All the nations keep an ever-vivid cult to Saint Michael, honor him by a special cult and find glory in his protection. In Ethiopia, one day in each month was consecrated to honor him.

Churches are consecrated to him in Liege and Anvers, Belgium; in Luxembourg, in Bonn and Cologne, Germany, and in other cities.

In France, Charlemagne, to show his veneration for the great Archangel, published an edict, so that every year, a feast day in honor of the Holy Archangel be observed by the lords on their land. Devotion towards this great protector of the kingdom was so great that there was not a single town which would not have either a church, a chapel or an altar in his honor.

Long before Charlemagne, Clovis saw Saint Michael fighting with him. As an acknowledgement, the great chief of the Franks consecrated France to him, with Remy, bishop of reims, after the battle of Tolbiac. With their coming on the throne, the kings of France would consecrate their person and their kingdom to Saint Michael.

Louis XV was the first one to fail in this duty.

In England, the Knights of Saint Michael would bear his effigy every year in a solemn procession.

In Asia, according to deacon St Pantaleon, Saint John the Apostle was the great predicator of Saint Michael and had a temple erected for him there.

Roger, prince of Normandy, in his fight against the Saracens, had an image of Saint Michael put on his banner; once he had drawn them from his territory, he had a church built.

In Colosse (Great Phrygia, Minor Asia) and in Laodicea, according to historian Nicetas, Saint Michael had his church.

Iconoclast Alexis, having dared to violate the image of the Archangel, was stricken by a sudden death, in chastisement for his sacrilegious act.

In Moscow, Russia, in the time of the tsars, the royal chapel was consecrated to Saint Michael.

In Ireland, Hungary, Norway and Transylvania (Austria) and in all the other parts of the world, the apparitions, miracles and benefits of the Archangel are celebrated in magnificent temples.

In Rome, Pope Bonifacius the 1st erected a church for him in the circus. Constantine the Great did the same.

In Navarra, Saragossa and Valence, Spain, and also in Portugal, monuments in honor of the chief of the heavenly hosts testify to his cult from the most ancient times.

In Italy, the feast days of Saint Michael on May 18 and September 29 are celebrated with great concourse of people.

In Corsica, several parish churches are consecrated to him; furthermore, numerous chapels, altars, antic paintings and statues show how great was, in the centuries of faith, the cult to Saint Michael.

Many places, across the mountains of the island, are named after him.

APPARITION OF SAINT MICHAEL TO A DYING RELIGIOUS

This fact is told by Nieremberg in his book "The devotion to Saint Michael".

Brother Coman, a fervent religious from the Dominican order, affected by a serious disease in a heretical country, was on the verge of dying, without being able to receive the last rights.

Around him, a great multitude of devils were awaiting this prey; but then, Saint Michael rushed to his defence, appearing to him surrounded by a great light. "My son", he told him, "have no fear, because I will myself defend you against devils". Instantly, the devils took flight, frightened, and the holy religious gave his soul back to God, in great peace.

Does not Saint Augustine say also that a person about to die was surrounded by devils, to carry his soul away into hell? But they feared that Saint Michael would defend him when he would breathe his last.

He came indeed, and then, these evil spirits fled before him. Therefore, it is not in vain that St Pantaleon calls the great Archangel "The exterminator of devils".

PROTECTION OF SAINT MICHAEL IN FRANCE AND IN MISSIONS, IN MODERN TIMES

In a brochure entitled "Saint Michael and tomorrow's triumph", it is said that a predestinate soul (departed 1902) favored by extraordinary revelations recommended un- ceasingly the devotion to Saint Michael the Archangel. The Most Blessed Virgin would have told her: "I am merciful and I want to save France, but you have to pray to Saint Michael". Lastly, in the same brochure, it is narrated that a well-known exorcist priest made the following statement: "On June 13, 1901, while exorcising a possessed person, as soon as the scapulary of Saint Michael had been put on him during the exorcism, the devil pulled it away and tore it to shreds. When asked what effect does the scapulary produce on devils, the infernal spirit answered me: "It burns us". "But", I told him, "What is then the effect of this scapulary of the people who wear it"? The devil replied: "It crushes our power over souls".

Therefore, let us always wear this scapulary, or (which is the same) the medal of Saint Michael, so that we can be sure of his protection.

Let us also consecrate ourselves to him, and implore his help with faith, thus we shall have, after the Most Holy Virgin, a powerful intercessor before God.

In the brochure: "Saint Michael and tomorrow's triumph", one can also read these lines: "It does not go without a secret design of Providence that Leo XIII, of glorious memory, was inspired that it would be through the intervention of Saint Michael that hell would be

crushed! One day, in the fervor of his prayer, he was given the vision of the earth being envaded by dark clouds of infernal spirits who had recently come out of the abyss, and he understood that it was for Saint Michael that God had reserved the honor of casting them into it again".

According to H. H. Pius IX: "Saint Michael is the most capable one to exterminate the acursed sects, these daughters of Satan, that have sworn the ruin of Christian society".

Furthermore, this opinion was corroborated by H. H. Pius X's, who said, on September 18, 1903:

"During the first fight, God vanquished by using Saint Michael the Archangel, therefore, we must firmly believe that the present fight will end by a triumph, and with the help of this blessed Archangel".

It is in order to hasten the hour of this intervention, which is more necessary every day, that Leo XIII, in 1884, ordered every priest throughout the world to recite, after mass, an ardent supplication to Saint Michael, praying him to repel into hell Satan and his cohorts, as soon as possible.

Since then, Leo XIII, on various occasions, insisted to that one may continue to have recourse to the Archangel, fervently and without failing.

On September 29, 1891, through an express order of this great pope, bishop Sallua, Holy Office Commissionner, read a new prayer to Saint Michael in Saint Peter's basilica in Rome; that prayer had been composed by the sovereign pontiff himself.

Willing to further prevent the harmful action of devils on souls, Leo XIII created against them a new

weapon: "The exorcism which is named after him". Christians are advised to invoke the glorious Archangel every day, and, if they can, recite the Exorcism of Leo XIII.

Here are two examples of his powerful protection: On April 15, 1901, Bishop Favier, of Peking (China) told in Paris the following story: In July, 1900, he sustained, with his Christians in the Pe-Tang, a real siege against the Boxers. Long ago, this bishop had advised all his faithful to recite every day the prayer to Saint Michael, which is said after mass. The siege was lasting indefinitely and amunitions were running out.

No human help could be expected. Bishop Favier requested the heavenly help with more insistence, and consecrated officially his diocese to Saint Michael. On August 15, the besiegers, with the thought that the Christians had no amunitions left, rushed towards them, in order to slaughter the besieged. But, once they reached the stronghold, and invisible force stopped them. They felt an obstacle in front of them, invisible but impassable. Frightened, they fled. Only then, European troops arrived. Bishop Favier was told why the Boxers were aiming at the Pe-Tang: "There was, one told him," on top of your church, a great lady, dressed in white, and, close by her, was standing a warrior in arms, having two great white wings, and a sword in his hand". "It was the Blessed Virgin and Saint Michael, who had come to protect us" said Bishop Favier.

Clovis also had seen the Archangel, fighting along with him, and preparing for the victory in Tolbiac. Here is, even closer to us, proof of his powerful protection, of

which the following letter, of M., Curate of A... (Marne, France) from October 30, 1918, testifies: "On the eve of the attack of July 14, 1918, there was, round my parish, a stock of more than three million shells (of which one million were gas shells). During that time, and for two months, German planes never ceased to fly over the place. Bombs and shells would be dropped everywhere; if a single bomb or shell had fallen on the amunition stock, the whole place would have been destroyed, and its inhabitants asphyxied. In front of the impending danger, I put my parish under the protection of Saint Michael, fixing his image on the pulpit, in the church, and reciting daily the exorcism of Leo XIII. I promised to erect a statue of the Holy Archangel if we would come out of this great danger... The surrounding countries suffered much... Amidst all this turmoil, not a single shell ever fell on our country, not a single window pane was broken, to the great astonishment of my parishioners. Therefore, the statue of the Holy Archangel has now just been erected in the church, as a token of gratitude for his miraculous intervention".

Therefore, let us have a boundless confidence in the all-powerful and glorious Saint Michael, let us invoke him often, ever wear his medal and have his image in a place of honor in the home; in this way, he will protect us during the whole time of our existence, and at the so fearful hour of our death he will pray for us and assist us with his powerful protection against the enemy of our souls.

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Crowning of the Virgin & Veneration by the Angels.
(1295) Mosaic from Jacopo Torriti
Apse of St Mary Major, Rome.

Front cover : Guariento di Arpo, the Archangel weighing the souls ;
painting on wood, XIVth century – Art and History Museum ; Padova