



DON BOSCO AND GARDIAN ANGELS

When God created the world God put human beings as the crown of whole creation, but he was crowned to the visible ones not of the invisibles. Respected fathers and my dear brothers, who are these invisible beings? Are they friends or brothers? Do they exist? Sometimes these might be our inner questions which we often hunt for. Yes, when God created the heaven and earth he had also created the invisible beings the Angel. Angels signifies messengers it is therefore a name which indicates an office rather than a nature as St. Augustine says. The Angels can be defined as intellectual substance, purely spirit, created by God and superior to men “being pure spirits they do not possess a body.”

Nearly all the pages of the scripture testify to the existence of the Angels. Let us call to mind; the cherubim assigned to guard the entrance of the earthly paradise, the three angles that appeared to Abraham, the archangel Gabriel who announced the incarnation of the word, the Angels who announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherd and his resurrection and the innumerable Angels of the apocalypse. As we think about Angels we will be struck with Guardian Angels, why? Since, we have heard many stories about them. Let me also share some of the experiences experienced by our founder and father St. John Bosco.

Towards the end of 1844 Don Bosco was busy and had finished a book promoting devotion to the Guardian Angels. He started it while personally very grateful to God for the privilege of being entrusted by him to an angel’s custody. Hence he had a warm love for and deep devotion to his Guardian Angels whose feast day he celebrated every year and we are continuing it.

Don Bosco instructed his boys to have a special devotion to the Guardian Angels and he had given a special card which contained the prayer to the Guardian Angels which was prayed by the boys every day. It so happened that a few days later one of them an apprentice bricklayer, was working on a new building. As he went to and fro on the scaffold one of the support suddenly snapped and he felt the wooden planks on which

he and two others were standing gave away. At the first ominous splintering of the wood plank he realized that there was no way out. The scaffold collapsed and three of them plunged from the fourth story to the street below amid a rain of planks, breaks, and stones. Falling from such a height meant certain death but our good boy while falling remembered Don Bosco's words and loudly invited his Guardian angel "o my good angel help me" his prayer saved him of the three boys that fell, one died instantly and another critically injured, died shortly after reaching the hospital. As the people rushed to our young apprentices believing him dead he scrambled to his feet save and sound without even a scratch and that boy became a witness showing the humongous care of a Guardian angel and sharing what he was experienced.

Don Bosco used to narrate the story of Tobit and the arch angel Raphael, the miracle of the three young men who remained un-scattered amid the flames of the furnace in Babylon to instill trust in one's angel and other similar stories abounding Holy Scripture and church history. He was not tired to speaking about them. Don Bosco used to say "be good" he would say "this will make your Guardian angel happy when sorrows and misfortunes, physical or spiritual afflict you turn to your Guardian angel with strong trust and he will help you" how many people in their mortal sins were saved from death by their Angels that they might have a chance for confession. Woe to those who give scandal that the Guardian Angels of their innocent victims will cry out for vengeance of God. In his private talks, Don Bosco said like this "remember that you have an angel as a companion, your guardian and your friend. When temptation comes our way, invoke your angel, he is more eager to help you than you to be helped. Take courage and pray: your Guardian Angel also will pray for you and your prayers will be answered, Ignore the devil and do not be afraid of him he trembles and flees at your Guardian Angels sight, ask your angel to console and assist you in your last movement, if you wish to please Jesus and may obey your Guardian angel's inspirations. "

So my dear friends Angels are all around and watching over us. They are perhaps more popular and visible today than they were in the past let us also have this special devotion to our Guardian Angels let us also experience their protecting and loving care and above all let us entrust ourselves into their hands as Don Bosco instructed us.