

# Get to know your Guardian Angel and Patron Saint

## Objective:

At first you may think this is very simple, talk with your Guardian Angel and pray to your Patron Saint. However, there may be more to know about who they are and how we might relate to Guardian Angels and Patron Saints. That is why we come to Fathers Team meetings. There is much more to learn about Guardian Angels in general than Patron Saints. Think of a patron saint as someone whom you can identify with because you both have gone through similar experiences or have things in common. So, it's someone to help you on your earthly journey because they have overcome trials through faith. A guardian angel on the other hand is a spiritual being, who has been appointed by God to guard and intercede for you.

It's important to realize, as with the saints, that any power the angels have is coming from God and He is who gets worshiped. Angels and saints don't have powers on their own and they should never be worshiped.

**Song Suggestion:** We Walk by Faith (Blue 517, Red 583)

## Bible and Catechism Readings:

### Mt 10 -3:10

"See that you despise not one of these little ones: for I say to you, that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father who is in heaven."

### Lk 22:43

"And there appeared to [Jesus] an angel from heaven, strengthening him"

### Catechism 336

From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their (Guardian Angel's) watchful care and intercession. "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life." Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God.

### Catechism 2156

The patron saint provides a model of charity, we are assured of his intercession.

## Saint: St. Peter

Holder of the keys to heaven he surely sees the saintliness of all those who enter heaven. I would not be surprised to find out that St. Peter assigns Guardian angels.

## Vignette: –

*This story occurred during the Great Depression in the early 1930's in Chicago. It was told to me by a priest, Dr. Brown's brother.*

In the wee hours of the morning Dr. Brown was jarred from sleep by the insistent ringing of the phone. He remembers groggily groping for the receiver; a husky, strained voice implored: "Is this Dr. Brown?"

"Yes, I am he."

"Could you come quickly? It's urgent, a matter of life and death!"

"Yes, I'll come. Where do you live?"

"Seventeen Alan Street, please, come quickly."

Dr. Brown dressed quickly, got his things together and was soon headed off to Alan Street; how lonely it was traveling alone through the dark streets at night. The neighborhood towards which he drove was on the "far side of the tracks", where even during the day one might not feel too comfortable walking around.

Dr. Brown found the house easily enough, a single residence; only it was peculiar that no lights were on. He went to the door and knocked; after a pause, he knocked again. Still there was no answer. His third knock, however, elicited a gruff response, "Who's there?"

"It's Dr. Brown. I received an urgent call for medical help. Is this seventeen Alan Street?"

"Yes, it is, but nobody called you, get out of here!"

As he withdrew, he scanned the street searchingly for lights that might indicate where his help was really needed. Seeing none, he reproached himself again, thinking he had failed to jot down the right street number. Or perhaps, it was just a bad prank. In any case, there was nothing he could do but return home. And as there was no follow up phone call, he simply forgot the matter in the days that ensued.

Several weeks later, though, he received another call during the day from the emergency ward at the hospital. The nurse explained that a man, a certain John Turner, who had just suffered a severe accident and was clearly dying, was begging to speak with Dr. Robert Brown. "Doctor, could you come by quickly? He doesn't have much time. He will not tell us why he needs to speak to you."

Dr. Brown agreed to go, yet he was rather puzzled, for he knew no one by the name of John Turner. This conviction was verified by the patient, who said: "Dr. Brown, you don't know me, but I just had to speak with you before I die and beg your forgiveness. You will recall having received a telephone call several weeks ago in the dead of the night."

"Yes, I remember the call, but..."

"It was I who called you." The dying man explained: "I had had no work for months and months. I had sold everything of value in the house, and still could not feed my family. I could not bear the imploring, hungry looks in my children's eyes. In my desperation, I resolved to call a doctor for help in the middle of the night. My plan was to kill him, take his money and sell his instruments."

Though horrified, Dr. Brown could not help but protest: "Yes, but I came, why didn't you kill me?"

"I was expecting that you would come alone, but when I saw that big, powerful young man at your side I was afraid; and so I just sent you off gruffly. Please forgive me."

"Yes, of course," muttered Dr. Brown in a daze.

A cold chill had come over him; he had had no inkling that what had seemed to him like an irksome error or even a bad prank had been really such a close call with death. And even less had he suspected that his Guardian Angel (to whom he ever after attributed this intervention) had saved his life that night; for indeed, the "powerful young man" had appeared only to his would-be assailant, who now dying, was imploring his forgiveness.

How awesome are the ways of God. How often our Angels preserve us from harm without our ever adverting to the fact.

### **Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:**

What is the nature of an angel? What is the job/office of an angel?

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What makes a good patron saint?

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Have you ever gotten the sense that your Guardian Angel was near? Explain the situation.

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Did Jesus have a Guardian Angel?

The *Navarre Bible* commentary on the Gospel of Luke answers, “The Creator of all, who is never in need of the help of his creatures, is ready to accept, as man, consolation and help from those who can give it”

**Action Plan:**

1. If you do not identify with a particular Saint as your patron consider doing so.
2. Take time to talk/pray with your Guardian Angel.
3. Google Guardian Angels songs there are some good ones sung by Mario Lanza, etc.

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