



Dear Prayer Volunteer:

The purpose of this prospectus is to give you a detailed understanding of the prayer album project that I am undertaking, and hopefully to help you decide to become a part of this important effort. Although the word “prospectus” is generally associated with financial investments, I am not in any way soliciting financial support. Rather, I am soliciting your *prayer* support. Please take some time to read through this document and then to prayerfully discern what level of commitment you can make to this effort.

If you decide to make a commitment of prayer, please fill out the form at the end of this prospectus and mail it to the address shown on the form. If you have Internet access, visit my website at www.trumpet7.com/PrayerAlbum.htm where you can fill out and send the form online. This information will remain strictly confidential and allows me to know how many prayer volunteers are participating in this project, and it also enables me to contact you periodically to update you with the current status of the project. Of course, no prayers will ever be rejected, and if you wish to remain anonymous, I respect your privacy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the number shown above, or at my email address: ken@trumpet7.com. May God bless you and your loved ones with an abundance of graces.

Sincerely,

Ken Holtgrewe

Overview

The prayer album is an album of 12 instrumental songs. The style of the music can best be described as “easy listening,” ranging from simple piano arrangements to synthesized orchestral arrangements. The entire album is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary in reparation for all of the offenses committed against them. Each song on the album has a specific prayer intention for which we invoke the prayers of the communion of saints, including the prayers of the prayer volunteers. Whenever a song is played from this album, we ask Mary the Mother of God, and all the holy angels and saints, to pray for the specific prayer intention of that song, as well as for the needs and intentions of the people who are listening to the music. The album liner notes will contain a detailed explanation of the prayerful nature of this album and of the prayer intentions for each song.

What are we praying for?

I am assembling a team of prayer volunteers who will commit to praying for this album project on a regular basis. I ask these prayer volunteers, along with Mary and the entire communion of saints and angels, to pray for the following intentions:

- The success of the project
- The prayer intentions of each song
- The needs and intentions of the eventual listeners of the songs
- Inspiration from the Holy Spirit as I am composing the music
- Protection for my studio equipment during the creation of this album from malfunction, theft, fire, lightning, or other disaster
- That I may find adequate time and work efficiently on the project
- That God may grant countless graces by means of this project
- That God may help me with all the small details

How should we pray?

That’s up to each individual to decide. I humbly request, however, that a prayer volunteer’s commitment be for the duration of the project. Pray in whatever manner is appropriate for you.

What is the duration of the project?

The project will continue as long as there is a demand for the albums—hopefully indefinitely. This is why I ask prayer volunteers to “sign up” so that I can contact them from time to time regarding the success of the project. I am currently exploring many methods of marketing and distributing the album. Of course when this album hits the top of the charts, there will be others to follow which will need your prayers as well!

How far along is the project now?

As of spring 2005, the album does not exist. A few of the songs have been written, but they need to be re-recorded. The playlist of the album has already been written, and the prayer intention for each song has already been determined. Also, a detailed, biblical explanation of the prayer intention for each song has already been written. However, much work remains to be done, and I want to assemble at least a skeleton crew of prayer volunteers to cover the project in prayer as I forge ahead.

What's so special about the liner notes?

The true purpose of this album is explained in great detail in the liner notes. Since none of the music has lyrics, the prayer intention of each song also must be clearly explained. The purpose of this album is to emanate God's grace to the listeners, and also to evangelize. Since the songs don't have words, the only other way to evangelize is through the liner notes. The full text of the liner notes is copied below.

Another angel came in holding a censer of gold. He took his place at the altar of incense and was given large amounts of incense to deposit on the altar of gold in front of the throne, together with the prayers of all God's holy ones. From the angel's hand the smoke of the incense went up before God, and with it the prayers of God's people.

(Revelation 8:3-4)

From the composer:

Unlike ordinary "devotional" albums, the purpose of this album is not simply to provide a collection of pleasing, meditative music. Each piece on this album has a specific prayer intention that the listener is encouraged to meditate on and offer to our Lord while listening. The entire album is consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in reparation for all of the outrageous offenses committed against them, and for the apathy and spiritual blindness that is so prevalent in our modern world.

The idea for this project was inspired in part by the idea of prayer blankets. Volunteers give their time and talent by creating these special blankets. During the time that they are making the blankets, they are praying over them and for the eventual recipients. Many people have experienced the Love of Christ through these blankets. There have been reported healings, conversions and other blessings from God. This prayer album is based on the same concept. A large group of prayer volunteers has been assembled from around the world through the use of the Internet and by word of mouth. These

people have been praying for and continue to pray for this project. They are praying not only for the intentions of each song, but also for the listeners. We pray that God will grant many graces to all those who listen to the music in this album, even if the listener is unaware of the prayerful intent of each song.

In addition, we invoke the powerful intercession of the Mother of God and the entire heavenly court of saints and angels. We ask that whenever a song from this album is played, no matter where, when, how, or by whom, that these holy saints and angels will offer to God the specific prayer intention of that song. We ask also that they would pray for the needs and intentions of the listeners. We pray also for the blessed souls in purgatory, and we ask for their prayers as well. It is our desire that as a result of this album, God will grant many graces to many people through the combined prayers and intercessions of the Church militant, suffering, and triumphant (1 Tim 2:1-4).

Finally, an orthodox Catholic Priest has blessed the actual CDs and tapes, including the jewel cases and this pamphlet.

1 <name of song> (Intent: *Praise and adoration*)

Our very first order of business each time we pray should be to praise and worship God for who He is and for all He has done for us.

Great is the LORD and worthy of high praise; God's grandeur is beyond understanding. One generation praises your deeds to the next and proclaims your mighty works (Ps 145:3-4).

2 <name of song> (Intent: *Thanksgiving*)

As Christians, we are called to realize that all good things come from God. We merit nothing on our own. Everything we have—our family, friends, faith, health, material things (our daily bread), indeed our very life was given to us by God. Although we can never repay our Lord for these gifts, it is right to give Him thanks and praise incessantly.

Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks; such is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thess 5:17-18).

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Col 3:17).

3 <name of song> (Intent: *Penance and an appeal to Divine Mercy*)

Ever since the fall of Adam and Eve, man has repeatedly offended God and constantly required His infinite mercy. God does not want a single soul to perish, yet He has given us a free will to choose whether or not to follow Him. This free will is inviolable. God will not force us to love Him. Instead, He wants us to freely choose to love Him and follow Him using our own free will. All too often, however, we exercise our free will to do things that are against God's will. Because of the awesome and incomprehensible majesty of God and our complete indebtedness to Him, even the slightest transgression against Him should require the sinner to suffer eternal damnation. Fortunately for us, *"Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. He will not always chide, nor does he keep his wrath forever. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him" (Ps 103:8-11).* Indeed, scripture announces to us the most awesome example of the love and mercy God has for us: *"Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him may not die but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).* We can freely partake of this ocean of Divine Mercy if we do the following: 1) profess belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of mankind, 2) admit our

guilt and confess our sins, 3) strive to do works of mercy and penance, and 4) avoid sin and those things that lead us to sin.

On April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Saint Faustina Kowalska, making her the first "official" saint of the Jubilee year. It was to her that Our Lord appeared in 1931. Jesus asked her to paint (or have painted) a very special image of Himself that would become a vessel of graces for those who would venerate the image (as with all religious images, appropriate veneration is rightly given to the person the image represents, not the image itself). Jesus required that the image include the inscription "Jesus, I trust in you." Our enemy tries hard to make us give up following Christ. Satan tempts us with despair. With the words "Jesus, I trust in you," Jesus wants to remind us of His infinite mercy, and He wants us not to despair and give up trying to be holy. He wants us to trust—to believe completely that He is merciful enough to forgive us for anything we might do, no matter how horrible it may seem. The need to trust in and invoke the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ is more critical now than ever before. We are living in a very special time of mercy. Many people are in open rebellion against God and His laws. Let us pray for those who have been deceived and lured by this culture of death. We invoke the boundless mercy of God and ask for the conversion of poor sinners all over the world.

4 *Looking for Jesus (Intent: That all may earnestly seek to find Our Lord, and for the souls in purgatory—that they may come to the end of their purification and find our Lord in His glory)*

Many people, realizing that worldly things cannot satisfy their soul (read the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible), have turned to the spiritual world for fulfillment. Unfortunately in this post-Christian era, many of these "seekers" are increasingly turning to non-Christian religions and philosophies. The apostle Paul warned the Colossians: *"See to it that no one captivate you with an empty, seductive philosophy according to human tradition, according to the elemental powers of the world and not according to Christ" (Col 2:8).* Since none of these "empty and seductive" philosophies and religions is based on the truth of Christ, these people will never find in them what they are looking for. The desire of every human soul is to be with God. We pray for all people who are earnestly searching for truth—searching for God. We pray that they will abandon all other empty and seductive philosophies and accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray that they will ultimately find Our Lord in His Holy Church, in the Holy Scriptures, in the most Blessed

Sacrament of the Eucharist, and ultimately in their hearts.

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:41-49).

5 *<name of song> (Intent: **An end to the culture of death, the scourge of liberalism, and the great apostasy**)*

Our modern world, especially western culture, is plagued with a crisis of faith. God is systematically being pushed aside and in His place are the gods of materialism, sexuality, feminism, and political correctness, along with countless others. Pope Paul VI warned us "the smoke of Satan has entered the Church." You don't have to look far to find a Catholic church or even an entire diocese that has succumbed in some way to New Age, liberal, or pagan thought. It seems that many of the faithful are letting themselves be deceived by this spirit of antichrist (sometimes referred to as "the spirit of Vatican II," or as "political correctness"). Scripture tells us "*they have not accepted the love of truth so that they may be saved. Therefore, God is sending them a deceiving power so that they may believe the lie, that all who have not believed the truth but have approved wrongdoing may be condemned*" (2 Thess 2:10-12). This should not be surprising to us since it was prophesied long ago in the Bible, and more recently in numerous private revelations.

Let us pray that this scourge will leave our nation and our world. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit, the source of all holy wisdom, will enlighten the people of the world and cause them to reject all of the illogical, corrupt ideas that pervert society and lead people away from God.

For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate

teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

But understand this: there will be terrifying times in the last days. People will be self-centered and lovers of money, proud, haughty, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, irreligious, callous, implacable, slanderous, licentious, brutal, hating what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, as they make a pretense of religion but deny its power. Reject them. For some of these slip into homes and make captives of women weighed down by sins, led by various desires, always trying to learn but never able to reach a knowledge of the truth (2 Tim 3:1-7).

6 *Waltz for the Unborn (Intent: **An end to the worldwide abomination of abortion**)*

The sin of abortion is no doubt one of the most horrific of all sins committed against God. It is the culmination of all the seven deadly sins combined. It is no wonder that satanists often gather at abortion clinics in black robes to offer their human sacrifice of death to their master. That this sin is tolerated and even promoted by our modern, "civilized" society shows just how blind we have become. Indeed, those who promote this abomination are no different than the Aztecs whose practice of human sacrifice was ended after the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1531 and their conversion to Christianity. Once again, we invoke the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, to plead with our Lord to intervene in the affairs of men and wipe this abomination from the face of the earth.

I call heaven and earth today to witness against you: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live (Dt 30:19).

7 *<name of song> (Intent: **Peace on Earth**)*

The dream of peace on earth, in a utopian sense, has always eluded mankind. Many have strived to achieve this goal, putting their faith in humanity alone. Those who strive to bring peace to our world but have no belief in God and the spiritual realm of angels and demons have no chance of realizing their goal. A popular bumper sticker comes to mind. It says "No Jesus, no peace. Know Jesus, know peace." These people, often referred to as secular humanists, put mankind in the place of God. There are several problems with this. First, they are offending God by committing the sin of idolatry. Secondly, by not acknowledging the true God, they forfeit the benefit of His saving grace, which we need to overcome our fallen nature, and without

which we can accomplish nothing. Jesus says to us, “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who lives in me and I in him, will produce abundantly, for apart from me you can do nothing” (Jn 15:5). Lastly, they have no idea who they are up against. St. Paul tells us: “For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground” (Eph 6:12-13).

Our enemy, the prince of this world, is a cunning and super-intelligent being whom we don’t stand a chance resisting on our own. It is said that even the weakest of demons could destroy the earth in an instant if God permitted it. Fortunately, we are adequately equipped and well protected from the enemy when we put on the armor of God. This spiritual armor can take many forms:

- Our faith in the Most Blessed Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and our faith in our redemption through Christ’s perfect atonement for our sins
- The Holy Mass as a sacrifice, and our faith in Our Lord’s true presence in the Holy Eucharist
- The sacraments
- The Word of God found in the Holy Bible
- Sacred Tradition of the Church
- Prayers of the Church, most notably the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and countless other pious devotions that our Church gives to us
- Private, informal prayer with God
- Sacramentals such as crucifixes, holy water, rosary beads, candles, medals, scapulars, holy images, etc.

Our prayer is for a true and lasting peace on earth, which can only be brought about through a universal acceptance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Truly, we say “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

8 <name of song> (Intent: *For unity among Christians and a universal acceptance of the true Church founded by Jesus Christ*)

Nearly 2000 years ago, Our Lord Jesus Christ founded His Church when he asked his apostles, “And you...who do you say that I am?” “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Son of the

living God!” Jesus replied, “Blest are you, Simon son of Jonah! No mere man has revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. I for my part declare to you, you are ‘Rock,’ and on this rock I will build my church, and the jaws of death shall not prevail against it. I will entrust to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you declare bound on earth shall be bound in heaven; whatever you declare loosed on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Mt 16:15-19). Since then, some have made the argument that Jesus, rather than Peter, is the “rock” to which this passage of scripture refers. However, a careful analysis of the original Aramaic text (the language spoken by Jesus Himself) reveals that Jesus clearly meant that Peter was to be the foundation on which the Lord would build His Church.

At Pentecost, Jesus sent His Holy Spirit to empower the new Church with divine guidance and protection: “I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. When he [the Holy Spirit] comes, however, being the Spirit of truth he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but will speak only what he hears, and will announce to you the things to come” (Jn 16:12-13). Furthermore, this divine guidance and protection (from doctrinal error) has remained with the Church and will remain with the Church until the end of world. “Full authority has been given to me both in heaven and on earth; go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world!” (Mt 28:18-20). Our Lord intended for His Church (not the Bible alone, as Protestants claim) to be the means of spreading His redeeming Gospel, in its fullness, to the world. This is supported in the first epistle of Paul to Timothy when Paul describes the Church as “God’s household, the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of truth” (1 Tim 3:15). The Catholic Church is also the source of countless graces that are given through the sacraments. The Catholic Church is the only Christian Church that can trace its foundation and leadership all the way back to Peter the Rock, and it is one of the very few Christian (along with a few not-so-Christian) Churches that is so bold as to claim itself as being the one true Church founded by Jesus Christ Himself. We pray that all people, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, will come to know and follow the teachings of the one true Church, and therefore possess the fullness of truth required for their salvation. We pray as Jesus prayed, “that all may

be one" (Jn 17:21), and that the walls which have separated Christians for centuries will come tumbling down, leaving "one flock then, one shepherd" (Jn 10:16). St. Paul instructs us: "Make every effort to preserve the unity which has the Spirit as its origin and peace as its binding force. There is but one body and one Spirit, just as there is but one hope given all of you by your call. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all, and works through all, and is in all" (Eph 4:3-6).

9 <name of song> (Intent: *For all who suffer from disease, affliction, violence, abuse, or oppression*)

We pray for all people who are enduring every kind of suffering and misery. We pray for God's mercy so that He may relieve their suffering. We pray for God's justice so that He will put an end to every kind of injustice that results in human suffering. We also pray that all people will have patience and an understanding of the value of Christian suffering.

Throughout history men have asked the age-old question, "Why does a loving and merciful God allow such suffering in our world?" Many have used this question (to which they assume has no good answer) as an excuse to avoid religion altogether. Often times, God puts a stumbling block in our path that may cause us some degree of suffering. God's desire in doing this is for us to turn back to Him in humility and admit that we are totally dependent on Him. Yet, He never violates our free will and allows us to freely choose to turn to Him in our need, or to reject Him further. Other times, we suffer as a direct consequence of our own actions. Although God does not delight in this, he allows it to happen so that we will learn to correct our error, and to turn to Him in our need. Still other times, there are those inexplicable tragedies or acts of evil that cause immense suffering or death. Surely, these horrors can't come from God, yet He allows them to happen. In these cases, perhaps God is calling us to realize that our short time here on earth as mortals is just a drop in the infinite ocean of eternity. We must remember that "God formed man to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made him. But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world, and they who are in his possession experience it" (Wis 2:23-24). We are immortal beings—imperishable! This is an enormous truth to grasp! The book of Wisdom in the Bible (unfortunately not found in most Protestant Bibles) offers even more enlightenment on the subject: "But the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an

affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality. Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself" (Wis 3:1-6). The "foolish" are those who value this mortal life more than they value their eternal life. St. Paul compares this life to the next in his letter to the Romans: "I consider the sufferings of the present to be as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed in us" (Rom 8:18). God's justice is perfect. If we lead a just life, then whatever seeming injustices we have endured in this short life will be more than adequately made up for in the next, for all eternity!

Another important aspect of our suffering is that if we unite it with Christ's suffering on the Cross, then our suffering becomes redemptive. We, the faithful, comprise the mystical body of Christ here on earth (see Col 1:18; 1 Cor 12:20-27; Eph 5:30; Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 6:15). When we suffer, Christ also suffers with us. We can offer up all of our sufferings to God in union with Jesus' suffering on the Cross. We can offer this suffering up for the benefit of others, or for ourselves. St. Paul told the Colossians, "Even now I find my joy in the suffering I endure for you. In my own flesh I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ for the sake of his body, the church" (Col 1:24).

Jesus himself did not want to suffer. We see this when he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Still, let it be as you would have it, not as I" (Mt 26:39). It is only natural for us to want relief from our sufferings. God may indeed send us healing and strength, or He may decide to let us carry our cross a little while longer—for the greater good of His Kingdom. Thus, as Christians, we would do well to follow Our Lord's example and endure whatever suffering comes our way with patience, love, charity, and humble resignation to the will of God. We should never lose hope as we pray for the coming of that glorious day at the end of time when God will create the new heavens and a new earth that will be "God's dwelling among men. He shall dwell with them and they shall be his people and he shall be their God who is always with them. He shall wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the former world has passed away" (Rev 21:3-4).

10 <name of song> (Intent: *For the Pope, bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and laity who proclaim God's Word throughout the world, and for an increase in vocations*)

Shortly before His glorious ascension into Heaven, Our Lord gave the following instructions, known as the Great Commission, to His disciples: *"Full authority has been given to me both in heaven and on earth; go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world"* (Mt 28:18-20). With these words, the fledgling Church was commissioned to do a seemingly incomprehensible task—to evangelize the world. When the Holy Spirit descended upon Mary and the apostles at Pentecost, they became energized and empowered with wisdom, knowledge, zeal, courage, fortitude, joy, and other gifts of the Holy Spirit that made their task possible. While all baptized Christians are called to live their faith and to evangelize others, it is the clergy, by their ordination, who are called in a special way to lead the Church. This ordination, the sacrament of Holy Orders, is like a "mini Pentecost." As a successor to the apostles and disciples of Christ, the person being ordained is given the gifts of the Holy Spirit to aid and protect him in his ministry. The devil, aware of the extraordinary ministry of these ordained persons, works extra hard against them—to tempt them and to try to deceive them in every way. The devil knows that if he can bring down one of these ordained ministers through some type of scandal, he can cause hundreds or even thousands of other faithful to become discouraged and lose faith. If he can cause one member of the clergy to accept some heretical belief, or to reject some dogmatic truth, then that person has the potential to spread his error to countless others. This is why we must pray for the clergy. We pray that they will have the strength to resist the attacks of the enemy, and the courage to stand up and preach the truth. In our modern world, it is especially important that the clergy have the courage and strength to preach forcefully against the culture of death, and for a culture of life. We pray in a special way for our Pope, John Paul II, that God will strengthen him, physically and spiritually, and allow him to continue to defend the true Faith and shepherd the Church militant.

It should be noted that the so-called shortage of vocations being experienced in some parts of the world is only a symptom of the underlying disease of apostasy and degeneration. While it is good to pray for vocations—asking God to alleviate the symptom,

we ask God not only to send us more priests, sisters and brothers to serve in His vineyard, but also to cure the disease by sending the Holy Spirit to remedy the spiritual blindness which is causing a great portion of mankind to shun God and to embrace liberalism and the culture of death. Recall how Saul recovered his sight after being blinded by his vision of Jesus: *"When he [Ananias] entered the house he laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Saul, my brother, I have been sent by the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the way here, to help you recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight"* (Acts 9:17-18). May the Holy Spirit likewise remove the scales from our eyes and restore our sight. Only then will the "vocations crisis" come to an end.

11 <name of song> (Intent: *Recognition of evil*)

It has been said that the devil's greatest wile is to convince people that he does not exist. It is not difficult to see why he would want to do this. If people don't believe in the devil, then it follows that they will quickly lose their perception of sin and of evil. In our post-Christian society, many people think that satan and the demons are simply myths leftover from a previous, unenlightened and superstitious era. Furthermore, many who don't believe in the devil or the demons likewise don't believe in God and the angels either. By falling for this belief (or unbelief), they either neglect to put on—or just don't believe in the necessity of—spiritual armor. This is exactly what the devil wants because it makes these people easy prey for his lies and seductions. Once again, let us look at the words written by St. Paul: *"For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground"* (Eph 6:12-13). Indeed, the devil and his demons are real. They are formidable enemies who prey on our every weakness, and they should not be taken lightly. They are spoken of numerous times in the Bible. Their existence is a doctrine of the Church and has been preached throughout the ages. Only recently has this preaching subsided. Many private revelations speak of the devil and his demons having been released into the world to wreak all sorts of havoc. Actual demonic possessions of people do occur, although this is relatively rare. The movie "The Exorcist" was based on a true story. Fortunately, the faithful who put on the armor of God have power over the evil spirits and we need not

fear. For the victory over them was already won at Calvary.

There are numerous ways we can protect ourselves from the devil and his demons. The first and most important is prayer. The more we pray, the more God opens our eyes up to the spiritual realm around us. Frequent participation in the Holy Mass and reception of Holy Communion is of utmost importance. Frequent (at least once per month) confession of our sins is a must—especially if we have fallen into serious (mortal) sin. The Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy are very powerful prayers against evil. Holy water is very powerful against the devil. Bless yourself and your family members with holy water once in the morning, and once before bed. The use of blessed objects (sacramentals) such as crucifixes, images, medals, scapulars, candles, etc. is also a powerful means to ward away evil. And finally, educate yourself by studying the scriptures often. Learn about the devil and his tactics against us. Again we pray for the glorious day when satan, the antichrist, the false prophet, and all the demons and evil people will be cast into hell, and God will reign glorious and triumphant over the new heavens and the new earth for all eternity!

12 Hail, Holy Queen Enthroned Above (*Intent: To honor our Blessed Mother, and for the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Era of Peace promised at Fatima*)

Chapter 2 of the Gospel of John tells the story of the wedding at Cana, where Our Lord performed His first public miracle. *“At a certain point the wine ran out, and Jesus’ mother told him, ‘They have no more wine.’ Jesus replied, ‘Woman, how does this concern of yours involve me? My hour has not yet come.’ His mother instructed those waiting on table, ‘Do whatever he tells you’”* (Jn 2:3-5). The story continues and the waiters fill five large jugs with water, to which Jesus changes into wine—not just cheap wine, but “choice” wine. Of major significance in this story is Mary’s statement: “Do whatever he tells you.” Mary was chosen before time began to be the vessel that bore the Savior into the world. She has been called the Ark of the New Covenant. And just as the original Ark of the Covenant, which bore the Word of God inscribed on the tablets, was made with pure gold (Ex 25:11-21), so too was the Ark of the New Covenant (Mary) a vessel of utmost purity. Hence the Virgin Mary, by a special grace from God, was conceived and born without sin so that she could be a worthy vessel to bring the Word of God (Jn 1:1) into the world. Her role was to bring God into the world and to lead others to Him; instructing them “Do whatever He tells you.” And so

now, in our time, her role has remained unchanged. She has appeared to numerous people throughout the centuries, and she has appeared with far greater frequency as we approach the third millennium. Her messages usually warn that mankind is straying far from God, and that if we do not return to Him, we are headed down a path of self-destruction. She constantly urges us to pray and reform our lives. As in the days when Jesus walked this earth, she still brings Jesus into the hearts of men by guiding people to her Son, and echoing the words, “Do whatever He tells you.”

Catholic Tradition affirms that Mary, when her earthly life was over, was taken—body and soul—into heaven (the Assumption) and crowned the Queen of heaven by Jesus (the Coronation). We pray that all Christians, especially non-Catholics, will come to believe in the unique role that God has given to our Blessed Mother for our era. We pray that through her powerful intercession, the Holy Spirit will come once again to cleanse and purify the world and to turn the hearts of men back to God. This second Pentecost we pray for will truly be the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary—the Era of Peace that she foretold to the world at Fatima.

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. Because she was with child, she wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky: it was a huge dragon, flaming red, with seven heads and ten horns; on his heads were seven diadems. His tail swept a third of the stars from the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, ready to devour her child when it should be born. She gave birth to a son—a boy destined to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and to his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert, where a special place had been prepared for her by God; there she was taken care of for twelve hundred and sixty days (Rev 12:1-6).

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