



The Armor of Faith
Topic Summary: Saints of Inspiration
Part III: Archangel Saints



Public Domain

Introduction

[Greeting:] → Welcome to “The Armor of Faith,” a show where we hope to bring our listeners closer to the Word of God and the blessings we receive through living in the fullness of the Catholic faith. My name is Doug and I will be your host as we discuss the blessings of the Church Christ built upon Peter.

I am joined today by my panel: [names]

Helen is a lay-Dominican with a love for music ministry. The Dominicans, I always mention, are also known as the Order of Preachers. Sharon, in addition to being my lovely wife as well as a wonderful blessing, is a youth and adult formation catechist. We are also blessed to have on our panel, Donna Mae, who is the artist who sculpted the statue of Our Lady of America which was carried by our youth and blessed by Saint John Paul II at the 1993 World Youth Day.

Of course, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions because if you don't ask the right question, you might not get to the right answer? Of course, Armor of Faith Radio does not certify that I have the right questions, only that I have questions. Anyway, the hard part we leave to our panelists, which is to answer my questions, correct my pronunciation, and make sure I know which century I am talking about, so welcome to our panelists as well as to our listeners.

Let us open with a prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for this opportunity to open and share your Holy Word this day. We pray that You are with us and all our listeners as we share with one another the blessings of faith. We pray You will grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to learn Your Holy Truth.

Dear Lord, we also lift up the prayers in our prayer basket. You know what is written on each one and you know the hearts of those who offer their thanks and praise as well as their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

We pray especially today for those suffering from grief. We pray, dear Lord, that You will grant them comfort and peace as they navigate the world in their time of loss.

We pray especially today for the children of our day, that as they continue to learn from their parents and proceed through religious formation, You will grant them wisdom and understanding as well as help them see all the blessing You offer through living the fullness of our Catholic faith. We pray too, dear Lord, that You will help them see the gifts and talents You placed within their stewardship so they may help accomplish Your will.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

If you would like to add your prayers to our prayer basket, all you need to do is send us an email at armoroffaithradio@gmail.com. We ask that you include the word “prayer” in the subject line so that we will give it priority and ensure we place it in our prayer basket. Just so you know, Sharon and I lift up our prayers with those in the Armor of Faith Radio prayer basket during the course of our daily prayers.

We would also like to ask you to assist Armor of Faith Radio in our evangelization. By sharing the URL for our show, you can help us spread knowledge of our faith. All you need to do is share the URL, wcatradio.com/armoroffaith via email or social media and tell family and friends as well. Several of the streaming services through which we are available on demand also have share options, so we invite you to join the evangelization and help us spread the good news of the Gospel and our trust in Jesus Christ. You can also help us by selecting the follow or subscribe option associated with the service through which you listen to our show.

Current Day Commentary:

New Normal

I really find these words grinding and irritating as social marketing sloganeers and political propagandists attempt to use them to manipulate us to accept whatever ideological fad they are pushing and using whatever crisis they may point to assist them. I have heard the same sentiment from others during the course of various conversations. People have become so tired of those words as they drip in insincerity while promising something shiny or warm and fuzzy that will dig them out of their troubles while we are left unsuspecting of hidden consequences.

Perhaps sensing the world beginning to see through the “new normal” mantra, synonyms are now popping up, “rethink,” “re-imagine,” “reset,” and if “reset” is not enough, now we have the “Great Reset.” These are not words describing realistic or full range problem solving, rather, they are manipulation words – just accept the change; it is for your own good. We must see them as flags which should cause us to ask questions about what professional politicians and their media propagandists are seeking to impose upon us. Of course, the hidden agenda always seems to be increased power to professional politicians, bureaucracies, and oligarchs.

The answer to the challenges of our day is not always more laws and taxes, but that hammer appears to be the only tool of professional politicians, so the rest of us are simply nails. Do not get me wrong, government has its place, but when they enter the realm of social engineering

and identify politics, someone is always left to suffer as they work to divide us to impose their power over us.

Every generation must ask themselves the question, what will we do to provide opportunity for every living soul and what will we do to help care for the less fortunate and those who suffer? The answer should not begin with big government, big taxation, big bureaucracy and big oligarchs; the answer should begin with charity and ministry which comes from our own hearts and our own choices. Yes, government can do things small organizations cannot, but government, especially socialist government, lacks the compassion required to truly address the cry of the poor for it is focused on one-size-fits-all hand waves and bureaucratic rules without consideration of rippling consequences and inefficiencies.

As parish communities, we must ask ourselves, what are we able to do to help address the needs of the community and with whom may we join hands such that many hands make light work? What ministries and services can we provide to not only assist others in time of need, but also to provide an example of what may be possible by living what God asks of us? We must pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us look at the full range of time, talent, and treasure within the parish community and ask how we may assist in the effort to do the will of God. If there is a new normal, let it be what God asks of us; but then, how is that new, for His will has been the same since He first created time, and Saint Faustina reminds us, His will is love and mercy itself.

Why Catholics Do What We Do:

Catholic Definitions – Part XVI: Alms

A few weeks ago we began talking about Lent and said that Lent is a time for fasting, penance, charitable giving, and prayer. We have now covered the fasting and some penance. Today, let us talk about charitable giving. The documents of the Church use the word Alms giving as I use the term charitable giving.

What are alms and what does it mean?

According to Merriam-Webster the definition of alms is:

- 1 : something (such as money or food) given freely to relieve the poor: distributing alms to the needy
- 2 : charity

So my term of charity and the Church's term of alms actually mean the same thing. Just want to clear up any confusion.

In Scripture, we find in Tobit 12:8-9:

(Tobit 12:8-9)

8 Prayer with fasting is good. *Alms giving with righteousness is better than wealth with wickedness. It is better to give alms than to store up gold, 9 for alms giving saves from death, and purges all sin. Those who give alms will enjoy a full life.*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

(CCC: 2462)

Giving alms to the poor is a witness to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.

While fasting is good, Alms giving is better. Alms giving is itself a prayer. It is a sacrificial giving and a form of fasting from material things.

Alms giving has been part of the Church since the very early days. The first people who were followers of Christ knew the importance of helping those who were in need. We, today, also know the need to help others and the importance of this task.

How do we do this and what can we do?

- **Money:** Is there any charitable organization that does not need money to help them carry out their mission? So pick out an organization of your choice and donate money to help them help others.
- **Donate personal goods:** Go through your closet and drawers and donate clothing that you no longer use. Someone out there has a need. Now don't give the old worn out items, donate items that you may have only worn once or twice, in good condition. Other items that you might consider: dishes, cook ware, tools, toys, blankets, diapers, furniture, electronics, books, etc.
- **Food:** Anyone who is in need is going to be hungry as well. Perhaps you have some canned goods that you can donate for the good of someone else.
- **Time and talent:** If you have a skill that others may benefit from, you might consider giving some time and your talent. Like what? Beauticians, barbers, electricians, teachers, baby sitting, medical personnel, tax preparers, cooks, musicians, mechanics, volunteer at a soup kitchen, the list goes on and on. Our talents were given to us by God, so why not give back to God by giving to His creation. I believe that when we give of ourselves, for the sake of others, we delight our Lord immeasurably.

The principal of giving has been a teaching of the Church since Christ walked and talked with the Apostles and the people of the day. The gift of giving is good for the receiver as well as for those who give. When you give, I promise that you will will feel a glow of love within you.

Now go out and do good for others this Lent.

Have a blessed week All. Remember, you are loved dearly by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and yes, by us as well.

If you would like to learn more about the Catholic meaning of “Alms,” we invite you to follow the links in the reference section of the topic summary for this episode. You can obtain the topic summary by visiting <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaithstudyguides/> and select episode 187.

Discussion:

As we concluded our last discussion, I mentioned that as we brain stormed saints of inspiration to include in this series, I recommended Saint Kolbe because he kept crossing my path in various ways. I initially became aware of him because of his sacrifice as a martyr of charity; the story of how he volunteered to take the place of a family man that the Nazis selected to starve to death as a retaliation for another prisoner's escape from Auschwitz. While martyrs are made in a moment, what prepares them for that moment is how they learned and lived their faith.

I didn't learn about the life of Saint Kolbe until the censorship on social media platforms caused us to research alternatives where we might engage without being suppressed or canceled. We began to establish a presence on Parler, but then, they were taken offline by a collusion of Big Tech companies. This eventually led us to discover a social media site devoted to the Catholic faith, called SP3RN. At the time, I had no clue as to what the name meant, but it was nice to find a platform friendly to Catholics.

A few days later, I saw a video which allowed me to make the connection between Saint Kolbe and SP3RN. These were the amateur radio call letters Saint Kolbe used over which to evangelize. Of course, this grabbed at me because of our own efforts via Armor of Faith Radio.

Some may remember, we did several episodes on Fatima during our series, “Miracles and Faith,” specifically episodes 54 – 56. After we did those episodes, it seems I continually find threads of spiritual history and warfare running through 1917. It was three days after the miracle of the sun, that Saint Kolbe, and six other Conventual Franciscans, on 16 Oct 1917, founded the Militia of the Immaculata. (Keating) He subsequently founded a newspaper by which to evangelize the faith and try to alert the world to the evils of the day. Despite the meager resources available to him, he continually explored modern tools, such as radio, by which to evangelize and to share his devotion to the Immaculata. Was this simply a coincidence or was this Apostle of Consecration to Mary being guided by Our Blessed Mother?

Father Stehlin of the Society of St. Pius X reflected:

In Fatima, the Immaculata gave us an effective spiritual weapon, and, almost at the same time, She chose Her loyal servant Maximilian Kolbe to organize this counterattack by the founding of the MI [Militia of the Immaculata]. (Hickson)

Then, as I prepared for our last episode, I discovered another connection. I learned Saint Kolbe prayed and advocated for the canonization of Saint Therese of Lisieux, which was the first saint we selected to discuss to begin this series on Saints of Inspiration. This blew me away, because my family has several links to Saint Therese, to include the fact she is the patron saint of the diocese in which we reside and I have also asked her to be the patron saint for my family. It would take me much longer to explain these moments we have here, but it is clear from my

experience with both of these saints, that the lives of the saints are meant to reach out to us, speak to us, teach us, and lead us.

If you experience a connection to a saint, do not ignore it. Explore the saint and allow the threads of their lives and the threads of their faith speak to you. Examine the connection, for Saint Kolbe examined the connection he had with Saint Therese, the Little Flower, and used her Little Way as a model. (Kolbe Publications) Perhaps there is a saint who is seeking to guide you to use the talents God created within you to help do the will of God.

Today, we are going to turn our discussion to the archangel saints. These saints are the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. These are the angels named in scripture, but of course there are others.

In an answer to a child's question as to why we refer to these archangels as saints, Catholic Exchange responded:

The word “saint” derives from the Latin word “*sancta*,” meaning “holy” one. Thus, by definition all of God’s holy angels are saints. Not all angels are holy, however, as some angels chose to follow Satan instead of God. These bad angels, called demons, seek our ruin and give us cause to ask for the help of God’s angels in spiritual battle. (Nash)

As we mentioned at the beginning of episode 185, the Catechism of the Catholic Church defines a saint as:

(CCC: Pg 900: Glossary – Saint)

The “holy one” who leads a life in union with God through the grace of Christ and receives the reward of eternal life. The Church is called the communion of saints, of the holy ones.

So, it is clear, these archangels are holy ones in union with God, therefore, they are saints in heaven. Of course, this series is about Saints of Inspiration, so that presents a question. Why would we look to angels for inspiration? I mean, we look at the lives of the saints in terms of commonality with our own lives and challenges. We can see from their choices and efforts what they accomplished. We can see the challenges they overcame, and being human like ourselves, we can assume that if we endeavor as they, we may accomplish as they; but, what do we have in common with the archangels?

(Question 1: Well, let's turn to our panel. **Why would we look at Archangels for inspiration?)**

- They lead a life in union with God – is that not our goal?
- We do not have the same gifts and talents, but we can aspire to similar objectives
- As messengers of God, cannot they also take our prayers to Him?
- Angels are spiritual beings, can we not seek to align our spirit with the purity of theirs?

(CCC: Glossary – Angels, pg 866)

A spiritual, personal, and immortal creature, with intelligence and freewill, who glorifies God without ceasing and who serves God as a messenger of His saving plan.

- Are we not called to evangelize?

The first archangel named in the Bible is Raphael.

(Tobit 3:16-17)

16 At that very time, the prayer of both of them was heard in the glorious presence of God. 17 So Raphael was sent to heal them both: to remove the white scales from Tobit's eyes, so that he might again see with his own eyes God's light; and to give Sarah, the daughter of Raguel, as a wife to Tobiah, the son of Tobit, and to rid her of the wicked demon Asmodeus. For it fell to Tobiah's lot to claim her before any others who might wish to marry her.

(Tobit 5:4)

4 Tobiah went out to look for someone who would travel with him to Media, someone who knew the way. He went out and found the angel Raphael standing before him (though he did not know that this was an angel of God).

In these two passages, we observe the Archangel Raphael was sent by God in response to prayer. We see that his mission was one of both physical healing (restoring sight) as well as spiritual healing (ridding of the wicked demon). His mission included bringing Sarah and Tobiah together to share the blessings of the holy sacrament of marriage. We also observe that Saint Raphael was sought by Tobiah as a travel companion. Indeed, Saint Raphael assisted Tobiah with his travels, leading Tobiah to help accomplish the will of God. This is the reason Saint Raphael is considered the patron saint of travelers, the blind, bodily ills, happy meetings, happy marriages, nurses, physicians and medical workers.

(Question 2: So, let's take a moment to reflect on the nature of Saint Raphael's work. What meaning does the work of Saint Raphael hold for us?)

- God hears our prayers as Saint Raphael was sent in response to prayers
- Healing may take physical or spiritual forms
- Healing also applies to relationships
- Healing and removal of wicked demons can help the bonds of marriage
- As we navigate our challenges, there are angels sent to assist us through them
- Those who work for the healing of others may seek the help of the healing archangel
- Those who travel may seek the companionship of the archangel who guides and protects during journeys
- Those navigating the journey of marriage may seek the help of the archangel of travels and healing

A small prayer we might lift up to ask for Saint Raphael's intercession:

O God who in Thy ineffable goodness hast rendered blessed Raphael the conductor of thy faithful in their journeys, we humbly implore Thee that we may be conducted by him in the way of salvation, and experience his help in the maladies of our souls. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

For a novena in honor of Saint Raphael, visit novenaprayer.com and search for Saint Raphael. https://www.clutchingmyrosary.com/novenas/Novena_StRaphael.html

The second archangel named in the Bible is Saint Gabriel. We should know this archangel well, for this was the angel who hailed Mary as favored by God, but we first hear of this archangel in the Old Testament as a messenger to Daniel. He helped Daniel understand his visions.

(Daniel 8:15-19)

15 While I, **Daniel, sought the meaning of the vision I had seen, one who looked like a man stood before me,** 16 and on the Ulai I heard a human voice that cried out, **“Gabriel, explain the vision to this man.”** 17 When he came near where I was standing, I fell prostrate in terror. But he said to me, **“Understand, O son of man, that the vision refers to the end time.”** 18 As he spoke to me, I fell forward unconscious; he touched me and made me stand up. 19 **“I will show you,”** he said, **“what is to happen in the last days of wrath; for it is for the appointed time of the end.”**

(Daniel 9:20-23)

20 I was still **praying to the LORD, my God, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, presenting my petition concerning the holy mountain of my God—** 21 I was still praying, **when the man, Gabriel, whom I had seen in vision before, came to me in flight at the time of the evening offering.** 22 He instructed me in these words: **“Daniel, I have now come to give you understanding.”** 23 **When you began your petition, an answer was given which I have come to announce, because you are beloved. Therefore, mark the answer and understand the vision.**

We next observe reference to Saint Gabriel in the book of Luke:

(Luke 1:10-20)

10 Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, 11 **the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense.** 12 Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, **“Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John.”** 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of [the] Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. **He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb,** 16 and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will go before him in the spirit and power

of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord.” 18 Then Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” 19 And the angel said to him in reply, “I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. 20 But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time.”

Perhaps the most famous reference to Saint Gabriel is later in the same chapter of Luke:

(Luke 1:26-28)

26 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And coming to her, he said, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.”

In the Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition (DRA) we observe this translation:

(Luke 1:28)

28 And the angel being come in, said unto her: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

So, we can perhaps say that it was Saint Gabriel who gave us the opening to the Hail Mary prayer. As God's messenger, Saint Gabriel is considered the patron saint of those who work in various forms of communication, for example, those who work in telecommunications, broadcasting, media, postal workers, clerics, and diplomats.

(Question 3: So, let's take a moment to reflect on the nature of Saint Gabriel's work. **What meaning does the work of Saint Gabriel hold for us?)**

- The prayers of Daniel were heard and the Archangel Gabriel was sent
- The prayers of Zechariah were heard and the Archangel Gabriel was sent
- Saint Gabriel was sent to Mary to announce the coming of the Lord
- There are other references to “the Angel of the Lord,” which may also refer to Saint Gabriel in his role as messenger

(Luke 2:8-11)

8 Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. 9 The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. 10 The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.

A small prayer we might lift up to ask for Saint Gabriel's intercession:

O Blessed Archangel Gabriel, we beseech thee, do thou intercede for us at the throne of divine Mercy in our present necessities, that as thou didst announce to Mary the mystery of the Incarnation, so through thy prayers and patronage in heaven we may obtain the benefits of the same, and sing the praise of God forever in the land of the living. Amen.

For a novena in honor of Saint Gabriel, visit novenaprayer.com and search for Saint Gabriel.
<https://novenaprayer.com/st-gabriel-novena/>

The third archangel named in scripture is Saint Michael. Perhaps the first reference is found in the book of Daniel. The New American Bible Revised Edition (NABRE) refers to Michael as a great prince, but other translations include the qualifier [angelic] or [heavenly]. In this reference to an angelic or heavenly prince, we observe reference to Michael as the guardian of the people:

(Daniel 12:1-4)

“At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since the nation began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book. 2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; Some to everlasting life, others to reproach and everlasting disgrace. 3 But those with insight shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, And those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever. 4 “As for you, Daniel, keep secret the message and seal the book until the end time; many shall wander aimlessly and evil shall increase.”

The first time we observe reference to the guardian Michael as an archangel is within the New Testament. In Jude 1:7-9 we read:

(Jude 1:7-9)

7 Likewise, Sodom, Gomorrah, and the surrounding towns, which, in the same manner as they, indulged in sexual promiscuity and practiced unnatural vice, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. 8 Similarly, these dreamers nevertheless also defile the flesh, scorn lordship, and revile glorious beings. 9 Yet the archangel Michael, when he argued with the devil in a dispute over the body of Moses, did not venture to pronounce a reviling judgment upon him but said, “May the Lord rebuke you!”

Later, in the last book of the New Testament, we read reference to the archangel Michael in terms of a great battle. In Revelation 12:7-12, we are told:

(Revelation 12:7-12)

7 Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, 8 but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it.

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:
 “Now have salvation and power come,
 and the kingdom of our God
 and the authority of his Anointed.
 For the accuser of our brothers is cast out,
 who accuses them before our God day and night.
 11 They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
 and by the word of their testimony;
 love for life did not deter them from death.
 12 Therefore, rejoice, you heavens,
 and you who dwell in them.
 But woe to you, earth and sea,
 for the Devil has come down to you in great fury,
 for he knows he has but a short time.”

As we reflect on this scripture and the qualities of Saint Michael the Archangel, we observe a faithful warrior and protector sent by God. As God's warrior and protector archangel, Saint Michael is considered the patron saint of those who work under dangerous conditions for the protection of others such as the military, police officers, and firemen. Perhaps we could say he is the patron saint of all first responders.

(Question 4: So, let's take a moment to reflect on the nature of Saint Michael's work. **What meaning does the work of Saint Michael hold for us?)**

- Michael leads the angels sent by God to do battle with Satan
- Michael is sent by God for the protection of souls
- Michael, like anyone else in heaven, has no power which is not granted by God
- The power by which Michael and his angels defeated Satan was the blood of the Lamb
- The battle with Satan continues to rage on earth for the ruin of souls
- Satan continues to increase his efforts as he knows his time is short

After Pope Leo XIII had a vision that Satan declared to Christ that Satan could destroy the Church Christ built upon Peter, given 100 years (**note:** we discuss this at the end of episode 56: “*Miracles and Faith - Part X: Miracle of the Sun and the Years Surrounding Fatima*”) and power over those susceptible to the devil's wiles, the Pope wrote the following prayer and asked the people to lift it up after Mass:

St. Michael the Archangel,
 defend us in battle.
 Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
 May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
 and do thou,
 O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
 by the power of God,
 cast into hell Satan,

and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
in search for the ruin of souls. Amen.

For a novena in honor of Saint Michael, visit novenaprayer.com and search for Saint Michael.
<https://novenaprayer.com/st-michael-the-archangel-novena/>

Quotes:

Some Quotes About the Archangel Saints

– *St. Francis de Sales*

Make yourself familiar with the Angels, and behold them frequently in spirit. Without being seen, they are present with you.

– *St. Faustina*

I have great reverence for Saint Michael the Archangel; he had no example to follow in doing the will of God, and yet he fulfilled God's will faithfully.

– *St. Alphonsus Liguori*

The powers of hell will assail the dying Christian; but his angel guardian will come to console him. His patrons, and St. Michael, who has been appointed by God to defend his faithful servants in their last combat with the devils, will come to his aid.

– Saint John Paul II

May prayer strengthen us for the spiritual battle spoken of in the Letter to the Ephesians: "Draw strength in the Lord and in the strength of His might" (Eph 6, 10). It is the same battle that the Book of Revelation refers to, recalling before our eyes the image of St. Michael the Archangel (cf. Revelation 12: 7). Pope Leo XIII was certainly well aware of this scene when, at the end of the last century, he introduced throughout the Church a special prayer to St. Michael: ...Although today this prayer is no longer recited at the end of the Eucharistic celebration, I invite everyone not to forget, but to recite it to be helped in the battle against the forces of darkness and against the spirit of this world.

Final Thoughts:

So, here is a fun fact, and perhaps this only works in Latin, English, French and German; but each of the names of the Archangel Saints, Raphael, Gabriel, and Michael; uses seven letters to spell. I'm not sure what made me count, but what I discovered should be of no surprise, for as Catholics, we recognize the number seven as one which stands for perfection. According to Catholic Culture's Catholic Dictionary:

Seven is the symbolic number of charity, grace, and the Holy Spirit. It is the term that stands for perfection. There are seven sacraments, seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, seven deadly sins, seven joys, and seven sorrows of Our Lady. (Catholic Culture)

To those examples given in the Catholic Dictionary, there is more we can add, such as the seven Spiritual Works of Mercy and the seven Corporal Works of Mercy. Suffice it to say, God speaks to us in many and varied ways; through His angels, through prophets, and also through His only begotten Son (cf. Hebrews 1:1) If we are observant, if we listen carefully, if we look for His fingerprints on our lives, if we reflect on our journey, we shall discern the many ways God speaks to our hearts and touches our lives.

The Archangels bring to us varied means of help by which we may engage the spiritual battle; healing, communication, and protection. Let us listen for them so we may hear in our hearts the light, silent sound of our Lord. (cf. 1 Kings 19:12)

Of course, there is so much more we could say about the Archangel Saints, but, again, we have so little time. If you would like to learn more about the Archangel Saints, we invite you to follow the links in the reference section of the topic summary for this show. You can obtain the topic summary by visiting <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaithstudyguides/> and look for episode 187.

Wrap Up: Well, our time has once more come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next time as we turn our discussion to the Saint of Mothers.

Let us conclude with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to share the blessings of our trust and faith in You. We pray that as we go our separate ways, You will continue to walk with us and help us to see how we may put on the armor of **truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation**, and the **Word** of the gospel not only for the benefit of our lives, but also the lives of all who cross our path.

And let us share the Flame of Love Prayer:

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
spread the effect of grace of thy Flame of Love over all of humanity,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Thank you all and God bless.

Next Session: Saints of Inspiration – Part IV: The Saint of Mothers

Current Day Commentary References:

The New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE); (9 Mar 2011); United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; <http://usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/index.cfm>

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