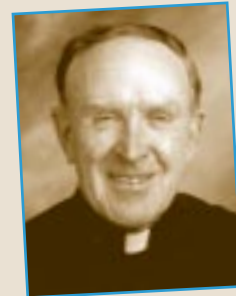


FATHER JOHN MALLEY, O.CARM.
DIRECTOR OF CARMELITE MISSIONS

Dear Friend of the Missions,

So often these days, our prayers — in Church, at home, and in our hearts — are prayers for peace. Peace in the Holy Land between Jews, Moslems and Christians. Peace in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in other troubled spots throughout the world. Peace in our cities, our towns, and even in our own families! **Peace, especially for children, now and always.**



As we begin the month of September, we cannot help but notice that the children and young people are returning to school. In our prayers we ask for their safety. We hope that there will be peace in their lives in the future — not only in the United States and Canada, but also in all the countries of Asia, Africa and South America.

At our Carmelite Mission office, we often think about **children**. We realize that it is impossible to help everyone, but we are making a sincere effort to reach out to children, trying to be aware of and to hear their cries. We try to remember the face of a child, a face bearing hunger, a face bearing pain. We try to keep the dreams of these children alive in our hearts and strive to make them come true in some small way. We try to help them to live in peace, hoping for an end of violence and suffering in their lives.

Your response to the appeals in our monthly newsletter truly do help many children who live in missionary areas served by the Carmelites. Your reaching out to such young people helps to bring them some peace. Your donations do make a world of difference, in a most significant way, to children in Peru and Mexico, Vietnam and the Philippines, Kenya and Zimbabwe. They are deeply touched by your compassion, love and kindness.

It is helpful to remember the words of Jesus: "Peace is my farewell to you, my peace is my gift to you...do not be distressed or fearful" (John 14, 27). As we wait and hope for peace we must renew our prayers to Jesus, for only He can bring a lasting peace to our world.

Thanks for helping the children served by our Carmelite Missions. May God who is never outdone in generosity reward you for your care as only He can!

Love and peace,

Fr. John Malley, O.Carm.

Father John Malley, O.Carm.
Director of Carmelite Missions

REMEMBER THE CARMELITE MISSIONS WHEN YOU WRITE YOUR WILL

SAINT OF THE MONTH

ANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL

FEAST DAY – SEPTEMBER 29

Across the world, but especially in the Americas and Europe, thousands of boys answer to the name **Michael** and many others to **Gabriel** and **Raphael**. The original owners of these names never lived on earth like the other saints. Heaven has always been their home. These saints are spirits; that is, they do not have bodies. They have always enjoyed God's presence in heaven. At times, however, an angel visits the earth as a messenger from God.

In heaven, nine choirs of angels sing praise to God. Pope Gregory the Great listed the choirs as the cherubim, seraphim, thrones, dominations, principalities, powers, virtues, archangels and angels.

The Bible mentions only three angels by name: the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. They and four other archangels stand before God's throne. Traditon tells us that the other four are Uriel, Raguel, Sariel, and Jerahmeel.

The most famous of all the angels is Michael. The Archangel Gabriel called him "one of the chief princes" of the angels (Daniel 10, 13). Indeed, Michael has an important position in heaven. God has given him many responsibilities. The Archangel Michael is best known as "the captain of the heavenly hosts," the army of good angels that fought the evil angels who would not obey God. Michael and his army forced



Pre-school children cared for by Carmelite Missionary Workers in Vietnam.

these evil angels, who became known as demons or devils, out of heaven to the underworld called hell. Since then, Satan, the leader of the devils, has been trying to get even with God and Michael.

In the Hebrew language, Michael's name asks the question: Who is like God? Satan and his devils thought they were as great as God, but Michael knew that this could not be. If an angel said that he was like to God, Michael forced him out of heaven.

Since angels through the centuries brought messages from God in heaven to men and women on earth, angels are sometimes pictured as having wings. Angels sometimes give a person a message while he or she is sleeping. Joseph was told in his dream to take Mary as his wife. Later an angel directed Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt, and after the danger had passed to return to Israel.

At times an angel has taken the form of a man and has talked to a person face-to-face. For example, Zechariah was told by an angel that he would soon have a son. Mary Magdalene met two angels at the tomb of Jesus on the first Easter morning. They told her that Jesus had risen.

St. Michael

Artists have pictured the Archangel Michael in various ways. To some he has wings, to others he does not. He might be wearing a crown as the prince of the angels. He is pictured holding tightly to chains that are wrapped around Satan. He might be standing on top

of a dragon, a symbol of Satan, and raising his sword in victory. He is often pictured as a young man, very strong, wearing battle armor, bare-legged, and with sandals on his feet.

The Archangel Michael, the protector of the Jews in ancient Israel and the protector of Christians today, is the patron of soldiers, particularly paratroopers. In Italy he is the patron of the police. In Normandy, France, along the Atlantic Coast, stands the enormous statue of Mont St. Michel. This shrine honors Michael as the patron of sailors, who pray to him for safety against the "perils of the sea." In southeastern Italy years ago, people prayed to St. Michael for protection from pirates who ravaged the Mediterranean. The Egyptian Christians asked Michael's help in causing the Nile River to flood and bring life-giving water to their crops.

St. Michael is also the patron of grocers, who use scales to weigh the fruits and vegetables and other goods they sell. Michael is even the patron of X-ray technicians and, along with St. Boniface, he is the patron of Germany.

St. Gabriel

Of the archangels who bring messages from God to us, Gabriel seems to be the best known. Gabriel, the prophet Daniel of the Old Testament tells us, came to



Smiling children in Jose Galvez, Peru.

him as a man "in rapid flight" (Daniel 9, 21), and explained to him the meaning of his visions. To Zechariah, Gabriel brought the news that at last he and Elizabeth would have a baby. And, to Mary, Gabriel brought the message that she would be the Mother of God. For that reason Gabriel is sometimes called the Angel of the Annunciation.

Gabriel's name in Hebrew means "hero of God." St. Gabriel is the patron of all people who bring messages: postal, telephone and telegraph workers, and radio and television announcers and employees. He is pictured as a young man with long hair, sometimes with a small jewelled crown on his head, richly robed, and carrying a staff, or if not that, a lily.

St. Raphael

Raphael, the third of this famous trio of archangels, is mentioned only in the book of the Old Testament named Tobit. There God sends him to cure the blindness of an old man named Tobit. In disguise as a young man, Raphael travels for several days with Tobit's son, who is name Tobiah, and helps him collect a large sum of money owed to Tobit.

Raphael also guides Tobiah to Sarah, a woman Tobiah marries. The money, Tobiah's inheritance from his parents, is a fitting wedding gift. And poor Sarah is happy at last. Her seven previous husbands had all been murdered by a "wicked demon named Asmodeus" on the night of their wedding.

Raphael returns with Tobiah to his father, who is pleased with his son's good fortune. Before he leaves for heaven, Raphael tells Tobit that he is "one of the seven angels who enter and serve before the Glory of

(continued on next page)



A little survivor of an earthquake in Cpacamarca, Peru.



Carmelite staff of an orphanage in Maubara, East Timor.

SAINT OF THE MONTH

ANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL

(continued from previous page)

the Lord” (Tobit 12, 15). Shortly after Raphael gives that message, Tobit who was blind for four years regains his sight.

An ancient tradition tells us how an angel would come down at certain times to the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem and stir up the water. The first to go into the pool after the water was stirred was cured of whatever sickness that person had. Tradition identifies that angel as Raphael. At the pool Jesus cured a paralyzed man, who had been lying there for thirty eight years, unable to make his way quickly to the pool after the water was stirred up.

St. Raphael, the archangel who traveled with Tobiah, is the patron of travelers, the blind, nurses, physicians, and of happy meetings. People often pray to St. Raphael for the cure of a sickness. Many a hospital, health center, or nursing home is dedicated to this saint.

External Praise

The Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, and legions of other angels — the exact number no one knows — continue to sing praise to God in heaven. We join this marvelous music as we sing or say at Mass: “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might.”



Children cared for by the Daughters of Carmel in Sabah, Malaysia.

Monthly Prayer

God our Father, in a wonderful way you guide the work of angels and men. May those, like Michael, Gabriel and Raphael who serve you constantly in heaven, keep our lives safe from all harm on earth. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



First communion children in Flores, Indonesia.