

help him to be a warrior so that he could bear persecution for Christ's sake; who would be a messenger of God's commands and would have a special gift in the administration of the Sacrament of Penance. (from the introduction *Send me your Guardian Angels* pg.5-9)

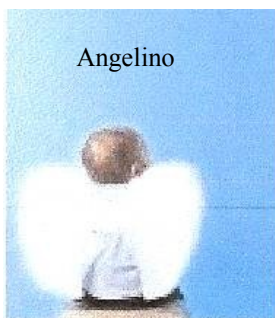
***Padre Pio** frequently sent his angel to someone who needed help. For example, Fr. Alessio was assigned to assist the fragile monk from the chapel to his modest cell every day. But Fr. Alessio had a habit of oversleeping. Often he wouldn't hear his alarm clock or, half awake, he would switch it off. "Every time I overslept," he says, "I heard a voice in my sleep saying, 'Alessio, Alessio, come down!'" and a knocking at my door. Realizing I was late, I would jump out of bed, run out into the corridor to see who was calling me, but there was nobody there. I would run down to the chapel and there I invariably found Padre Pio at the end of Mass giving the last blessing ". "One day I was sitting by Padre Pio's side, feeling ashamed at my lack of punctuality. I was trying to explain to him that I never seemed to hear the alarm, but he interrupted me "Yes I understand you! He said but do you think I will continue to send my guardian angel (Angelino) everyday to wake you? You better go and buy yourself a new clock. It was only then that I realized who was knocking at my door and calling me in my sleep.

Fr. Alessio says "Yes Padre Pio was a very holy man, but I believe our angels work well for each of us too, if we only have faith. When Padre Pio died on Sept. 23, 1968 several American tourists in Italy saw angels in the night sky, angels who quietly disappeared as the sun rose.

*(excerpted from www.beliefnet.com/inspirations/angels/2001/01angels-by-the-clerics-side.aspx)

****In** the history of the Church, devotion to Guardian Angels goes back centuries, but 29 Sept. has been assigned as a special day of devotion; feast of St. Michael The Archangel. In 1411, in Valencia, Spain, a special Divine Office was prepared by Giovanni Colombi, a Franciscan priest and another more detailed Divine Office was approved by Pope Leo X, in 1518. When this veneration spread throughout the Austrian Empire, Pope Clement X, established in 1670, a special feast day on 2 October.

This pious devotion is older than that of the Saints. ** (excerpted from *Send me your Guardian Angels* pg. 200)



GUARDIAN ANGELS



THE TRADITIONAL CATHOLIC GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER

*ANGEL OF GOD, MY GUARDIAN DEAR
TO WHOM GOD'S LOVE, COMMITS ME HERE.
EVER THIS DAY/NIGHT BE AT MY SIDE
TO LIGHT, TO GUARD, TO RULE AND GUIDE. AMEN.

*(www.en.wikipedia.org)

Reflection: **“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.” ** (Helen Keller in forward of “Send me your Guardian Angel” by Fr. Alessio Parente, ofm.cap.)

***A guardian angel is an angel assigned to protect and guide a particular person or group. Angels appear in the Bible from its beginning to the end, from the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelation. The Bible is our best source of knowledge about angels. Psalms 91:11, Mt. 18:10, and Acts 12:15 indicate humans have guardian angels. For ex.: Ps 91-11 reads: “For God commands the angels to guard you in all ways. With their hands they shall support you lest you strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus stated the angels of little ones continually behold the face of the Father (Mt. 18:10): this passage has been traditionally cited as biblical evidence of Guardian Angels. St. Thomas Aquinas a great medieval theologian, and known as the “Angelic Doctor” for his extensive writings on angels in his book, the Summa Theologica believed that angels, being spiritual beings, influence mankind by illuminating one’s mind with an idea.

***(maryourmother.net/angels)

***In a 1997 Regina Coeli address, Pope John Paul II referred to the concept of guardian angels, twice, and concluded the address with the statement: “Let us invoke the Queen of angels and saints, that She may grant us, supported by our guardian angels, to be authentic witnesses to the Lord’s paschal mystery.” ***(ien.wikipedia.org.)

****St. John Vianney, the Curé de Ars, was once asked how he knew a person’s sins in the confessional, or even on the street, if the not-so-penitent person had not confessed them? The Curé answered that he heard the sin, and he thought it was the person’s Guardian Angel who had said it. *****(*The Existence of Angels from The Messenger of Merciful Love*, Pg 296-7, by Jesus to Mama Corabelli).

“SEND ME YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL”

Probably the most extensive writing concerning Guardian Angels and their relationships with humans can be found in the book “*Send Me Your Guardian Angel*” by Fr. Alessio Parente, ofm.cap. In his book, Fr. Alessio outlines the relationship St. Padre Pio had with his Guardian Angel and of those seeking advice or intercession on some matter from Him.

In the introduction, Fr. Alessio states that Angels are mentioned 320 times in Scripture and at every main event in Christ’s life. He continues that in order to honor and love them, we must first understand their dignity, their perfection, their close relationship with God, their excellence and power. Their love for us is immense and they guard our souls with great care because they witness God’s great act of love for us. They know the high price paid by Christ for souls. We hardly know or think of our Guardian Angel who is our constant companion throughout our whole life.

The joy of the Guardian Angel is immeasurably increased when the souls entrusted to them enter Heaven, but in the case of lost souls, they are not deprived of their joy. God, in His infinite justice, increases their joy and assigns them to the special guard of the “Queen of Angels.”

Guardian Angels differ from one another; some appear more active than others; some are more reserved, more timid. Those dressed in red and wearing a small crown are assigned to persons who suffer. Those dressed in white have always a joyful expression and wear a beautiful crown; they are assigned to innocent souls.

Children have especially beautiful Guardian Angels. Their garments are light blue decorated with pearls, with a beautiful ever lasting crown of roses around their heads. The Angels of sinners are dressed in garments of a deep red color; they have their arms folded across their breasts and their faces turned towards Heaven in an imploring manner.

Holy souls who have a special mission on this earth have extraordinary Guardian Angels, who assist, defend and guide them throughout their lives. Among those souls was Padre Pio who had a very special angel indeed. As a chosen soul who helped Jesus in His great work of Redemption, Padre Pio needed one with the attributes of all the Choirs; one who would have the kindness and meekness of The Angels, who would help him to bear the great bitterness which would come to him; count his sighs, dry his tears and strengthen him in his martyrdom; who would bring his prayers to the throne of God. He needed one who would