

Letter From The Pastor: Msgr. William L. Young, III



Dear Parishioners:

By the time you read this, I will have signed with a contractor to begin the repair work for our parish. Most of the work will be covered by insurance from our Archdiocese and Catholic Mutual. The high estimate for the total cost for all the cleanup and repair work is approximately \$750,000. This does not include the volunteer services which saved us about \$225,000. Many thanks to our “*Demo Dads*” and “*Monster Moms*.” We are currently expecting that our actual cash outflow will come in about \$575,000 with much of that covered by insurance. Our parish deductible is \$25,000.

As we move forward, our “*Demo Dads*” have magically morphed into the “*Caravaggio Dads*” as they move into the painting mode in the primary wing. We are not standing still.

Kudos and thanks to all who financially support our parish and school. We have the funds available to move into the repair mode without having to wait for the insurance money. Our Archdiocese has been seriously affected by the storm and it may be a while before the funds come back to us. Just as our parish came together to help so many, we now can ease some of the immediate tension for the community of the Archdiocese. Let us be grateful for the blessings of our resources.

Do Catholics believe in extraterrestrials? Actually, yes, we do; we call them angels. Our *Catechism of the Catholic Church* takes up the topic of angels in the section about creation. We pray every Sunday in the Profession of Faith, “I believe in God ... creator of all things visible and invisible.” We Catholics believe in the existence of the spirit world e.g. there are creatures of God without physical bodies but with rationality and the ability to communicate. They have their own existence and the ability to choose.

Some of them chose to rebel against God and as a consequence, they lost the privilege of heaven and now exist in the absence of love, joy, peace, that is, in hell. It is their existence forever since they live outside of time and there is no future for them to change their minds. Their ‘leader’ Satan has no joy in his ‘kingdom’ but exists in hatred and self-loathing always.

Those angels are sometimes given a mission to help those in the visible part of creation. We believe that each is given a *guardian angel*. In Scripture, we read of Raphael helping Tobit’s son; Michael help Daniel and Jesus tells the people, *See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven* (Matt. 18:10).

Another way our Guardian Angel helps us occurs after we commit a sin [especially in sexual sins] when we feel ashamed by our actions. We become embarrassed, we promise no more, can’t tell anyone else, and that self-shame feels very strong. That is a message from God teaching us that sin does not work and is bad for you and me. Our Guardian Angel is the voice you hear saying, “*Ahem*” when you or I are about to sin.

These are God whispers to us. Sometimes people wonder why God does not speak to them or how He speaks to them. The bigger problem is our choice to demand a particular kind of speech or a particular answer. God rarely shouts when speaking because the heart has better ears for the whispers of love. There are indeed moments for the powerful voice, but often, it is the whisper of love which turns the heart.

This Monday, we celebrate the Memorial of the Guardian Angels at holy Mass. These persons [we should not limit persons to human beings] watch over us and bring messages from God. He is always communicating with you or me perhaps most often through our Guardian Angels.

We can help ourselves by training our minds and hearts to listen for the gentle whispers of God. We must find a quiet spot, do a bit of gratitude breathing, wait a few seconds and listen. He may not give you the answer you most want, but he will always give you the answer that is right. God never lies to us, never fools us, never asks us to do what is wrong. He is love and all Love says is love.

Thank you Father for our Guardian Angels.

Pace – bene,
Msgr. Bill