



THE FLAME

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

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ANGELS WATCHING OVER ME...

By Maria Muratore

Angels are characterized as “ministering spirits” in the Bible, and we see that they were often sent to give human beings consolation during periods of great suffering. The most touching example of this was when an angel was sent to the Garden of Gethsemane to comfort Jesus during his agony.

Of course, the best known mission of the angels is to be our personal guardians. Throughout Scripture we find it implied that each of us has our own angel watching over us in a very unique and personal manner.



The purpose of this guardianship may be simply to assist us to get to Heaven. Why would God give these angels the task of helping us? I believe because we need their help!

Many of us have experienced the protection and assistance of angels, especially our guardian angel. We may not have been aware of these heavenly beings at that very moment but may have realized their assistance in retrospect.

How blessed and protected we are!

I invite you to recall your own chance encounter with an angel. We’d love for you to share your story with us .

In this issue, we will read about angel experiences from a couple of our dear sisters in Christ.

Blessings and Peace!

MY ENCOUNTER WITH AN ANGEL

By Bernadette DiVito

One day in early September of 2005, at Lehigh Valley Hospital, I was diagnosed with multiple arterial blood clots in my left upper arm. After several hours of being in the ICU, my vascular surgeon decided that I needed an arterial bypass surgery immediately. Shortly after he decided upon the course of action to take, I received last rights. My vascular doctor notified Eddie that he was not sure if I would survive this surgery. This surgeon told Eddie to inform our two young sons and our family about this serious situation and to have me say my goodbyes to them before I went into surgery.



Once I came out of my medicinal coma, I was told by two of my sisters that as I was being transported to the operating room for surgery, this anonymous person (not a hospital worker) appeared in the hall with a Padre Pio relic (his glove) that was in a case. The individual was persistent and insisted that it needed to be touched against my left arm and hand before I went into surgery. Permission was given to do so by a nursing staff member as I was being transferred to the OR. Immediately after that, the transporters continued to bring me to the OR for my bypass surgery.

To this day, none of the doctors, medical staff, or any of our family members know who that person was (an angel sent from God) or where that person came from! Is this a coincidence? I think not! "For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all of your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone." - Psa. 91:11-12

This individual's appearance had an impact on both of my sisters. As a result of this story, my sisters' faith was bolstered. By the grace of God, I made it through the surgery despite the unsuccessful bypass attempt. After hearing about this encounter, a desire was ignited in me to find out who Padre Pio was and any information about Padre Pio that I could. After all, I had never heard of Padre Pio before and I knew absolutely nothing about him!

ANGEL AT THE ACCIDENT...

By Philomena Wadden

I was driving on the beltLine after 2am in November 2001, when I suddenly felt a nauseous feeling in my stomach and a sense of evil (I was not ill). I immediately slowed down, and looked around, but did not see anything. I thought perhaps I was being warned that a deer was going to spring out in front of me. I then heard a loud squealing sound and felt the impact of my car being hit. Then I was hit a second time. I was driving a 1996 Nissan 200SX and the car that hit me was an older, larger American-made car (I don't have information on the make and model of the car).

I lost complete control of the car. As I was spinning through the air, I raised my hands and screamed for help. One moment I experienced terror, and then in the next moment, it felt like time was suspended, and I was being cradled. I felt a strong presence of Jesus and my deceased parents surrounding me.

Then my car landed. As I regained my senses, I wondered if I was dead or alive. Next, I wondered if I still had all my body parts. Answer: yes. Then I wondered where I was. Answer: I'm still sitting in the driver's seat of my car which is now in the woods. The engine is running and the light are on. There was broken glass everywhere. I looked at my hands and I did not see any cuts. I felt my face and did not feel any blood. Praise God!

Then I became aware of a thick tree branch that had broken through the driver's side window, was directly in front of my nose, and had a sharp edge. I thought about how close I was to having this tree branch go through my neck or face. I attempted to open the driver's side door but it was stuck. I couldn't exit through passenger side door, because of the tree branch, and because the passenger side door was damaged.



I didn't see my mobile phone anywhere. It was extremely quiet. I could hear animals moving around in the woods behind me. Help! Am I going to be eaten alive? Then I heard a woman's voice. She wrestled with the driver's side door and got it open for me. She helped me walk to the side of the road. During the walk, she told me she was a single mother, had gone back to school during the day, and was working in a chicken processing plant at night. She had fallen asleep driving home from her shift and had awoken just as she was about to slam into my car. After she collided with my car, her car had crossed the median into the lane of oncoming traffic. She had been blessed in that there was no oncoming traffic at that time. She circled back to look for me. I thanked her for coming back and going into the woods to help me, especially since I didn't see her and there were no witnesses. She said that she could not leave the scene wondering if she had killed someone. She didn't have a mobile phone to call for help. She was extremely distraught she had caused this accident. I forgave her and gave her a hug.

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Just as we made it to the side of the road, we noticed an eighteen wheeler truck pulling onto the side of the road several car lengths before where we were standing. The driver approached us saying it was dangerous for us to be standing on the side of the road alone. There was a peacefulness about him. He asked if we needed anything. He was carrying the largest flashlight I had ever seen, so we walked to my car and found my phone in the high grass beside my car. Then I called 911. He stayed with us until he heard the sound of the sirens in the distance, and then left quickly with a comment that he had to get back on schedule.

The lights from the police and fire rescue teams revealed the state of my car. It was sandwiched in-between two large pine trees. The front of the car was facing the road. The trees were on a small hill above a swamp which had heavy brush behind it. If my car had landed in the swamp or the heavy brush, the outcome would have most likely been entirely

different for me. Further up the road was an intersection with overpasses. If I hadn't slowed down, the accident might have happened there with a possible collision with other vehicles, if there had been traffic nearby. With a puzzled look on their faces, they asked me: "How did you manage to steer your car to slide in backwards between the two pine trees, and face the highway? That's the only safe spot where it could have landed". I responded: "I didn't. I had my hands in the air screaming. It was God". They shook their heads.

When the tow truck moved the car closer, I could see more details. The windshield, the

back window, and all side windows were smashed. The front of the car, the passenger side, the back of the car, and the door behind the driver's seat, were all crushed inward. The only part of the car that still had the roof at the intended height, and was not crushed in like a can of soda, was the driver's seat! The rescue workers exclaimed they couldn't believe I survived the accident AND I walked away!

The paramedics checked me over quickly. They commented again about the state of my car and how surprised they were I survived. (I did have to work through stiffness and I have damaged disks in my neck, but that is minimal damage compared to what I could have experienced). The rescue team waited on the roadside with me until my dear friend Debbie, and her husband Kyle, arrived to pick me up.

The next morning Debbie and I recounted the events of the accident and gave thanks to God. I told her I prayed for the truck driver but I did not know his name. I wished he could be recognized for his kindness. She attempted to help me think of a way to figure out his name. Was he wearing a cap, shirt, or jacket with his name or the company logo? No. What was the logo on the truck - perhaps we could phone the company and ask who was traveling there last night? But the truck was white and did not have a logo. Did he say anything about himself that could reveal some information? No. Then I thought about how his truck stopped so far in front of us. It was a dark overcast night, and there was a bend in the road before where the accident occurred. How was it that he saw us in the dark to be able to stop the truck so far ahead of us?

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If he saw us as he approached, it would have taken time to stop the truck and pull over. That would result in him stopping several car lengths after us, not before us. And how was it that we didn't hear the truck approach us? It was quiet like the dead of winter. One minute there was no sound of traffic, and the next minute he was parking the truck alongside the road. As well, I wondered, why had he not phoned 911 when he first saw us? Why did he wait for me to call 911 after we found my mobile phone? Finally, I remarked about how his timing was perfect - he showed up as soon as we got to the roadside and left just before the emergency teams arrived. We wondered: "Do you think he was an angel"?

As I think about that night, I am grateful and thankful for:

- a. God's love and mercy.*
- b. My Guardian Angel and the Guardian Angel of the woman who hit me.*
- c. Any other angels God sent to do his will.*
- d. The people who acted in love, like angels, to help me.*

Prayer to Our Guardian Angel

O HOLY Guardian Angel, my dear friend and solicitous guide on the dangerous way of life, to thee be heartfelt thanks for the numberless benefits which have been granted me through thy love and goodness and for the powerful help by which thou hast preserved me from so many dangers and temptations. I beg of thee, let me further experience thy love and thy care. Avert from me all danger, increase in me horror for sin and love for all that is good. Be a counselor and consolator to me in all the affairs of my life, and when my life draws to a close, conduct my soul through the valley of death into the kingdom of eternal peace, so that in eternity we may together praise God and rejoice in His glory. Through Jesus Christ
Our Lord. Amen.

O Angel of God, make me worthy of thy tender love, thy celestial companionship
and thy never-failing protection!

ABOUT ARCHANGELS

St. Gabriel - Monday
Special Messenger of God
Sacrament of Baptism
Patron: Ship Captain, Aircraft Pilot, Travellers

St. Michael - Sunday
Prince of the Heavenly Host
Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist
Patron: Military, Police & all Christians

St. Barachiel - Saturday
Guardian & Provider of the Children of God
Sacrament of Matrimony
Patron: Government Leaders & Workers

St. Raphael - Tuesday
Healer & Guide for the Christian Pilgrim
Sacrament of Penance
Patron: Mariner, Fishermen,
Doctors & Nurses

St. Uriel - Wednesday
Archangel of Justice
Sacrament of Confirmation
Patron: Lawyers & those in Legal Profession

St. Sealtiel - Thursday
Archangel of Worship & Contemplation
Sacrament of Holy Orders
Patron: Religious & in the Church Hierarchy

St. Judiel - Friday
Archangel of Divine Mercy
Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
Patron: Businessmen

The Seven Archangels

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 27, 2024 Triangle Women's Morning Retreat

Date: Saturday, January 27th, 9:30am to 11:30am

Location: St. Andrew the Apostle Church Care Center
3008 Old Raleigh Road, Apex, 27502

We are so looking forward to seeing you there!

Details for the event and RSVP information follow.

Suzanne Rives, Judy Shallcross and Jean Costa of the Triangle Women's Morning Retreat invite you to attend a morning dedicated to reflection, healing and community by journeying with other women towards a closer, more intimate relationship with Our Lord. Prayer, spoken and silent, scripture, journaling, and other "tools" will be utilized to create a nurturing and empowering sacred time. We pray this will be a monthly gathering!

Thank you for sharing this invite with family or friends who might be interested in attending as well!

No Charge **Please RSVP to: suzannerives@yahoo.com - (919) 946-3196*

Please bring a journal and pen

February 2, 2024 Eucharistic Revival night (Theme: Healing)

With Praise and Worship, prayer teams available

Time: 7:00PM

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church
804 High House Rd, Cary, NC 27513

February 9, 2024 Mass with Adoration and Healing Prayer Service (Charismatic)

with Fr. Alapaty

Praise and Worship led by WithYou ministry, Prayer teams available

Time: 6:00PM

Location: St. Andrew the Apostle Church
3008 Old Raleigh Road, Apex NC 27502