

# Spirit **October**

**October Devotion:** The Holy Angels and the Holy Rosary

**Holidays:** Columbus Day, Halloween

**Pope's Intention:** Workers and the Unemployed

**That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.**

## May the Angels Lead You into Paradise

*“Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's Love entrusts me here...”*

**October.** In the northern hemisphere, especially in farming communities, October is generally the end of the growing season and a time of harvests and polka festivals; a time of celebrations at the end of a season of hard work and the final preparations for the long, cold nights of winter; a time of mending of equipment; of preparing for the follow year's planting—and a time of waiting.

Liturgically, it is also a good time for reflection, as in the various Gospel passages much of what we hear has to do with vineyards and workers, and we hear an urgency in the teachings of Jesus, especially in the tone of his preaching in our relationship to God as the landowner. And so, we once again turn to our call as co-workers in the vineyard.

Being a co-worker in the vineyard is more than helping others to grow the faith. We are also called to understand our responsibility to physically help each other in our shared journey toward the Kingdom of Heaven. Not everyone has the same opportunity or ability to support themselves and others in our physical world, and so the pope's intention this month turns to those who are unemployed or underemployed.

If you have ever been without work, and most of us have, then you may have experienced the sense of insecurity and lack of self-worth that can come from it, especially if involuntary. It is easy to feel abandoned by God and by those who we had thought loved us. We might even think we deserve to be where we are. Alone. Worthless. Unable to contribute.

Fortunately, God does not see us that way, nor does He leave us alone. Not only is God always present to us (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), He provides us with spiritual companions to accompany us in our journey – our guardian angels. The Church has always held that angels are real. The Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to them as a “truth of faith”, and that “The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition.” (CCC 328) Each of us has “... an angel as protector and shepherd leading [us] to life...” (CCC 336)

### How do we experience our guardian angels?

If the purpose of our guardian angel is to help us avoid spiritual dangers and to achieve salvation, then we may feel their presence speaking to our consciences about the choices we are to make. We may hear the subtle prodding in our minds when danger awaits us. And we may also experience our guardian angels in the people that we meet and who journey along with us.

The last Sunday Gospel this month once again turns to the greatest of commands—Love God and Love Neighbor. We all know how hard it is to love someone who does not love themselves, and it is hard to love ourselves when we lack the dignity that comes from being a productive worker. Remember, we are wired for work. So let us pray for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and realize that we are called to treat our neighbors with respect, and that we are obligated to protect all workers' rights, allowing them the opportunities to be contributors to the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. And should we find ourselves in need, with God and His army of angels at our side we are never alone

*“... ever this day, be at my side—to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.”*



**The Guardian Angel  
by Bernhard Plockhorst**

Blessings to all,  
*Deacon Bob*