

The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels  
September 29, 2010  
by Fr. Christopher Keough, OFP

Today is a Holy Day, The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. One of my favorite stories about angels is one that I heard many years ago, I'm sure in a teaching by The Rev. Chuck Swindoll, but I don't remember exactly when or where. Rev. Swindoll has had the radio ministry "Insight for Living" for a very long time, and was a seminary dean in Dallas, Texas. The abbreviated story goes like this:

A young couple had two very young children, a four year old and a new born infant. The two kids shared a bedroom across the hall from their parents. Mom and Dad would put the kids down sleep, and as they were in their own room preparing to go to bed, they would monitor the toddler and baby by use of an infant monitor - they could hear every movement and sound the kids made in the other room. They would often hear the little toddler talking to the baby and singing the nursery rhymes that they shared as a family. One night they heard the little boy who must have gotten out of bed and was standing at the side of the crib. They could hear him singing softly the song they had sung before going to bed - "Jesus loves me this I know . . ."  
" Then boy stopped singing and said to the newborn in a quiet whisper - but one that came across the baby monitor with unusual clarity - "Please tell me again about the angels, I'm beginning to forget."

This wonderful story seems so appropriate for us today, especially as we participate in the National Forty Days for Life event. In Matthew 18:10 Jesus says, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of God." How we all long to see the face of God! The innocent child, the one knit together in her mother's womb (Psalm 139:13), the one whom God knew before he formed him (Jeremiah 1:4-5) - that is the child for whom the angels stand before God.

As we celebrate this holy day on the church calendar, we are called to reflect on God's angels and the wonderful role they will play in our salvation. Remember that Michael is a warrior - he is called to defend us in battle against the powers of hell and Satan, and that in the end he will cast him out (Revelation 12:7-12). Don't think of angels as fat little beings that flutter around like butterflies - think of angels more like the Marines. Angels are fierce beings that fight for us and also compassionate helpers that minister to us (Hebrews 1:14). Angels are all these things, and indeed scripture has much more to say about them. For today, start with the realization that Angels are always with us - ALWAYS - from before our physical birth until the resurrection of our souls. God has an army about us to defend, protect, and shield us if we will but let them. The angels ministered to Jesus himself. They will always point to and glorify Him, they minister to us as well.

Blessings as you celebrate The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels.