



# The Anchor

Book Review

By Dan Beauchamp

## The Angels in Catholic Teaching and Tradition

by Fr. Pascale Parente (1886 - 1970)

...is a “must have” book for every Catholic devoted to the Holy Angels and for all those who are serious about knowing their Catholic Faith. This beautiful 179 page edition from **TAN Books** (*imprimatur* 1957) contains all the teachings of the Catholic Church on the Holy Angels. From Sacred Scripture to the Holy Church Councils as well as the teachings of the Popes, the Church Fathers, the Saints and the Doctors of the Church, this book is sure to correctly inform the reader all about the inhabitants of the Nine Celestial Choirs.

Father Parente begins his powerful book by asking the question: “What is an angel?” From there, he informs the reader how the angels are pure spirits and that the word “angel” comes from a Greek word meaning “messenger”. He wonderfully emphasizes on Saint Augustine’s writings about the Angel’s nature as spirits. He further elaborates that it is not because they are spirits that they are Angels. The name “angel” refers to their office and not to their nature. He speaks to the faithful of the declarations of the fourth Lateran Council (1215) on the creation of the angels. He further expands on the population of the angelic world and the number of good angels and fallen angels from the writings of Saint Thomas Aquinas and his *Summa Theologica*. Through the writings of Dionysius, we learn that the angels are created intelligences! Father Parente explains that the angels communicate with each other by a mere act of the will while also opening their minds and revealing whatever ideas they wish to convey. How fascinating! While many may have questions on the reason behind the fall of the bad angels, Father Parente does not disappoint in affirming what the Catholic Church teaches about it as well as the great test all angels had to undergo. He unfolds the opinion of the Church on the nature of this test. From the cry of the enemy: “I will not serve!” followed the war cry of the Prince of the Church,

the Archangel Saint Michael: “Who is like unto God?” The proud enemy lost his seat in Heaven and the humble St. Michael became the leader of the angelic world. History was made! **“He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble.”-words of Our Lady in her Magnificat.**

Father delves into the nine choirs of Angels and describes the differences between each of them. He reveals their names from highest to lowest: Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominations, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels and Angels. He pronounces on the proper names of the angels and reminds the reader that in the year 745, under Pope Zachary, the Catholic Church declared that it does not permit proper names of Angels which are not found in the canonical books of the Bible. All such names taken from apocryphal writings are to be rejected. Only the names of the three Archangels: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are accepted. Father further conveys on the roles of these glorious Archangels in both Old and New Testament times as well as what they did for the faithful of the Church in the last two thousand years. He expresses eloquently on the Guardian Angels, their roles and functions and how they protect us. He shares the most fascinating stories of the encounters of St. Gemma Galgani, St. Margaret of Cortona and St. Frances of Rome with their Guardian Angels.

I highly recommend this book to all Catholics of the Parish, especially with the upcoming feasts of the glorious Archangel St. Michael (September 29<sup>th</sup>), the Guardian Angels (October 2<sup>nd</sup>) and the glorious Archangel St. Raphael (October 24<sup>th</sup>). Stop by St. Clement Gift Shop and Bookstore and purchase or order your copy today!

*“Here is the important part that we must remember: to name our [guardian] angels is actually a sin of usurpation. We are assuming an authority we do not have. So, brothers and sisters, let’s not do that. Don’t name our angels.”-Father Chad Ripperger, exorcist and co-founder of The Doloran Fathers.*

