

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



Michael - Strength of God
Gabriel - Who is like God?
Raphael - Medicine of God

The names of the Archangels.

The names of angels were put front and center for me during my time as a seminarian.

Have you ever been to a Seminary? It's not the place where the dead are buried, but the place where young men are formed for the priesthood.

This Sunday September 25, 2-6pm, there is an Open House at Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Kearny - the place where Fr. Siffredus, Fr. Hector and myself studied. I hope you can all join us for the Open House, there will be tours of the Seminary, a 5k run, food, and Evening Prayer with the seminarians.

Did you know there are two young men, brothers, from our parish, who entered the seminary in the last year? We pray for them, Henry and James, and for all seminarians.

When I was a seminarian, I spent some time with a Missionary team in Louisiana. While working in a parish in New Orleans, we were accompanied by Bishop Nick, a retired Franciscan Bishop. He was very sweet and humble, like an elderly grandfather, always with a smile on his face, and we loved him dearly. On this particular night I was going to pick him up for a Penance Celebration.

It was pouring rain, and as he got into the car he said "OK Peter, let's go!" There was no one else in the car, so I presumed he had forgotten my name. I thought, shall I say something or just keep quiet? I decided to speak; "Excuse me Bishop, but you know my name is not Peter, I'm Sean." He replied "I know, I wasn't speaking to you!"

I looked in the rear-view mirror to make sure no one else had got in the car unnoticed, there was no one there. I began to get worried, perhaps he's going senile I thought. So, I asked, "Well who are you speaking to?"

"My Guardian Angel of course, his name is Peter!" replied Bishop Nick.

"I always invite him to come with me wherever I go!" he said. And then he asked me, "What's your Angel's name?"

I felt ashamed, I didn't know the name of my Guardian Angel, I had never even thought about it. "I don't know" I replied.

"Are you crazy?" the bishop responded, "How can you speak with your Angel if you don't know his name? You have to give him a name!"

That night I opened the Bible by chance and put my finger on the page. I looked, and 'Israel' was the name I had chosen.

Do you speak to your Guardian Angel? Does your Angel have a name?

This Thursday Sept 29th we celebrate the Feast of the Archangels, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

Belief in Angels is not a childish thing, but an article of our faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, article # 336, says:

"From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by the watchful care and intercession of the angels. Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life. Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels..."

If your angel does not have a name, why not choose one? If your angle does have a name, why not come to Mass Thursday morning, and speak to him.

Fr. Sean