



# Dear Padre,

**Where does Church teaching on angels come from? Where did we get their division into classes and the concept of the guardian angel?**

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that the existence of angels is “a truth of faith” known in both Scripture and Tradition (CCC 328). Here is an ancient definition: An angel is a mighty, concentrated personality standing in God’s presence, ready to do his bidding instantly.

Jesus famously speaks of what we take to be the guardian angels of children. He says the angels of these children always look on the face of God (see Matthew 18:10). Angels took care of Jesus (see Matthew 4:11).

The Church understands angels to be spirits. Angel means “messenger,” and angels are servants of God. Different classes of angels are mentioned in the Bible (for example, Ephesians 1:21 and 3:10, and Colossians 1:16). We speak of Michael, Raphael, and Gabriel as archangels because the jobs God gave them to do were so important.

The Church holds that Satan is a fallen angel (CCC 391). Jesus tells us Satan “was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him” (John 8:44). ●



RENTA SIDAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**

**Daybreaks inspires during our Church's holiest seasons.**

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
October 2	October 3	October 4	October 5	October 6	October 7	October 8
<i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Francis of Assisi</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	<i>Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Zec 8:1-8 Mt 18:1-5, 10	Zec 8:20-23 Lk 9:51-56	Neh 2:1-8 Lk 9:57-62	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 Lk 10:1-12	Bar 1:15-22 Lk 10:13-16	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29 Lk 10:17-24	Is 5:1-7 Phil 4:6-9 Mt 21:33-43



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**A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

**Today let us look at our hands, so often empty of love, and let us try to think of some free gift that we can give without expecting anything in return. That will please the Lord. And let us ask him: “Lord, let me rediscover the joy of giving.”**

HOMILY, ROME, JANUARY 6, 2018



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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 1, 2023

**Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

Ezekiel 18:25-28 / Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5 / Matthew 21:28-32



## Being Emptied

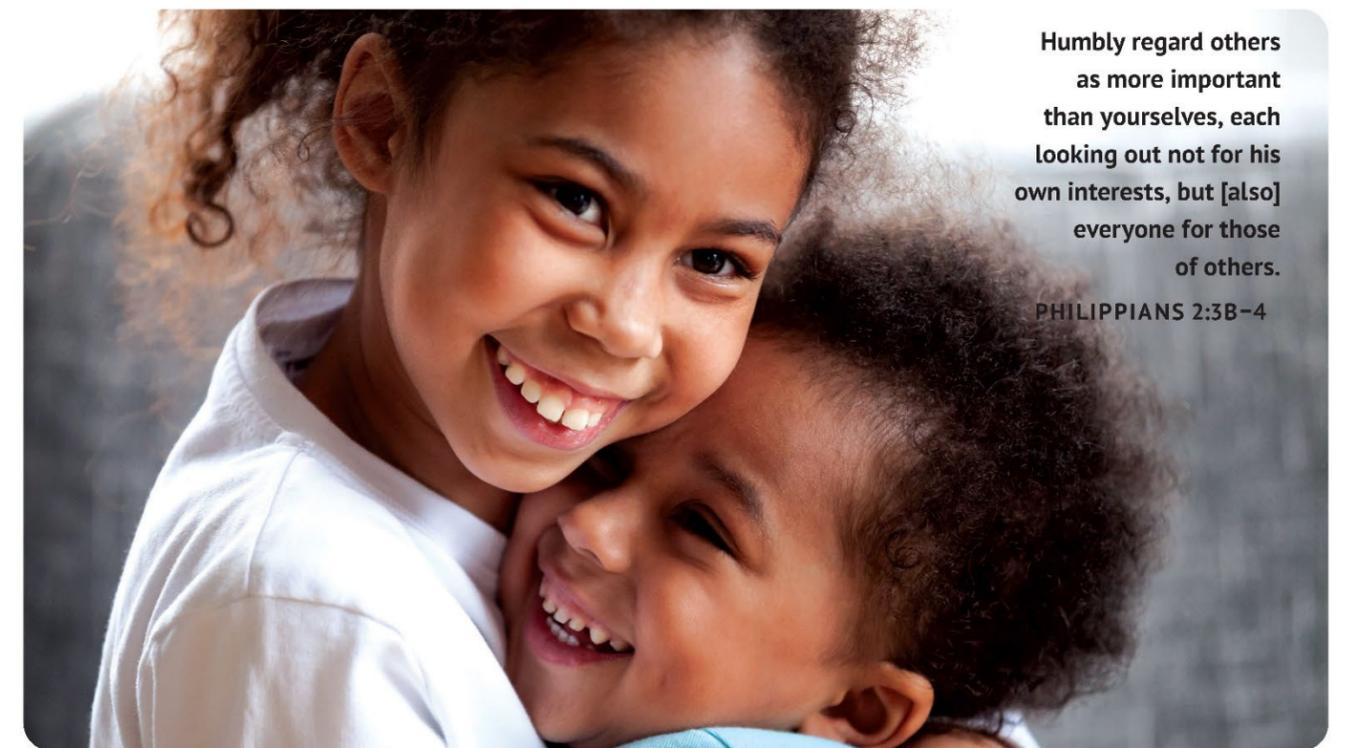
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In his book *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, Robert Fulghum lists those basic qualities that enable us to negotiate the rest of life somewhat successfully. It’s what you might expect the curriculum of kindergarten to be about: being kind, saying you’re sorry, getting along with others, and sharing. In short, what we learned in kindergarten is about putting others’ needs ahead of our own comfort. It’s a kind of emptying of our selfishness that seems to take place.

Unfortunately, the process isn’t finished by the time we reach adulthood. We still tend to hoard, slam one another with insults, cheat in business, and neglect to apologize. In spite of that extended learning curve

that seems to take place, we slowly do take on those attitudes noted by Fulghum. Marriage can smooth our rough edges. Children’s needs call for self-sacrifice. Aging tends to mellow us. And somewhere along the line we learn that talking things out works better than hitting.

Saint Paul encouraged the Philippians to take on the attitude of the Lord Jesus, who emptied himself for our sake. Still, I think much of that emptying takes place in us unconsciously. Some would say it is simply the process of life. Maybe, but then again it may be the gentle hand of God. Saint Teresa of Calcutta is said to have commented that even God can’t fill what is already full. So then maybe that emptying is God’s way of making room for God. ●



**Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:3B-4

**Reflect**

**Since kindergarten, have you become better at putting others first? What do you still need to work on?**