

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I didn't get a chance to write about the St. Michael prayer previously. Cardinal Dolan asked every parish to conclude every Mass with the prayer from September 21 until September 29. The 29th is the Feast of the Archangels and the Cardinal wanted us all to ask St. Michael to intercede for us in these troubling times. In the September 13th issue of Catholic New York, the Cardinal spelled out how he and many others see the power of the Devil at work more forcefully in the Church and in the world these days. It is a sobering column he wrote; a sad commentary on the way things are today, but the Cardinal called us to prayer and penance.

Here is the prayer: **St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.**

From 1886 until 1965, the prayer was prayed at the end of Mass around the world. I suspect it was discontinued because the Mass suffices as the most powerful prayer. Sometimes, however, it's good to recall a previous practice and to once again include the intentions in our daily private prayers.

Here is what Saint Pope John Paul II said about all this on April 24, 1994 at the Vatican:

“May prayer strengthen us for the spiritual battle that the Letter to the Ephesians speaks of: ‘Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might’ (Eph. 6:10). The Book of Revelation refers to this same battle, recalling before our eyes the image of St. Michael the Archangel (Rev. 12:7). Pope Leo XIII certainly had this picture in mind when, at the end of the (nineteenth) century, he brought in, throughout the Church, a special prayer to St. Michael: ‘St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil...’ **Although this prayer is no longer recited at the end of Mass, I ask everyone not to forget it and to recite it to obtain help in the battle against the forces of darkness and against the spirit of this world.**”

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.