

## **Sixth Meditation: How in the education of youth the function of the Guardian Angels is fulfilled**

### **First Point**

Guardian Angels, being very enlightened and knowing the good as it is, it is through them that God makes known this good and the secrets of his holy will to those whom he has predestined to be his adopted children in Jesus Christ, by whom he has called them to be his heirs. By the light these angels share with those who are called, they teach them the good that ought to be practiced, and what they ought to do to become heirs.

This was symbolized by the ladder which Jacob saw in a dream when he was going to Mesopotamia. Angels were going up and coming down the ladder. They were going up to God to make known to him the needs of those for whom he made them responsible and to receive his orders for them. They were coming down to teach those whom they were guiding the will of God concerning their salvation.

You must do the same thing for the children entrusted to your care. It is your duty to go up to God every day by prayer to learn from him all that you must teach your children, and then come down to them by accommodating yourself to their level in order to instruct them about what God has communicated to you for them in your prayer as well as in the Holy Scriptures, which contain the truths of religion and the maxims of the holy Gospel.

You must for this purpose not only know all these truths in general, but it is also important that you have such a grasp on all of them that you are able to expand on them sufficiently to make them understood clearly and in detail by your disciples.

Have you studied well all these truths up to the present, and have you been thoroughly committed to impress them firmly on the minds of these children? Have you regarded this responsibility as the most important in your work?

From this moment take the steps to make it your main concern to instruct

perfectly those who are entrusted to you concerning the truths of the faith and the practical maxims of the holy Gospel.

## **Second Point**

The holy Guardian Angels are not satisfied with illuminating the minds of those under their guidance with the light needed to know God's will for them and be saved. They also inspire their charges and procure for them the means to do the good that is proper to them.

God uses the angels not only to deliver those entrusted to them from the powers of darkness, and make them grow in the knowledge of God, but also to help them lead a life worthy of God, so that they will be pleasing to him in every way and produce good works of every sort. The angels are zealous for the good of those in their care because of the commission they have received from God, the Father of light and of all good. They contribute, as far as they are able, to make those in their care worthy to share the lot of the saints.

You share in the ministry of the Guardian Angels by making known to children the truths of the Gospel, which you have been chosen by God to announce. You must teach them how to put these truths into practice and you must have a very great zeal to procure the accomplishment of this practice for them.

You must, in imitation of the great apostle, encourage them to live in a manner worthy of God, since he has called them to his kingdom and his glory.

Your zeal must go so far in this that in order to achieve it, you are ready to give your very life, so dear to you are the children entrusted to you.

It is your duty, then, to admonish the unruly, and to do this in such a way that they give up their former way of life, you must rouse up those who lack courage, support the weak, and be patient toward all. Your purpose is to be in a position to stop and curb their corrupt inclinations in such a way, and to establish them in such a way in the practice of good, that they give the demon no entrance to them.

Is this the guidance you have maintained toward your disciples up to now? Have you been helping them practice the good that is appropriate to their years? Have you shown concern that they practice piety, especially at prayer and in Church, and that they receive the sacraments frequently?

You must watch over them a great deal to procure for them the practice of good and a horror for sin, which are two very useful ways to help them achieve their salvation.

### **Third Point**

If you want to accomplish your ministry as Guardian Angels for the children whom you instruct, to build up with them the body of Christ and to make them holy and perfect, you must work to inspire them with the same sentiments and to put them in the same dispositions in which Saint Paul tried to place the Ephesians through the letter he wrote to them.

1. that they not sadden the Holy Spirit of God, with whom they have been marked in baptism and in confirmation as by a seal for the day of redemption.
2. you would be deserving of blame if you did not engage them to renounce their former way of life; you must, therefore, lead them with the same zeal to renounce lying and to speak the truth to their neighbor at all times.
3. you must help them to be gentle and to have a tenderness for one another, mutually forgiving, as God has forgiven them in Jesus Christ, and love one another even as Jesus Christ has loved them.

Is this the way you have instructed your disciples up to now? Are these the maxims with which you have inspired them? Have you had enough vigilance over them and has your zeal been ardent enough to bring them to practice these maxims?

Bring all your efforts to be faithful in this for the future.