EXORCISM

against Satan and the Rebellious Angels

The following prayer, issued by Pope Leo XIII on May 18th 1890, may be said either by a priest or a simple layman as any approved prayer. It should be recited standing. Its use is recommended whenever action of the Devil is suspected, Below is the complete text of the Exorcism, and after it, the so-called Short Exorcism, also known as the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel.

IN THE NAME of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

Psalm 67

Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered: and let them that hate Him flee from before His Face!

As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

Psalm 35

Judge Thou, O Lord, them that wrong me: overthrow them that fight against me.

Let them be confounded and ashamed that seek after my soul. Let them be turned back and be confounded that devise evil against me.

Let them become as dust before the wind; and let the Angel of the Lord straigten them.

Let their way become dark and slippery; and let the Angel of the Lord pursue them.

For without cause they have hidden their net for me unto destruction: without cause they have upbraided my soul.

Let the snare which he knoweth not, come upon him: and let the net which he hath hidden catch him: and into that very snare let him fall.

But my soul shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall be delighted in His salvation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

O most glorious Prince of the Heavenly Armies, St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle and in our wrestling against the principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places (Eph 6:12). Come to the aid of men, whom God created incorruptible, and to the image of His own Likeness He made them, and from the tyranny of the devil He bought them at a great price (Wis 2:23, Cor 7:23).

Fight the battles of the Lord today with the Army of the Blessed Angels, as once thou didst fight against Lucifer, the first in pride, and his apostate angels; and they prevailed not: neither was their place found

anymore in Heaven. But that great dragon was cast out, the old serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, who seduces the whole world. And he was cast unto the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him

(Apoc 12:8-9).

Behold, the ancient enemy and murderer strongly raises his head! Transformed into an angel of light, with the entire horde of wicked spirits he goes about everywhere and takes possession of the earth, so that therein he may blot out the Name of God and of His Christ, and steal away, afflict and ruin unto everlasting destruction the souls destined for a crown of eternal glory.

On men depraved in mind and corrupt in heart, the wicked dragon pours out like a most foul river the poison of his villainy, a spirit of lying, impiety and blasphemy, and the deadly breath of lust and of all

iniquities and vices.

His most crafty enemies have engulfed the Church, the Spouse of the Immaculate Lamb, with sorrows; they have drenched her with wormwood; on all her desirable things they have laid their wicked hands. Where the See of the Blessed Peter and the Chair of Truth have been set up for the light of the Gentiles, there they have placed the throne of the abomination of their wickedness, so that, the Pastor having been struck, they may also be able to scatter the flock.

Therefore, O thou unconquerable Leader, be present with the people of God and against the spiritual wickedness which are bursting in upon them; and bring them the victory. The Holy Church venerates thee as its guardian and patron; and it glories in the fact that thou art its defender against the wicked powers of earth and hell. To thee the Lord has as-

signed the souls of the redeemed to be placed in Heavenly bliss.

Beseech the God of Peace to crush Satan under our feet, that he may no more be able to hold men captive and to harm the Church. Offer our prayers in the sight of the Most High, so that the mercies of the Lord may quickly come to our aid, that thou mayest seize the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan and that having bound him, thou mayest cast him into the bottomless pit, so that he may no more seduce the nations (Apoc 20:3).

Hence confiding in thy protection and guardianship, (For priests: by the sacred authority of our ministry,)

(For laymen: by the sacred authority of Holy Mother Church,) we confidently and securely begin the task in the name of Jesus Christ our God and Lord, of driving away the attacks of diabolical deceit.

V. Behold the Cross of the Lord, flee away ye hostile forces.

R. The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David hath conquered

V. May Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us,

R. Because we have hoped in Thee.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer,

R. And let my cry come unto Thee.

(For priests: V. The Lord be with you, R. And with thy spirit.)

Let us pray:

O God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we invoke Thy holy name, and we humbly implore Thy mercy, that by the intercession of the Mother of God Mary Immaculate ever Virgin, of Blessed Michael the Archangel, of Blessed Joseph the Spouse of the same Blessed Virgin, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul and of all the Saints, Thou wouldst deign to afford us help against Satan and all the other unclean spirits and against whatever wanders throughout the world to do harm to the human race and to ruin souls, through the same Christ Our Lord,

R. Amen.

Exorcism

We cast you out, every unclean spirit, every satanic power, every onslaught of the infernal adversary, every legion, every diabolical group and sect, in the name and by the power of our Lord Jesus + Christ. We command you, begone and fly far from the Church of God, from the souls made by God in His Image and redeemed by the Precious Blood of the Divine Lamb. + No longer dare, cunning serpent, to deceive the human race, to persecute God's Church, to strike God's elect and to sift them as wheat. + For the Most High God commands you, + He to Whom you once proudly presumed yourself equal; He Who wills all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of Truth commands you. (1 Tim 2:4)

God the Father + commands you. The Son of God + commands you. God the Holy + Ghost commands you. Christ, the Eternal Word of God made flesh, commands + you, Who humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, to save our race from the perdition wrought by your envy; Who founded His Church upon a firm Rock, declaring that the gates of hell should never prevail against her, and that He would remain with her all days, even to the end of the world. (Mt 28:20)

The sacred mystery of the Cross commands you, along with the power of all mysteries of Christian Faith. + The exalted Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, + commands you, who in her lowliness crushed your proud head from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception. The Faith of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul and the other Apostles + commands you. The blood of martyrs and the devout prayers of all holy men and

women command + you.

Thus, cursed dragon, and you, diabolical legions, we adjure you by the living God, + by the true God, + by the holy God, + by the God Who so loved the world that He gave up His only Son, that every soul believing in Him might not perish but have life everlasting;" (Jn 3:16) cease deceiving human creatures and pouring out to them the poison of eternal damnation; cease harming the Church and hindering her liberty. Begone, Satan, inventor and master of all deceit, enemy of man's salva-

tion. Give place to Christ in Whom you have found none of your works; give place to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church acquired by Christ at the price of His Blood. Stoop beneath the all-powerful Hand of God; tremble and flee when we invoke the Holy and terrible Name of Jesus, this Name which causes hell to tremble, this Name to which the Virtues, Powers and Dominations of heaven are humbly submissive, this Name which the Cherubim and Seraphim praise unceasingly repeating: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord, the God of Hosts.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry come unto Thee.

(For priests: V. May the Lord be with thee. R. And with Thy spirit.)

Let us pray.

God of heaven, God of earth, God of Angels, God of Archangels, God of Patriarchs, God of Prophets, God of Apostles, God of Martyrs, God of Confessors, God of Virgins, God Who has power to give life after death and rest after work: because there is no other God than Thee and there can be no other, for Thou art the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, of Whose reign there shall be no end, we humbly prostrate ourselves before Thy glorious Majesty and we beseech Thee to deliver us by Thy power from all the tyranny of the infernal spirits, from their snares, their lies and their furious wickedness.

Deign, O Lord, to grant us Thy powerful protection and to keep us safe and sound. We beseech Thee through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

- V. From the snares of the devil,
- R. Deliver us, O Lord.
- V. That Thy Church may serve Thee in peace and liberty,
- R. We beseech Thee to hear us.
- V. That Thou may crush down all enemies of Thy Church,
- R. We beseech Thee to hear us.

Holy water is sprinkled in the place

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL

Composed by Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903)

SANCTE MICHAEL Archángele, defénde nos in proélio, cóntra nequítiam et insídias diáboli ésto præsídium. Ímperet illi Déus, súpplices deprecámur: tuque, prínceps milítiæ cæléstis, Sátanam aliósque spíritus malígnos, qui ad perditiónem animárum pervagántur in múndo, divína virtúte, in inférnum detrúde. Ámen.

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