

# **INSTRUCTIONS**

**The Prayer to St. Michael is typeset to be printed on one sheet of paper—front and back.**

**Print one page and then re-feed the same page to print on its reverse side.**

**Then simply fold the page in half, to give four half-pages.**

When asked what happened, the Pontiff explained that as he was about to leave the foot of the altar, he suddenly heard voices—two voices, one kind and gentle, the other guttural and harsh. They seemed to be coming from near the tabernacle. As he listened, he heard the following conversation:

The guttural voice of Satan, in his pride, boasted to Our Lord:

*“I can destroy Your Church.”*

The gentle voice of Our Lord said:

*“You can? Then go ahead and do so.”*

Satan: *“To do so, I need more time and power.”*

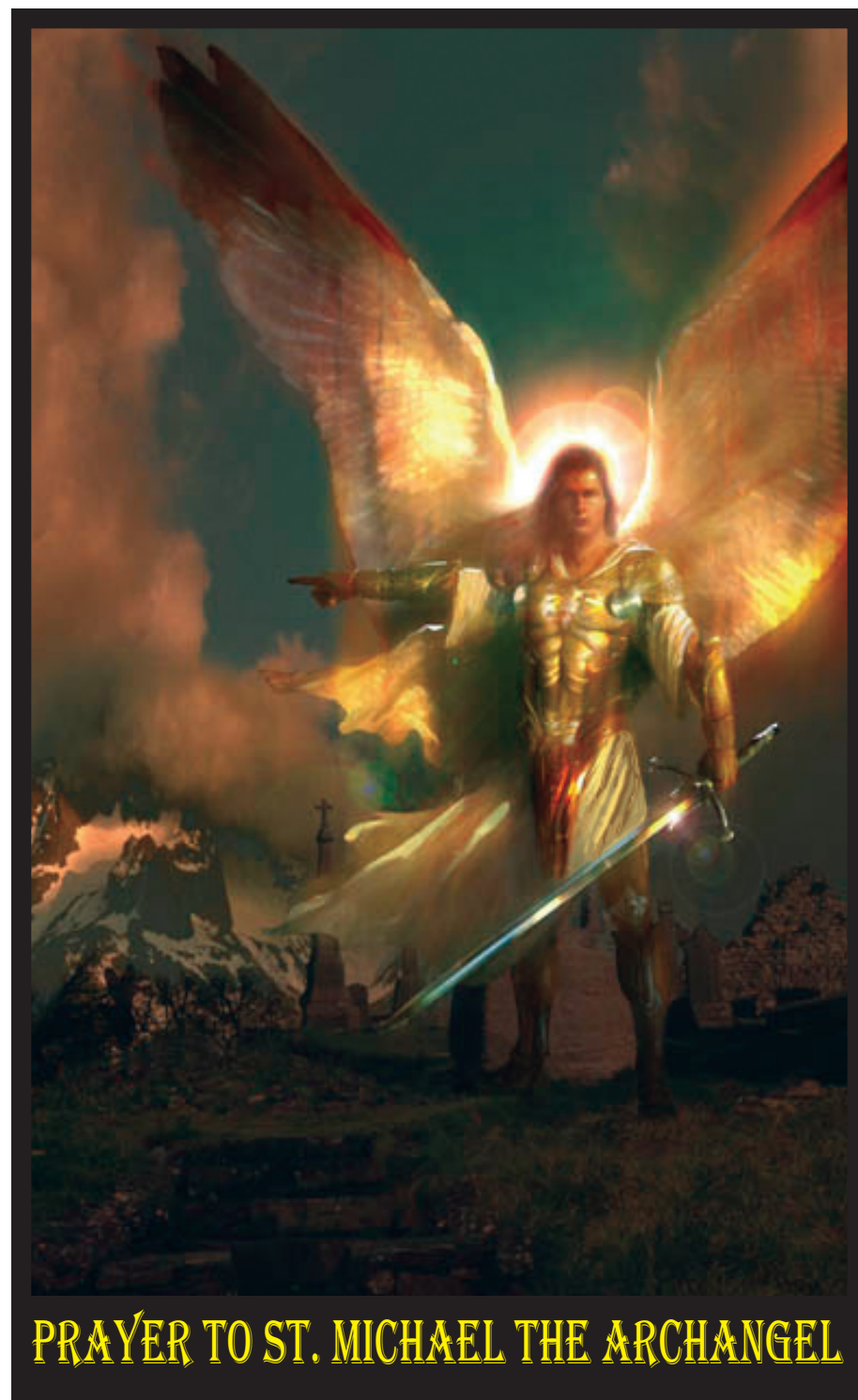
Our Lord: *“How much time? How much power?”*

Satan: *“75 to 100 years, and a greater power over those who will give themselves over to my service.”*

Our Lord: *“You have the time, you will have the power. Do with them what you will.”*

Pope Leo XIII understood that Satan was to be given a certain amount of time in order to accomplish his purpose; and a greater power to spread evil, through those human agents who would dedicate themselves to his cause. He was given further to understand that, if the devil had not accomplished his purpose at the end of the time limit given, he would suffer a most crushing and humiliating defeat. Furthermore, the forces of good would not be helpless in the face of the onslaught of Satan and his legions. They, too, were given a greater power for good, if only they would use it. Through their prayers and sacrifices and good Catholic lives, they could offset the power of the devil and his human agents.

It was then that he saw the great role St. Michael was to play in this conflict, and that we should call upon his powerful intercession. As he had hurled Lucifer and the fallen Angels out of Heaven, after the first revolt against God, so, too, he would play a great part in the battle to come, and would eventually cast Satan again into Hell. Soon afterward he composed the well-known prayer: *“O Glorious Prince of the heavenly host, St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle . . .”*



## **THE ORIGINAL PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL AS COMPOSED BY POPE LEO XIII**

O Glorious Prince of the heavenly host, St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle and in the terrible warfare that we are waging against the principalities and powers, against the rulers of this world of darkness, against the evil spirits. Come to the aid of man, whom Almighty God created immortal, made in His own image and likeness, and redeemed at a great price from the tyranny of Satan.

Fight this day the battle of the Lord, together with the holy angels, as already thou hast fought the leader of the proud angels, Lucifer, and his apostate host, who were powerless to resist thee, nor was there place for them any longer in Heaven. That cruel, ancient serpent, who is called the devil or Satan, who seduces the whole world, was cast into the abyss with his angels. Behold, this primeval enemy and slayer of men has taken courage. Transformed into an angel of light, he wanders about with all the multitude of wicked spirits, invading the earth, in order to blot out the Name of God and of His Christ, to seize upon, slay and cast into eternal perdition souls destined for the crown of eternal glory. This wicked dragon pours out, as a most impure flood, the venom of his malice on men of depraved mind and corrupt heart, the spirit of lying, of impiety, of blasphemy, and the pestilent breath of impurity, and of every vice and iniquity.

These most crafty enemies have filled and inebriated with gall and bitterness the Church, the spouse of the immaculate Lamb, and have laid impious hands on her most sacred possessions. In the Holy Place itself, where the See of Holy Peter and the Chair of Truth has been set up as the light of the world, they have raised the throne of their abominable impiety, with the iniquitous design that when the Pastor has been struck, the sheep may be.

Arise then, O invincible Prince, bring help against the attacks of the lost spirits to the people of God, and give them the victory. They venerate thee as their protector and patron; in thee Holy Church glories

as Her defense against the malicious power of Hell; to thee has God entrusted the souls of men to be established in heavenly beatitude. O, pray to the God of peace that He may put Satan under our feet, so far conquered that he may no longer be able to hold men in captivity and harm the Church. Offer our prayers in the sight of the Most High, so that they may quickly find mercy in the sight of the Lord; and vanquishing the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, do thou again make him captive in the abyss, that he may no longer seduce the nations. Amen.

V. Behold the Cross of the Lord; be scattered ye hostile powers.  
R. The Lion of the tribe of Judah has conquered the root of David.  
V. Let Thy mercies be upon us, O Lord.  
R. As we have hoped in Thee.  
V. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
R. And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray. O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we call upon Thy holy Name, and as supplicants, we implore Thy clemency, that by the intercession of Mary, ever Virgin Immaculate and our Mother, and of the glorious St. Michael the Archangel, Thou wouldst deign to help us against Satan and all the other unclean spirits who wander about the world for the injury of the human race and the ruin of souls. Amen.

## **THE VISION THAT LED TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

After Pope Leo XIII had finished saying Mass in the Vatican Chapel, on October 13th 1884, where he was attended by some Cardinals and other members of the Vatican staff, he suddenly stopped at the foot of the altar, where he stood for about ten minutes, as if in a trance, his face ashen white. The, going immediately from the Chapel to his office, he composed the prayer to St. Michael, with instructions that it be said after all the Low Masses everywhere, which it was until just after the Second Vatican Council, when the New Mass was introduced.