



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Why Catholics Pray for the Protection of St. Michael the Archangel

On Sept. 25, 1888, after his morning Mass, Pope Leo XIII saw a vision which caused him to collapse. When the Pope recovered, he told those with him that he had seen a horrible vision and heard the voices of Christ and Satan talking about the evil plans of the devil to destroy the Catholic Church.

Pope Leo XIII was so shaken by the immense evil in the vision that he immediately composed a prayer to St. Michael the Archangel asking St. Michael to use the power of God to protect the church from the intensifying assaults from Hell. The Pope directed that the prayer should be recited from the foot of the altar after each Mass in all churches. The prayer was recited in Catholic churches around the world until after Vatican II when it was no longer required to be said.

In 1994 Pope John Paul II asked that everyone pray the St. Michael prayer to counteract the forces of darkness. In 2018 Pope Francis asked all Catholics to pray the St. Michael prayer after a daily rosary for the month of October. Across the United States various clergy at all levels have called for and reinstated the recitation of the prayer in response to the attacks on religious freedom and the Catholic church. The prayer is a much condensed version of the prayer as Pope Leo XIII wrote it. The entire Pope Leo XIII prayer can be read here: <https://tinyurl.com/yvzyuj39>

Pope Pius XII, in October 1953, at the opening of the North American College in Rome, reminded his audience: "One dare not forget. We belong to the Church militant, and she is militant because on earth the powers of darkness are ever restless to encompass her destruction."

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel: **Saint 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 thou, O prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.**