Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“All of us, according to church tradition, have an angel with us, who watches over us, and lets us hear deep inside, wise words meant to help people make the right choices.”


Memorial of the Guardian Angels
October 2

The concept of guardian angels, as developed in Catholic theology and piety, has biblical roots. The angel Raphael aids Tobit and his family; one angel interprets for the prophet Zechariah, while another guides Cornelius in Acts of the Apostles; and angels are called “ministering spirits sent to serve” in the Letter to the Hebrews. In Matthew, Jesus teaches: “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, “Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd.” Pope Clement X set this date as the feast of guardian angels in the 1670s.

Saint of the Week
Francis of Assisi
1182–1226
Feast Day—October 4

The son of a wealthy Italian merchant, Francis was a playboy who experienced a profound conversion after going to war for Assisi, being imprisoned, and enduring a debilitating illness. He renounced his family and riches and lived a life of radical poverty and service because he believed Christ had asked him to. He founded the new mendicant Order of Friars Minor, or Franciscans, and helped found the Poor Clares and the Franciscan Third Order. Pope Pius XII said Francis could be called “a second Christ,” and in 2013, Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio took this medieval saint’s name when he was elected pope. Francis is the patron of animals, environmentalists, merchants, Catholic Action, and Italy.

“Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life.”