

Pastor's note
17th week of Ordinary time

A couple of questions have arisen this week about the prayer to St. Michael that we will be saying after masses from now on, so this week I am borrowing some info from a website (info below) to help explain the origin of the prayer. Originally it was to be said after most masses, but due to changes as a result of Vatican II it fell away. Currently it is making a comeback in common use. This weekend we will have prayer cards at the masses and I ask all families to take one and pray it at least daily. In my own life, I pray this prayer often and use the first line whenever I feel temptation brewing in my heart.

This is how this prayer came to be written: It is said that one day having celebrated the Holy Sacrifice, the aged Pontiff Leo XIII was in conference with the Cardinals. Suddenly he sank to the floor in a deep swoon. Physicians who hastened to his side feared that he had already expired, for they could find no trace of his pulse. However, after a short interval the Holy Father rallied, and opening his eyes exclaimed with great emotion: "Oh what a horrible picture I was permitted to see!" He had been shown in spirit the tremendous activities of the evil spirits and their ravings against the Church. But in the midst of this vision of horror he had also beheld consoling visions of the glorious Archangel Michael, who had appeared and cast Satan and his legions back into the abyss of hell. Soon afterward he composed the well-known prayer.

We know that the gates of hell shall never prevail against the Church, for Our Lord has promised to be with her till the end of time, but we must do our part in defending her cause. God might cast the angels down to hell by a single act of His will, but He chose rather to send against them His armies of loyal spirits, under the leadership of the great St. Michael. So too, in the present critical times, He could confound the enemies of the Church by merely willing to do so. But He wills, rather, that we should cooperate in her defense, under the leadership of the great captain of the heavenly hosts.

<http://www.saintmichaelusa.org/smhistoryprayer.php> - 8/3/17)

God bless,
Fr. Adam