



CONVENT OF THE
HOLY ANGELS

APHIDNAI, ATTICA, GREECE



PATRONAL FEAST

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The Holy Angels in our Lives

9

For Edification and Consolation

The Guardian Angel* at the Fearful Hour of Death



By the time Elder Gabriel the Confessor [in the sense of a Priest who hears confessions—*Trans.*] returned from the world to Nea Skete [on Mt. Athos], Monk Kyrillos (Koumiotes), from the Kalyva of the Life-giving Spring, had fallen gravely ill and was at the point of death, and thus had called for his spiritual Father in order to confess. This was in the year 1965.

When his confessor, Father Ephraim, tried to help the sufferer confess, the latter said that **there was a piece of paper with something written on it stuck to his left shoulder, but that he could not read what it said.**

Another confessor, Father Haralambos, then arrived, but he was also unable to help the dying Monk Kyrillos.

Then his brother in the flesh, Father Neophytos (who was also a confessor), called for Elder Gabriel, who, filled with brotherly love, approached the sufferer. When the Elder heard about the piece of paper, as an experienced confessor he asked Monk Kyrillos to tell him exactly what he saw.

The sufferer said that **on his right side he saw two Angels in white, whereas on his left side there were many demons ready to snatch his soul.** One of these demons, in fact, was using his tail to play with the prayer rope of an hesychastic monk, Elder Joseph, who was also present.

Elder Gabriel asked all of the other Fathers to leave the room, and told Monk Kyrillos a second time to reveal to him the secrets of his heart.

When he had told him everything, the Elder asked him if the paper was still attached to his shoulder, which it was.

The confessor then instructed him to ask his Guardian Angel what was written on the paper.

Monk Kyrillos then turned to the Angels and spoke to them in a language of which the confessor understood not a word. His Guardian Angel responded in the same language.

Then Elder Gabriel placed his *Epitrachelion* (Priestly stole) over the dying monk and asked him what the Angel had told him was written on the paper. Then Monk Kyrillos told him two sins that he had forgotten to confess.

Upon hearing this, the confessor read the prayer of absolution.

When he took away his *Epitrachelion*, the monk told him that **the paper had attached itself to it and that all of the sins written on it had been erased.** And with these words, he gave up his spirit and departed for eternal blessedness.

The confessor's experience and discretion helped Monk Kyrillos to confess and to be cleansed of his human failings, **with the Guardian Angel of his soul as his interpreter and helper.**



■ [“They attend to us night and day, protecting and assisting us in all things”](#)

The Holy Angels Love the Christian Race **

At one time, when St. Niphon was in the countryside, he lifted his hands to pray.

Suddenly, the heavens opened, and he saw the Lord seated on a Throne of Glory, surrounded by the Apostles and a multitude of Angels!



He stood there gazing at them, enraptured.
He wished he could fly like a bird, burning
with the desire to join them.

But they also were watching him, and said to
each other with pleasure:

“Look, it is our friend Niphon! See with what
yearning and love he is gazing at us! Rightly do
we commemorate him at our Divine services!”

Such things did the Immaculate Angels say.

When he came to himself, filled with elation, he composed
encomia and songs, overflowing with sweetness, in their honor.

**Oh, how the Holy Angels love the Christian race!
They assist us in every good work.**

How, then, could our love and yearning remain
anything but undiminished for these precious gems,
shimmering pearls, creatures of Divine beauty, and
immortal flowers?

They unceasingly intercede for us and beseech
God, Who loves mankind, to take pity on us and
deliver us from eternal fire.

They attend to us night and day: ● When we eat,
they guard and protect us; ● when we sleep, they
cover us with their wings; ● when we work, walk, or
travel by sea, they are always at our side, protecting
and assisting us in all things!



(*) Athonite Monk Andreas, *The Gerondikon of the Holy Mountain* [in Greek], (Ekdoseis: Athos), pp. 408-409.

(**) *An Ascetic Bishop: St. Niphon, Bishop of Constantiane* [in Greek] 14th ed. (Oropos: Hiera Mone Parakletou, 1994), p. 147.