MORNING MEDITATION
Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

Simplicity in practice involves a personal choice of lifestyle that is simple.

Revelation 12:7-12

The war between good and evil, breaks out between Michael and the Dragon. The powers of good prevail and rule of the lamb is established – a great cause for rejoicing.

Psalm 138

You answered me when I called to you;
you built up strength within me.
All the rulers of the earth will praise you, Yahweh,
because they have heard your promises.

John 1:47-51.

Philip told Nathanael that he believed that he found the Messiah in Jesus, the man from Nazareth. Nathanael had problems accepting the idea that The Messiah could come from such insignificant place like Nazareth. Philip simply invited him, "come and see". Philip did not give a lecture to his friend, did not offer any logical, philosophical, theological or any other scientific explanation. He just invited his friend to see for himself.

Today, we are invited to meet Christ, to encounter him in person, to walk with him, to dine with him, to listen to him……to let Christ be our teacher and our master. It is not knowledge about Christ that matters. What really matters is knowing Christ as a person, to experience his presence in our life, to let his way and truth and life become ours.

Jesus looked into the heart of Nathanael and declared that he was man without deceit. Nathanael was surprised at the words of Jesus. The words of Nathanael were not impressive, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"…what can you expect from such an insignificant place. These words could have been taken as offensive. Jesus saw beyond words……into the heart that was sincere, honest, without deceit. This is what really matters…sincerity of heart, purity of purpose, single-mindedness.

May your heart be in a good place…pure, honest, sincere, unmixed, simple!

Saint of the Day, September 29 - Saints Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael and 14 other saints are remembered this day.

The three great messengers of God are remembered together and celebrated as one joyful feast. Although angels are mentioned many times in the Bible, only these three are mentioned by name. Each one has a powerful presence in our history and in our heritage of faith. Each of them is God's messenger and in some way represents God's presence to the believer.

Michael is remembered as the great defender and protector of all God's people. The name "Michael" means, "Who is like God?" The Book of Revelation describes Michael casting out of heaven those angels who presumed they were like God. The Book of Daniel speaks of Michael as one who will lead the dead to God on the day of the resurrection. Michael is considered a special protector of Israel and the Church.

Michael reminds us of God's unchanging, enduring, everlasting presence with us, guiding us, protecting us, defending us and keeping us safe. Pray with those whose lives are unsafe and pray for a growing confidence in his presence in your life.

The name Gabriel means "hero of God". Gabriel brought the good news of the birth of John the Baptist to Elizabeth and the birth of Jesus to Mary. The book of Daniel says that Gabriel announced the end of exile in Babylon. According to certain traditions, Gabriel will sound the trumpet to awaken the dead on the day of judgment.

Gabriel reminds of God's Good News. He is the bearer of hope and the realization of the Hope in the birth of Jesus. Remember and pray with those whose hopes are shattered and those who need to keep hope alive. Pray that we may be a people of Hope and be signs of hope for the world.

The name Raphael means "God has healed". In the book of Tobit, we read about Raphael guarding a young man on his journey and restoring sight to the man's elderly father. He described himself as one of the seven angels standing in the presence of God. Raphael is said to have stirred the waters of the pool of Siloam where people found healing.

Raphael reminds us of the healing and reconciling presence of God in his "steadfast love". Remember and pray with those who need healing and reconciliation. Pray that we may grow in the "steadfast" love of God.

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