

September 29, Feast of the Archangels:

Instead of giving you my homily today, I would much rather feed you with the thoughts of St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Bishop of Rome from 590 to 604. To put St. Gregory in perspective; St. Benedict of Nursia (480-547) life and teachings greatly influenced St. Gregory.

**-From a homily on the Gospels by Saint Gregory the Great, pope
(Hom. 34, 8-9: PL 76, 1250-1251)**

The word “angel” denotes a function rather than a nature

You should be aware that the word “angel” denotes a function rather than a nature. Those holy spirits of heaven have indeed always been spirits. They can only be called angels when they deliver some message. Moreover, those who deliver messages of lesser importance are called angels; and those who proclaim messages of supreme importance are called archangels.

Some angels are given proper names to denote the service they are empowered to perform. In that holy city, where perfect knowledge flows from the vision of almighty God ... Thus, Michael means “Who is like God”; Gabriel is “The Strength of God”; and Raphael is “God’s Remedy.”

Whenever some act of wondrous power must be performed, Michael is sent, so that his action and his name may make it clear that no one can do what God does by his superior power. *(Michael, whose name means, who is like God, shows that by his faithfulness, holy obedience, and purity (Like Christ to the Father) gives St. Michael the authority and power to cast the dragon and his fallen angels from Heaven - italics is Fr. Vic)... See Revelation 12:7-12*

So too Gabriel, who is called God’s strength, was sent to Mary. He came to announce the One who appeared as a humble man to quell the cosmic powers. Thus God’s strength announced the coming of the Lord of the heavenly powers, mighty in battle.

Raphael means, as I have said, God’s remedy, for when he touched Tobit’s eyes in order to cure him, he banished the darkness of his blindness. Thus, since he is to heal, he is rightly called God’s remedy.

One story that I use for today’s feast is: The Miraculous True Story of Saint Michael Saving a U.S. Marine in the Korean War: [Go here](#)

<https://ucatholic.com/blog/the-miraculous-true-story-of-saint-michael-saving-a-us-marine-in-the-korean-war/>

Thank you Lord for the gift of the Holy Archangels - Fr. Vic Gournas