

## ACT OF CONSECRATION TO SAINT MICHAEL

Oh most Noble Prince of the angelic Hierarchies  
valorous warrior of Almighty God, and zealous lover of His glory,  
terror of the rebellious angels, and love and delight of all the just  
ones, my beloved Archangel Saint Michael,  
desiring to be numbered among thy devoted servants,  
I, today offer and consecrate myself to thee,  
and place myself, my family,  
and all I possess under thy most powerful protection.

I entreat thee not to look at how little, I,  
as thy servant have to offer,  
being only a wretched sinner, but to gaze, rather,  
with favorable eye at the heartfelt affection with which this offering  
is made, and remember that if from this day onward  
I am under thy patronage, thou must during all my life assist me,  
and procure for me the pardon of my many grievous offenses  
and sins, the grace to love with all my heart my God,  
my dear Savior Jesus and my Sweet Mother Mary,  
and obtain for me all the help necessary to arrive to my  
crown of glory.

Defend me always from my spiritual enemies,  
particularly in the last moments of my life.

Come then Oh glorious Prince and succor me in my last struggle,  
and with thy powerful weapon, cast far from me into the internal  
abysses that prevaricator and proud angel that one day thou  
prostrated in the celestial battle.

Saint Michael, defend us in our daily battle  
so that we may not perish in the last Judgment.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

\*(Excerpted from: [www.sacred-destinations.com](http://www.sacred-destinations.com))

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## PADRE PIO and SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



**SAINT MICHAEL, DEFEND US IN OUR DAILY BATTLE !**

## GROTTO OF ST. MICHAEL AT THE BASILICA OF MONTE SANT' ANGELO — GARGANO, ITALY



Interior of the Cave of St. Michael

\*Saint Michael is the patron of the Gargano Mountains. Many times, when dealing with troubled souls, Padre Pio would recommend a visit to the Basilica of St. Michael on Mont St. Angelo not far from San Giovanni Rotondo.

Often times, he would hand out a prayer card to St. Michael—encouraging people to have a devotion to him. In these troubled times, we should all take heed of Padre Pio's advice and call upon St. Michael for help.

### HISTORY OF THE SANCTUARY OF MONTE SANT' ANGELO

The history of this Shrine to St. Michael dates as far back as the year 490, when St. Michael appeared to a Catholic bishop on this mountain that contained an opening to a cave. According to tradition, it all started when a local nobleman named Elvio Emmanuele lost the best bull of his herd. After much searching, he found it kneeling in a cave. Unable to approach it, Elvio shot the bull with an arrow, but the arrow turned around and struck himself instead in the foot. Bewildered, Elvio went to see his bishop, who ordered three days of prayer and fasting. At the end of the three days, St. Michael the Archangel appeared to the bishop and said: **"I am Michael the Archangel, and am always in the presence of God. I chose the cave that is sacred to me. I myself, am its watchful custodian. There will be no more shedding of bull's blood. Where the rocks openly widely the sins of men may be pardoned. What is asked for here in prayer will be granted. Therefore, go to the mountain cave and dedicate it to the Christian God!"**

(It is perhaps notable that the central ritual of the Roman cult of Mithraism is the shedding of bull's blood in caves). The bishop, however, began to worry about his own sanity and dismissed the vision. Two years later, the Christian city Siponto, part of the bishop's diocese, came under attack by the pagan city of Odoacre. Again St. Michael appeared to the bishop, this time promising to save the city of Siponto. Immediately, a violent storm engulfed Odoacre, saving the Christian city. In thanksgiving, the bishop led a procession to the top of the mountain but did not dare to enter the cave.

Soon, Michael appeared to the bishop a third time, ordering him to enter the cave. He said: **"It is not necessary that you dedicate this church that I have consecrated with my presence, enter and pray with my assistance and celebrate the sacrifice. I will show you how I have consecrated this place."** The bishop then entered the grotto, where he found an altar covered with a red cloth, a crystal cross, and a footprint on the ground (which can still be seen to this day). The bishop thereupon commissioned the chapel to be built at the entrance to the cave and **did not** consecrate it because Michael had already done so. The church came to be known as the **"Celestial Basilica"**.

The history of this grotto continues... in the year 1656, a terrible pestilence

raged all over Southern Italy. The Archbishop of the region had recourse to the Archangel Michael with prayers and fasting. The Archbishop even thought of forcing the Divine Will "by placing a supplication written in the name of all the towns-people in the hands of the statue of Saint Michael. And then as dawn was breaking on September 22, (remember that date—September 22nd) while he was praying in a room of the bishop's palace of Monte Sant' Angelo, there was a sort of earthquake and Saint Michael appeared to him in dazzling splendor and ordered him to bless the stones of the grotto engraving them with the sign of the cross and the letters MA (Michael Archangel). Very soon, not only the town was delivered from the plague, but also all those who asked for the stones wherever they lived." Finally St. Michael is pleased and grants a proof of his approval by the curing of his devotees from the plague! As a perpetual memento of the prodigy and out of eternal gratitude, the Archbishop erected a monument to Saint Michael in the town square:

**"TO THE PRINCE OF THE ANGELS,  
CONQUEROR OF THE PLAGUE  
PATRON AND GUARDIAN,  
WE PLACE THIS MONUMENT,  
IN ETERNAL GRATITUDE"**

And so, September 22nd was the date of this wonderful prodigy! This also happens to be the eve of the anniversary of Padre Pio's death.

### Padre Pio



Father Alessio Parente, a Capuchin friar who took care of Padre Pio for the last six years of his life, was quoted as saying that "the devil came every day to beat Padre Pio". When this would occur the whole monastery would shake. He would know what was happening and quickly run to Padre Pio's room to find him in a pool of blood on the floor severely beaten. Padre Pio suffered these beatings for the salvation of souls. When Padre Pio would cry out for Jesus to have mercy on him, St. Michael would then appear and Satan would leave him. St. Michael along with the Blessed Mother and St. Francis of Assisi (who also visited Mont Sant' Angelo and slept on a rock outside the cave where an imprint of his face was left on the rock and which is visible to this day) and Padre Pio's Guardian Angel were his daily companions.

Therefore as St. Michael was a special guardian of Padre Pio in life, would he not also be his guardian in his final repose? As Padre Pio is quoted as saying, **"I will make more noise when I am dead than when I was alive!"** Perhaps, in the great noise that Pio will make, St. Michael will be there as ready as ever to assist him in his battles with Satan!

**PADRE PIO AND ST. MICHAEL DEFEND US IN OUR DAILY BATTLES!**