



in Holy Scriptures, came to people as messengers of God to proclaim the good news to them. It was Archangel Michael who came down from heaven to the Most Holy Virgin Mary to announce that She would become the Mother of the Son and the Word of God and it was angels who told to the shepherds about the birth of the infant in Bethlehem. We praise the angels as spirits of service but at the same time we honour them, for their will, as holy fathers said, will not bow before evil. The angels of God cannot divert from the path of untruth and they always serve the Lord and stand before God's Throne.

We call the assembly of angel the host because the angels are not at all passive creatures. They actively serve God, participating in the struggle with evil and the powers of this dark world – the struggle which we as human beings wage as well.

Today we have heard the story from the Gospel about how Jesus Christ sent His disciples to preach to people and how they returned and said, *Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name*. The Lord answered them, *Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven* (Lk. 10: 17, 20). Human life is struggle between good and evil. Standing on the side of the good are the angels of God who help us, and standing on the side of the evil are devils who, through evil people and human sin, invade our life to violate its flow, to tear us away from God and to deprive us from the Heavenly Kingdom.

Evil enters human life through sin. Nobody will suffer from devils if he himself does not give them access to his life, his heart, his spiritual world. Orthodox Christians are securely safeguarded against every influence of devils by the power of the Lord's Cross with which they always bless themselves and by the power of Divine Sacraments in which they participate.

The first of these Sacraments is the Holy and Divine Eucharist. When God dwells in us, when we unite with God not only spiritually but also bodily through taking communion, nothing makes us afraid and no evil power can shake our life, and the angel of God are our protectors and helpers who together with us struggle against the powers of evil. Like warriors they stand guard over our human community and our life and help us in the holy struggle with evil”.

*DECR Communication Service*