

Scripture Reading Psalm 34:1-8

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

As my mother's mind deteriorated in the last years of her life, her gentle, loving nature was replaced by childlike qualities, fueled by ADHD and Dementia. It was getting impossible for her to make progress in any activities of "daily living". Nevertheless, our family continued to include her at family gatherings.

It was one of these events that my sweet, 20-something-year-old niece, had volunteered to pick Mom up from her Assisted Living arrangement. "Chandra" entered my Mom's room with the expectation of walking her out to her car and traveling to a relative's home. After some time spent encouraging Mom to "get going", Chandra was understandably upset and frustrated. Finally, a Nursing Assistant appeared in the room and gently offered to help with Mom. My niece, in tears, left to collect herself and wait out in her car. A short time later, the Nursing Assistant was helping Mom into the car. It turned out to be a very good day that Mom very much enjoyed!

A few days later, after much prayer and praise, Chandra stopped back where my mom was living to express her gratitude for the help so lovingly given that day. She remembered a nametag and uniform. Although she did not catch the employee's name, she gave a detailed description of the assistant on duty that day. She was confidently told there was no one employed there of that description.

Oh, how all our hearts soared with absolute certainty that God had sent a precious, personal angel that day! God's protection had come in the form of peace, love, and strength, in a moment of despair! How often has God sent angels to intervene and protect us, on our behalf? What a perfectly wonderful creator and guardian is our God! As believers, we are promised a new life, covered under the protection of God....in which nothing can ever separate us We can rest easy knowing that no matter what hardship we face, God is with us! The angels He sends, can give us peace so we can focus on knowing there is a bigger plan that God has chosen for us.

Prayer: Father God, we thank you for sending us your angels in times of despair, and even as we are unaware of impending danger. You always know what we need, and we praise you for your healing power and guidance in our lives. Please help us to acknowledge and obey the messages you send us through your angels! In Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

~Submitted by Lori Delany for the Fifth Reading of Lent.