

August 9, 2009

A. For nine seasons there was a program on TV ... "Touched by an Angel"

- **Monica: main angel ... dealt with big problems and decision**
- **Tess: bold, angelic supervisor ... red convertible and dog**
- **later: Andrew and Gloria were part of the show**
- **angels have always been part of the Bible: Jacob / Joseph / Mary ...**
- **touched by an angel**

B. Elijah too

- **touched twice in twenty four hours ... message: "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too long for you."**
- **message applies to us as well: we are all on a journey ... a long one**
- **need nourishment ... part of the menu: hope**
- **Elijah had had it / ready to die / the burdens of are many and heavy**
- **Hope: informative: tells us that God awaits us ... the gift of eternal life**
- **performative: changes the present ... no longer paralyzed ... we get up**

C. St. Paul = touched by an angel

- **was given a message that he passed on to us**
- **"do not grieve the Holy Spirit"**
- **remove all bitterness, anger, shouting, malice**
- **be kind, compassionate, forgiving**
- **Message: a game plan ... imitate God by living in love**
- **Paul: had to struggle ... a fiery temperament / used and approved of violence**
- **Hope came in Jesus: informative and performative**

D. Jesus: more than an angel ... the Son of God, our Redeemer, our Savior

- **touches our lives: his word: I am the bread of life**
- **his sacraments: on this long journey ... with us every step of the way**
- **comes to us through others: parents, friends, co-workers, even our enemies**
- **through them ... we are affirmed and challenged, supported and tested**

E. In our Catechism: "The Church venerates the angels who help her on her pilgrimage and protect every human being."

**"Angel of God, my guardian dear,
to whom His love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard,
to rule and guide."**