

## 2. THE BATTLE WITH SATAN

We all know how difficult it is for us to always be good and to do the right thing. It is sometimes very hard to obey our parents and do our tasks at home and our studies in school, especially when we would rather be outside playing. The temptation to choose the lazy way is often quite strong. It is hard to say "no" to the wrong things that are often very attractive and inviting. It is then that we know what it means to fight the devil.

The devil is the one who first turned away from God. He was one of the spirits created by God to serve God as an angel or messenger. But this spirit decided he wanted to have his own way instead of living with God and serving Him. Some other angels followed him and became messengers of evil instead of good. Together they became what we call the evil ones. Can you find the word "evil" in the devil's name?

When we do bad things, we follow the way of the devil. When we are good, we show we belong to God. Since the devil is always sending his messengers to tempt us, we have to really want to be good in order to turn away from Satan (another name for the devil, which means, in Hebrew, **the enemy**) and belong to God. But just as Satan sends his messengers to try to convince us to do evil, God sends His messengers as our own guardian angels to help us to do good.

At your baptism, you showed that you were really serious about rejecting the devil. You showed you really wanted to turn away from bad things. This is how it happened.

The priest turned you and your godpar-

ents around, so that you were looking away from the Altar. He then asked:

*"Do you reject Satan  
and all his angels  
and all his works  
and all his service  
and all his pride?"*

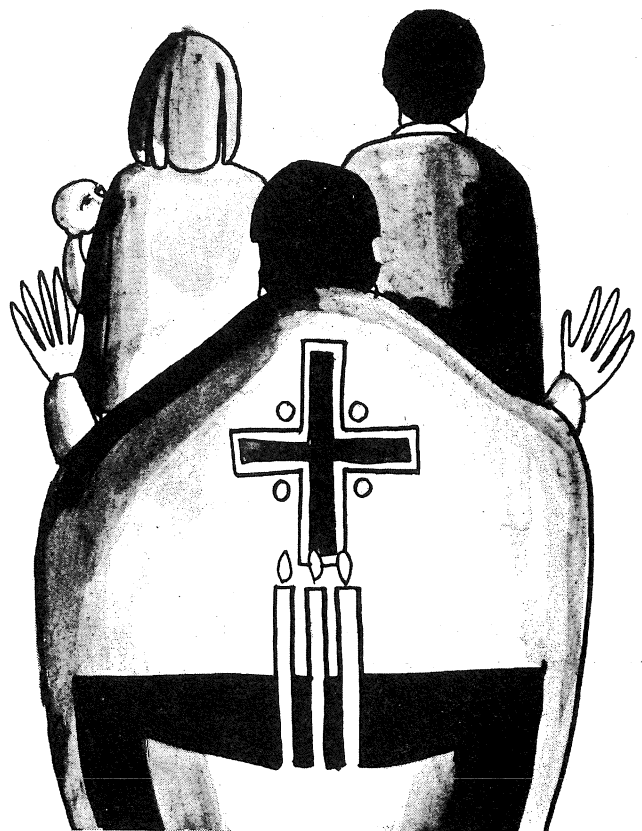
And they answered for you:

*"I do."*

Then the priest said:

*"Breathe and spit on him."*

And your godparents did just that.



Do you reject Satan?

Now, we all know that it is really an insult to spit on anyone or anything. It's a sign that we don't want any part of it. It's also a sign that something is really bad. In our baptism we showed that we want no part of anything bad. Instead, we want to be good. We want to belong to God and to live with Him.

God helps us to be good.

1. At your baptism, the priest breathed on you to make all evil spirits and everything bad go away.
2. He made the sign of the Cross over you, which immediately put you in the power of God.
3. He prayed that God would help you and send you your own guardian angel to help keep you from evil.

So, you see that right from the beginning, as soon as you came to God, He gave you many weapons and gifts to help you in your battle against evil.

St. Paul in his letters speaks to Christians as if they were warriors going into battle. He tells them:

**"Be strong in the Lord . . . put on the whole armor of God . . . gird yourself with truth, and . . . righteousness . . . take the shield of faith . . . and the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God."**

(Ephesians 6:10-17)

He tells them to do all this so that they can fight the devil and all his powers.

List here some of the wrong things which Satan often tempts you to do.

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List here some of the ways you can resist Satan and turn away from his temptations.

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# Crossword Quiz

**1 Down and 1 Across:** What is the **armor** God gives us to protect us from evil?

**2 Down:** What is another name for "angel"? (Clue: It describes what an angel does.)

**3 Down:** Whom do we reject by "breathing and spitting"?

**4 Down:** What sign puts us in the power of God?

**2 Across:** What kind of **shield** do we need to make us believe strongly in God?

**3 Across:** Whom does God give us to help us to live a good life?

