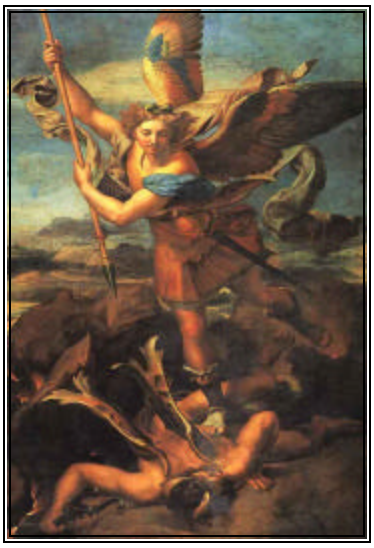

Saint Michael, Archangel

SAINT OF THE MONTH
AUGUST 2010

Christian Practice:
Serving, Doing Justice

A recurring theme in the stories and traditions regarding St. Michael, the Archangel, is protection and service. Is your family making time for service to others?

"Prince of the Seraphim"
Patron:
Death, Sickness, Police, Emergency Workers, Radiologists, Mariners, Paratroopers
FEAST DAY:
September 29

Honored as patron and protector by the Church from the time of the Apostles, St. Michael is also the patron of many service occupations including those who protect and care for their communities. Devotion to St. Michael the Archangel is the oldest angelic devotion, dating back to the 4th century. The name Michael means "Who is like God" and was the war cry of the good angels in the battle fought in heaven against Satan and his followers.

Traditionally, St. Michael not only fought against Satan, but he rescues souls of the faithful from the power of the enemy, particularly at the hour of death. Michael calls the souls away from earth and brings them to justice. As the champion of God's people, St. Michael is the patron of the Church. In art he is seen as an angelic warrior, armed with helmet, sword and shield, standing over the dragon that he pierces with a lance. The Judeo-Christian people from many cultures saw Michael as their champion, their heavenly healer. In Negro spirituals, slaves sang about the saint who receives the souls of the departed: "Michael, row the boat ashore! Alleluia!"

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Look at what you can do to give service to each other in your home.
Then make a list of organizations that are seeking volunteers in your area.
Do these groups protect the rights of those less fortunate or serve their needs?
Make a commitment as a family to do something at least once a month for one organization or choose a variety of community projects to serve together.