

Dear Mission Partners:

It is hard to miss the beautiful statue of St. Michael in front of the main entrance to Villa Maria! The statue has been standing before the front door of Villa Maria – looking eagerly to guard and protect all who enter the rotunda of Immaculata! In fact, isn't that what angels do? They guard and protect us and act as messengers from God!

St. Michael is one of three archangels that the Church has honored through the years. The other two are St. Raphael and St. Gabriel. What do we know about them? The three Archangels, Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael are the only archangels named in the bible and all three have important roles in the history of salvation. Michael's name means "Who is like God?" and he is the patron of police, traders, and bakers.

Our treasured statue of St. Michael has been standing guard since 1914. Over the years, many coats of paint have been applied to preserve and beautify this wooden statue. It was believed that the reason St. Michael was selected was because devotion to this archangel includes protection from many evils. The prayer that is said by our IHM sisters each morning includes these requests of St. Michael:

*St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle. Be our
protection against the
wickedness and snares of the
devil; May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray; And do
thou, O Prince of the Heavenly
Host, by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan and all
evil spirits who wander
through the world seeking the
ruin of souls. Amen.*



When you walk past Villa Maria's front door, take a good look at the statue of St. Michael, and say a little prayer for the protection of all our Immaculata Community! May God bless you as you live the Immaculata mission you have inherited!

Sincerely, in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Sister Antoine Therese, IHM

