

On the Occasion of the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel (July 13)

A Miracle of the Archangel Gabriel at the Convent of the Holy Angels

"I cannot bring myself to leave today. Something extraordinary is keeping me here..."

Our ever-memorable spiritual Mother, the Reverend Mother Kypriane (†2000), foundress and first Abbess of the Convent of the Holy Angels, was wont to say:

"The earthly head of our convent, even though he does not live here, is our *Patera* (our ever-memorable Elder, Metropolitan Cyprian [†2013]). Its heavenly head is the Archangel Gabriel."

This assertion was affirmed by an exception miracle of the Archangel, among the many he has worked at our convent.

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Our venerable Mother had a special devotion to the Archangels from her youth, since her parish in Aigio was dedicated to them. She was very glad when, after we drew lots, God indicated that we should name our convent in honor of the Holy Angels.

In 1976, during Vespers on the eve of July 13, when we commemorate the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel, Mother was in a very distressed state owing to a personal ordeal, and was also worried and grieved because Sister Taxiarchia (the present Abbess of our convent) was ill and could not sing. At that time, there were only three souls at the convent, and Sister Taxiarchia was the chanter.

Vespers began, and our ever-memorable Mother was at the

analogion (chanter's stand) in the tiny first chapel dedicated to the Holy Angels, when she suddenly saw a radiant Angel emerge from the Altar. He had flaxen hair and was wearing brilliant raiments of white and gold. As the Angel flew out of the chapel's window, he brushed his wing against Mother's right arm.

As Mother would describe it, she felt a "frrrr..." and heard an inner voice say "the Archangel Gabriel!"



At the Angel's voice and touch, all trace of sorrow left her. Her soul was overcome by a sense of joy and indescribable peace.

She had no need to eat or sleep for days: the Archangel's touch had brought her to an angelic state in which the Grace of God satisfied all her needs.

To the sisters she said nothing.

After a few days, our ever-memorable Father came to visit them. He intensely sensed the special Grace enveloping the convent, just as the sister did, though they did not dare ask Mother anything about it.

When the driver had reminded him several times that they had to visit a patient at a hospital, our Father turned to Mother and said:

"Gerontissa, I am always glad when I come to see you and can stay a while with you. But today, I cannot bring myself to leave. Something extraordinary is keeping me here...."

"Indeed, *Patera*," she replied. "I did want to see you to ask you something, if it is blessed."

He took her aside privately, and she told him about the "visit" of the Archangel, asking him:

"Patera, I wanted your counsel to learn if this experience came from God, lest I be led astray by the Evil One."

Our Father assured her that the peace and Grace that she felt, and which he also sensed, clearly indicated that it was a gift of God.

The convent's sisters learned of this miracle from another person, to whom our ever-memorable Father had confided it, only five years later.