

# Saint Frances of Rome

1384 - 1440

HELL

Saint Frances of Rome is famous for her visions of Hell. The saint describes Lucifer as the most brilliant of the Seraphim; for this reason his sin was very serious. As we know, the Seraphim is the highest of the nine choirs of Angels. Lucifer consequently was the highest ranked among the angels who had rebelled, and for this he was cast into the deepest part of Hell.

There were angels who chose to follow Lucifer with particular malice and of their own initiative. They were thrown into Hell and are tormented by him because he is more powerful than they, and – Saint Frances of Rome tells us – the Divine Justice delegated Lucifer the assignment of punishing for all eternity those whom he had one day convinced to follow him in the rebellion.

Saint Frances tells us also that the principal demons who obey Lucifer are: Asmodeus, who represents the vice of lust; Mammon, who is at the top of the vice of avarice; and Beelzebub, who is the leader of all idolatries and obscure or hidden activities.

We see here how, as the two principal fallen angels – Lucifer and Asmodeus – they are respectively the demons of pride and of sensuality.

This saint did not see only demons. She also frequently saw her Guardian Angel, that is, an angel of rank relatively low in the celestial hierarchy. Well, this notwithstanding, the first time she saw her Guardian Angel, Saint Frances of Rome was so struck by his greatness that she mistook him for God Himself. She threw herself to the ground to adore him. The angel stopped her and explained who he was. This demonstrated the splendor of a simple guardian angel. How much more is the splendor of an archangel, of a cherubim, of a seraphim!

The Devil always acts against us and the Guardian Angel always protects us, whether we ask him to do it or not. But we must ask more often our Guardian Angels to protect us, to teach us to discern the action of the Demon, to ask also for the protection of Our Lady. All of this is to be “vigilant and to pray” in opposition to the action of demons. They are the themes upon which the visions of Saint Frances of Rome invite us to meditate.

