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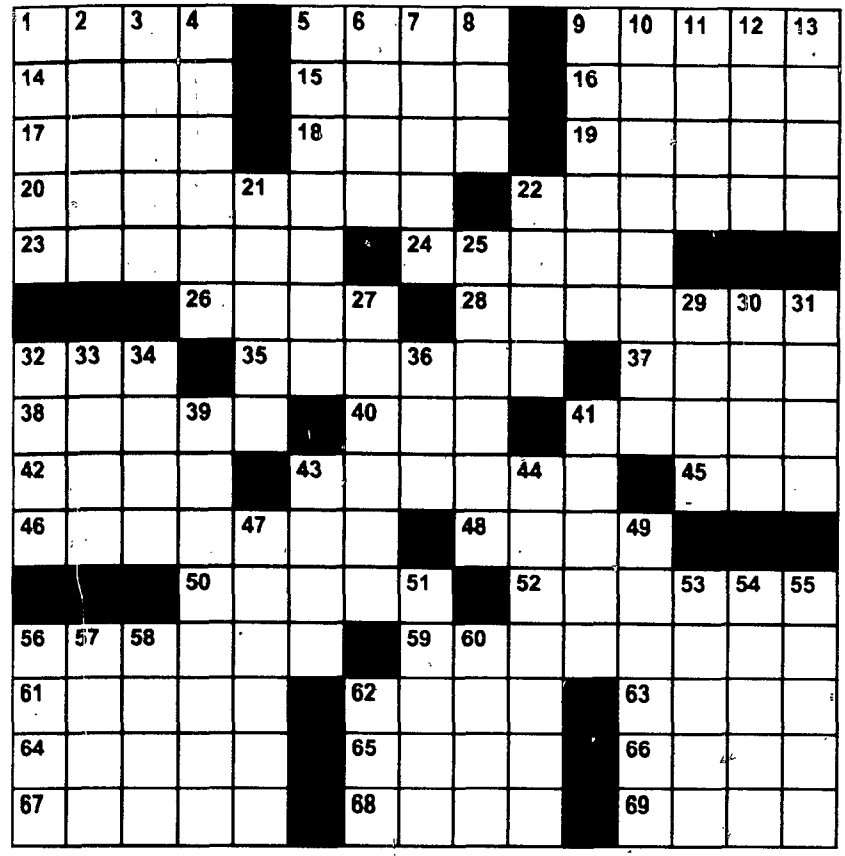
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# Catholic Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Governs religious life
  - 5 Moses was floated down this river in a basket
  - 9 "With string music before the altar, providing \_\_\_\_\_ melody for the psalms" (Sir 47:9)
  - 14 Words of political protest in Paris
  - 15 Opposite of a base
  - 16 Goddess of the seasons
  - 17 Electrically charged atoms
  - 18 Ms. Ryan and a *Little Women* character
  - 19 Rub out
  - 20 Place where Jesus was raised
  - 22 Certain singing voices
  - 23 Remained
  - 24 "I am the Way and the \_\_\_\_\_ and the Life" (Jn 14:6)
  - 26 Place
  - 28 Moral
  - 32 Certain rel. degree
  - 35 What the patriarchs were
  - 37 Leader of the Catholic Church
  - 38 Nickname for Catholic Georgetown University
  - 40 First woman
  - 41 Ski resort
  - 42 At the summit
  - 43 Nicene and Apostles'
  - 45 Time zone (abbr.)
  - 46 Comedian's spiel (var.)
  - 48 Liturgy
  - 50 Where you found the hit on a 45
  - 52 Catholic actor Liam \_\_\_\_\_
  - 56 \_\_\_\_\_ of Jericho
  - 59 Tenet
  - 61 Garlic-flavored mayonnaise
  - 62 What was changed for Jacob
  - 63 Land formation
  - 64 In confession we \_\_\_\_\_ our guilt
  - 65 Islamic prince
  - 66 Only of its kind
  - 67 Bloodsucker
  - 68 Superlative endings
  - 69 Turner and "King" Cole
  - 11 Christian and Pre-Christian
  - 12 A way to stand (with "at")
  - 13 Golf accouterments
  - 21 Bridle attachments
  - 22 No. ifs, ands or \_\_\_\_\_
  - 25 What Jesus came to do
  - 27 Rise up from
  - 29 Long cloak, vestment
  - 30 Copies
  - 31 Pre-Easter season
  - 32 Fakery
  - 33 Dorothy's dog
  - 34 Pioneer in women's education, founder of Mount Holyoke
  - 36 \_\_\_\_\_ Maria
  - 39 \_\_\_\_\_ succession
  - 41 Good quality
  - 43 The \_\_\_\_\_ of Canon Law
  - 44 Ballerinas
  - 47 According to Jewish folklore, she was Adam's wife before Eve
  - 49 What the homily used to be
  - 51 First man and others
  - 53 St. Catherine of \_\_\_\_\_
  - 54 Start
  - 55 Comes close
  - 56 False god of the Old Testament
  - 57 Assistant
  - 58 The \_\_\_\_\_ of Leo (papal document)
  - 60 Leave out
  - 62 Word in a bridal announcement
- DOWN**
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, he \_\_\_\_\_ on the just and unjust" (Mt 5:45, NIV)
  - 2 Sub
  - 3 Catholic singer, Mario \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 Literary pieces
  - 5 Appointed
  - 6 Summer drink
  - 7 "You are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world" (Mt 5:14)
  - 8 Mr. Sullivan and a television horse
  - 9 Scabbard
  - 10 What the congregation does at Mass

Answers on page B6 (No. 38)

# Are angels male only?

B19

Faith & Family

Catholic Corner | Diocese of Rochester, NY | April 2004

**Q.** I don't know where I heard this, but somewhere we were told that all angels are men. Is that right? (Louisiana)

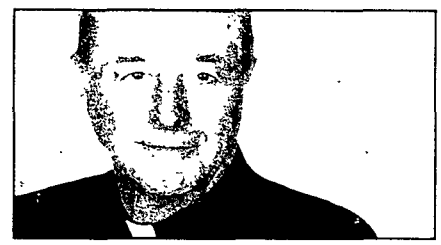
**A.** According to Catholic tradition, and generally for all Christians, angels are believed to be pure spirits. They are creatures of God, intelligent and capable of moral decisions and actions but have no material or physical make-up, therefore no bodies, and therefore no sexual identity. In themselves, they are neither male nor female.

Perhaps you are asking about something else. When angels appear to human beings, in the Bible for example, in what form are they seen? Obviously, they would need some physical appearance to be seen by human eyes. What do they look like?

In earlier Hebrew stories angels rarely appear. God deals with human beings, Adam and Moses for example, face-to-face, as it were, with no angels in between.

Later on, as the Jewish awareness of God's transcendence, or holiness, developed, angels appear in the Old Testament more and more often as intermediaries between God and humans. By New Testament times they became more evident and are mentioned often in the Gospels and other Christian writings after Jesus. In fact the voice of the Father is heard rarely in the New Testament, while angels have a significant role in important events, such as the Annunciation and the Resurrection.

When angels do appear to human beings it is nearly always in human form, and always, when a sex is indicated, it is masculine. You can refer to Genesis 18:2, in which three men, obviously angels of God, receive Abraham's hospitality; Joshua 5:13, Ezekiel 9:2 and Zecharia 1:8 are just a few examples in pre-Christian Scriptures.



Father John Dietzen

## Question Corner


Instances in the New Testament include Luke 24:4 at the tomb after the Resurrection and Acts 1:10 at the Ascension of Jesus.

Otherwise, even when gender is not mentioned explicitly, other circumstances seem to point toward males — masculine forms of names; functions for which a woman would not serve in ancient culture, such as the angel Raphael guiding Tobit's journey to find a wife, and so on.

The canonical Scriptures assign names to three angels, all of whom serve in what would usually be seen as masculine roles: Gabriel, who interprets visions in the Book of Daniel and of course plays a central role in the birth stories of Jesus and John the Baptist; Raphael; and Michael, who is a "great prince" (Daniel 12:1), and leader of the host of angels in the book of Revelation (12:7).

Someone once said that in the Bible angels are always male, young and good-looking. That would be difficult to prove, but it may help explain why, nearly without exception, the angels were treated with such deference, graciousness and esteem by the biblical characters and authors.

Father John Dietzen is a columnist for Catholic News Service. Questions may be sent to him at Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651, or e-mail [jjdietzen@aol.com](mailto:jjdietzen@aol.com).



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