

Michael The Scrapper



One of the most remarkable clocks in the world is on the City Hall of the old town of Augsburg in Bavaria. As midday approaches on September 29, feast of St. Michael, young and old from far and near will gather in the Square to watch it. The old clock has never let the people down on St. Michael's day since it was erected four and a quarter centuries ago.

As the hands move round to noon, a tense silence descends on the waiting throng and a sense of expectancy grips them. The big hand closes over the smaller on the XII. A window above the dial opens, and there slowly comes into view the carved and gilded figures of St. Michael the Archangel and Satan. Michael is a gorgeous figure in golden armor. In his hand he holds aloft a huge sword.

Suddenly the clock strikes, and as it booms on the silent air down comes St. Michael's sword and buries itself in Satan's wicked, sprawling body. There is a loud clang at the moment of impact and small boys in the enthralled audience below scream with delight. Again the clock strikes and once again St. Michael thrusts his sword into the Evil One, then

small boys screaming. And so the performance goes on, one thrust for each of the 12 chimes.

As the last thrust goes home, and Satan has been truly vanquished despite his fiery, red, tongue, that still lolls out, the two figures slowly slide into complete obscurity until the following year, "same time and same place", when St. Michael will once more give his heroic performance. (From the Catholic Fireside, as quoted in Sept. Catholic Digest.)

There is a St. Michael story behind the second part of the Prayers said after every Low Mass. One day toward the end of his pontificate, Pope Leo XIII had a vision of a terrible battle begin waged by Satan against souls and the Church. In the midst of the battle was St. Michael fighting Satan. The Pope hereupon declared St. Michael the Protector of the Church and ordered the prayer, "St. Michael the Archangel", defend us in this day of battle, etc." to be recited as part of the Prayers after Mass.

Temptation sometimes comes upon a person suddenly and violently. When this happens, it is most likely Satan who promoted the affair. In this conflict one should call upon Michael the Scrapper. With him at hand victory will be much easier. "St. Michael, Pray for us."

Prayers

(deceased) father of Jack Tinkle (Badin), died this summer; uncle of Don Patterson (Dil); brother of Vincent Hogan (Lyons Annex) (Anniversary). (Ill) Brother Angelus, CSC, former Guestmaster in M.B., in hospital with fractured leg and other injuries; Dick Riley (OC), in hospital recovering from pneumonia; Sister Elezias (Laundry).

MISSION TONIGHT FOR WEST CAMPUS