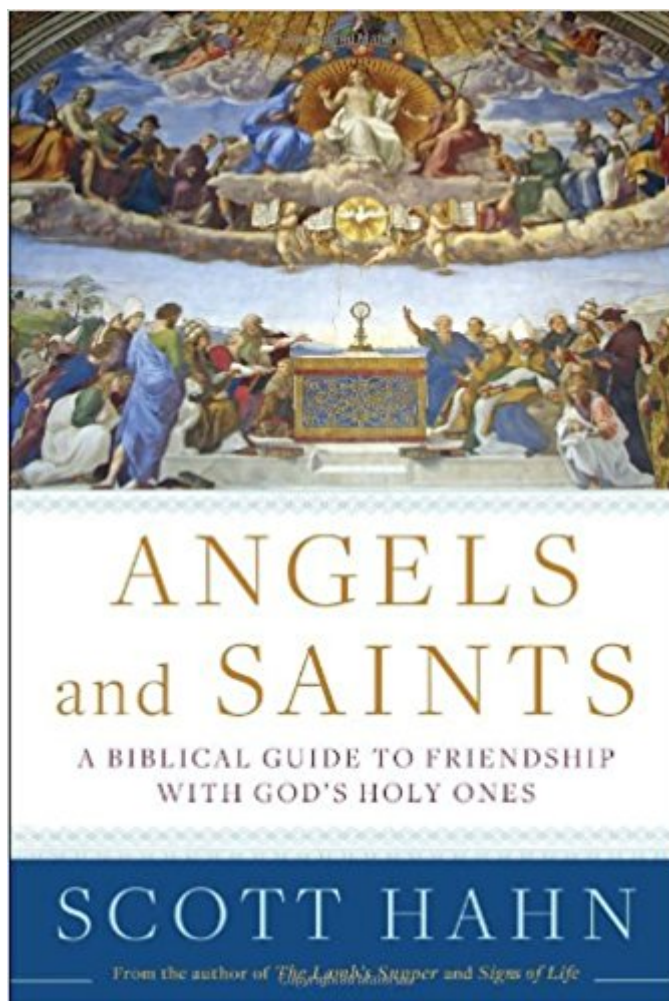


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# Angels And Saints: A Biblical Guide To Friendship With God's Holy Ones



## Synopsis

Angels and saints. Catholics tend to think of them as different from the rest of us. They're cast in plaster or simpering on a holy card, performing miracles with superhero strength, or playing a harp in highest heaven. Yet they are very near to us in every way. In this lively book, Scott Hahn dispels the false notions and urban legends people use to keep the saints at a safe distance. The truth is that Jesus Christ has united heaven and earth in a close communion. Drawing deeply from Scripture, Dr. Hahn shows that the hosts of heaven surround the earthly Church as a "great cloud of witnesses." The martyrs cry out from heaven's altar begging for justice on the earth. The prayers of the saints and angels rise to God, in the Book of Revelation, like the sweet aroma of incense. Dr. Hahn tells the stories of several saints (and several angels too) in a way that's fresh and new. The saints are spiritual giants but with flesh-and-blood reality. They have strong, holy ambitions and powerful temptations and opposition that must be overcome. Their stories are amazing and yet familiar enough to motivate us to live more beautiful lives. In this telling of their story, the saints are neither otherworldly nor this-worldly. They exemplify the integrated life that every Christian is called to live. Still, their lives are as different from one another as human lives can be. Dr. Hahn shows the heavenly Church in all its kaleidoscopic diversity—from Moses to Mary, Augustine to Therese, and the first century to the last century. Only saints will live in heaven. We need to be more like the saints if we want to live in heaven someday. Dr. Hahn shows us that our heavenly life can begin now. It must.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Angels and saints abound in heaven even if we cannot see them. In this masterful book, Scott Hahn pulls back the curtain on this realm of spiritual reality in a new and utterly engaging manner. Dr. Hahn has a spiritual gift that lets us experience angels and saints in a way that they no longer appear to be far beyond us. His book is a passport into the spiritual realm of these special friends of God." — His Eminence Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington

"As an author, Scott Hahn is the master of two very different skills: expert scholarship and an easy, engaging style. This book is the proof. These pages are a wonderful explanation of what Catholics believe about angels and saints, and why — made even more absorbing by Hahn's vivid portraits of individual women and men whom the Church now calls saints." — Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Philadelphia

"The Christian spiritual life is not an endeavor marked by isolation, but is an invitation to a relationship situated within a great communion of saints and angels, all of whom support and sustain us in our relationship with God in Christ. In this regard, Dr. Scott Hahn has created not only a brilliant introduction but a masterful treatise on how the Church understands the angels and the saints as our friends and as God-given routes of access to life in Christ." — Very Reverend Robert Barron, Rector, Mundelein Seminary, and Founder, Word on Fire Catholic Ministries

"Why are there angels everywhere in the Bible? Are they real? And why do Christians pay so much attention to the saints? Who are they, and do they really matter? In this fascinating new book, Scott Hahn takes you on a biblical tour of the holy citizens of heaven and earth, showing that it's true — we are not alone. If you've ever wondered what Scripture really says about the angels and saints in heaven and on earth, then this book is for you." — Brant Pitre, author of *Jesus the Bridegroom*

SCOTT HAHN holds the Fr. Michael Scanlan Chair of Biblical Theology and the New Evangelization at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he has taught since 1990, and he is the founder and president of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. In 2005, he was appointed as the Pope Benedict XVI Chair of Biblical Theology and Liturgical Proclamation at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Dr. Hahn is also the bestselling author of numerous books, including *The Lamb's Supper*, *Reasons to Believe*, and *Rome Sweet Home* (coauthored with his wife, Kimberly), and is editor of the *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible* and *Letter & Spirit: A Journal of Catholic Biblical Theology*. Some of his most recent books are *Many Are Called*, *Consuming the Word*, *The Catholic Bible Dictionary*, and *Signs of Life*. He lives in Steubenville, Ohio.

Dr. Scott Hahn has become one of the most useful authors I've found for learning about about the Church and her teachings on my pilgrimage to the Catholic Faith. Angels and Saints is no exception to the quality books I've come to expect from Dr. Hahn. Hahn's book begins by describing the Catholic teaching on the Communion of the Saints and then moves into a series of chapters about specific saints. This book is not an encyclopedic compendium of the Church's Canon of saints, if you want that read Butler. This book is not an extensive in-depth look at angelology, if you want that try Augustine. This book is not a detailed treatise on Mariology, though Hahn's book Hail Holy Queen would fit that bill. Rather Angels and Saints is an excellent primer on all these subjects and more. For those interested in learning more about the men and women the Church calls holy, and why, this work is a great place to start.

There is a world of persons, much bigger than ours, that we cannot see but who are part of our lives. They are there, because of God, to be a positive influence in our lives. They are powerful beings. They are our friends. They are our helpers. They love us. They care for us. They can do much for us. I agree with the reviewer Stuart Dunn who says of Dr. Scott Hahn, this "is a return to his way of writing that helped so many of us grow in the faith so many years ago." There is something very new and fresh in the way Dr. Hahn presents and teaches this subject. He is engaging. In past lectures and courses, he unusually describes the saints as "our older brothers and sisters in Christ." In this book, he seems to have chosen to reinvent his description of the Communion of Saints, the City of God, and the Church we do not see. He seems to be very excited about describing these. We might understand the human aspect to the Church, but he says that's only the "human minority." It is composed of angels as well and he describes how "there are many more angels than there are people" in this world invisible to the human eye, but as real as anything else that we know exists. It's definitely worth the trip to enter and discover this whole aspect of the Church that is hidden from view. Follow Dr. Hahn as he takes you through a biblical understanding of this and what it means to us. This world may be invisible, but it is not out of reach. No, there are persons who can make a real difference in our lives. We begin to grasp this in Part II of the book where he describes a number of the saints, beginning with Saint Michael and the angels, Moses, and then to saints of the Early Church. Some of these we call the Church Fathers. Yes, he is selective and does not touch on many of them. But, in the chronological way that Dr. Hahn presents these, we get an insight into the growth of the Church and the continuity that exists in its life and its teaching, something we too are a part of. After finishing with Saint Augustine (who many might consider the last of the Church Fathers), he moves to Saint Thomas Aquinas and then quickly to a few modern day saints. He

treats each of these in a rich and novel way. The book is well worth it. I was surprised at how well, because it began with a personal anecdote, concerning his son and his own individual encounter with angels and saints, and then developed into a scholarly treatise on the matter. It became engaging very fast. It will certainly be worth a re-read.

The author, Mr. Scott Hahn, once again has been inspired by the Holy Spirit to write an informative and delightful book. And I am only half way through it! Besides bringing awareness of angels and saints to us, Mr. Hahn also brings new insights of Scripture in his writing. One example is in the story of Lazarus and the rich man and after they die. If you think the rich man went to hell, you are wrong. Mr. Hahn knows Holy Scripture and his explanation is enlightening. There is a Purgatory! This is an easy read with easy humor along the way. In the "Communion of Saints" we ALL belong; we on earth, and all those in Heaven that have gone before us. Too many to count! Thanks be to God for all the angels and for Mr. Scott Hahn.

The first few pages of this book support my experience 12 years ago. I prayed for my husband who was in a life and death situation - "LORD WE JUST MOVED IN AND HAVEN'T BEEN ESTABLISHED YET, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO" PEACE suddenly enveloped me. A PEACE SO REASSURING AND COMFORTING AND HUGGING MY WHOLE BEING. I laid down at my husband side - I felt so light and having tremendous peace. Then I have this awareness (this I could not fully describe) JESUS came carrying a very heavy and enormous Cross and all Bloody said to me " I AM VERY TIRED, I COULD HARDLY WALK - BUT I COULD NOT SUFFER YOU". I know this experience really happened but because I also know that I am a wretched sinner, this question has been always in my heart - How could it be? This book has given me strength to believe without doubt in this merciful experience.

In both parts, the first being more about the topic of what the saints are and the second being more about who some of the saints are, Scott Hahn puts the whole topic within a biblical framework. It is not a book that will convince those with a thoroughly engrained Protestant paradigm of Scripture, because that is not the author's purpose (being originally trained as a Reformed theologian, the author is certainly up to that task). As with many of his books, Hahn's intended readers are Catholics who desire more Biblical depth to their faith. That being said, the book could be beneficial to Protestants who have not understood the biblical framework within Catholicism for the intercession and veneration of the departed saints, and who seek greater ecumenical understanding

and dialogue.

Scott Hahn does an excellent job of laying out the biblical, theological, and historical explanation of the communion of saints. He begins and ends this work with a real life story from his life that embodies the work that follows. His final words highlight the deepest form of accent mentioned by Cardinal Henry Newman in the intercessory prayer of the "cloud of witnesses" in Hebrews 12:1 to aid in saving his sons life in Italy while on pilgrimage. Illustrates through the lives of saints throughout history or universal connection in our humanity and call to holiness. Great read.

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