

# *The White Light of Grace*

By: Lillie Leonardi

## **Chapter 1: The Origins of Grace**

### **Excerpt**

Since my earliest recollections, I have been graced by the white light from heaven above. Although for many years I did not understand what a blessed life I have lived, I have come to comprehend it now. At the age of 16, I first began my relationship with Mary. Our alliance was forged after my mother gifted me with a small prayer book to honor Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Over the years, this strong bond has aided me in better understanding my spiritual path and purpose. Through it, I learned to accept that life has many mysteries that do not always allow for an explanation or even make sense. Sometimes, there seem to be no clear reasons for what transpires. However, I now believe that the answers to all questions are ever-present—that is, if we are willing to listen to the inner wisdom of our souls.

This amazing bond with Mother Mary was not, however, the initial spiritual connection I felt with the heavenly realm. As a child, I felt the magnificent presence of the Archangel Michael, and often confided this belief in others. When first I told my parents about the encounters, my mother said they were just a part of my “overactive imagination.” She would often berate me and caution me not to share the details of the angelic encounters with others. In her own way, Mom was trying to protect me, but I felt she had somehow betrayed me as well. For in my mind, I knew what I professed about the Archangel to be true. When Archangel Michael would appear in the corner of my bedroom, I would instantly feel the warmth of his being. In turn, I would feel an inner connection to him and the illumination of my soul.