

## What Can I Do to Help the Church?

The story of the woman clothed with the sun is about the birth of the New Church. As we reflect on the drama of the woman being threatened by the dragon and defended by Michael and his angels, we might find that we have a role to play in helping the New Church pictured by the beautiful woman.

- ❖ With the coming of the New Church we now understand that the little child born to the woman stands for new teachings or doctrines straight from the Lord that explain the qualities of the spiritual world, marriage, the nature of God, the Word and much more. How could learning more about these teachings help the Church? What are some actions that you could take to learn more?
- ❖ Do you think there are people searching for ideas like these? Are there ways that you could help them find out about these special teachings?
- ❖ Michael is protecting the woman—the New Church. In one sense, we help the Church by looking to the Lord God Jesus Christ and living according to His Word. We can also help protect the Church by rejecting false ideas even though they may be popular in the world around us.
- ❖ The New Church is the Church that the Lord has established in heaven and which is being established on the earth. The General Church of the New Jerusalem is one of several organizations—based on the truths revealed by the Lord through Emanuel Swedenborg—that is trying to help the New Church grow in this natural world. Your support for the General Church is a tangible way to join others who seek to help the Lord build His church on earth as it is in heaven.
- ❖ Can you think of other ways that you might help the Church grow? Perhaps by teaching your children about the Lord and His Word? What other ways can you put your religious beliefs into action?