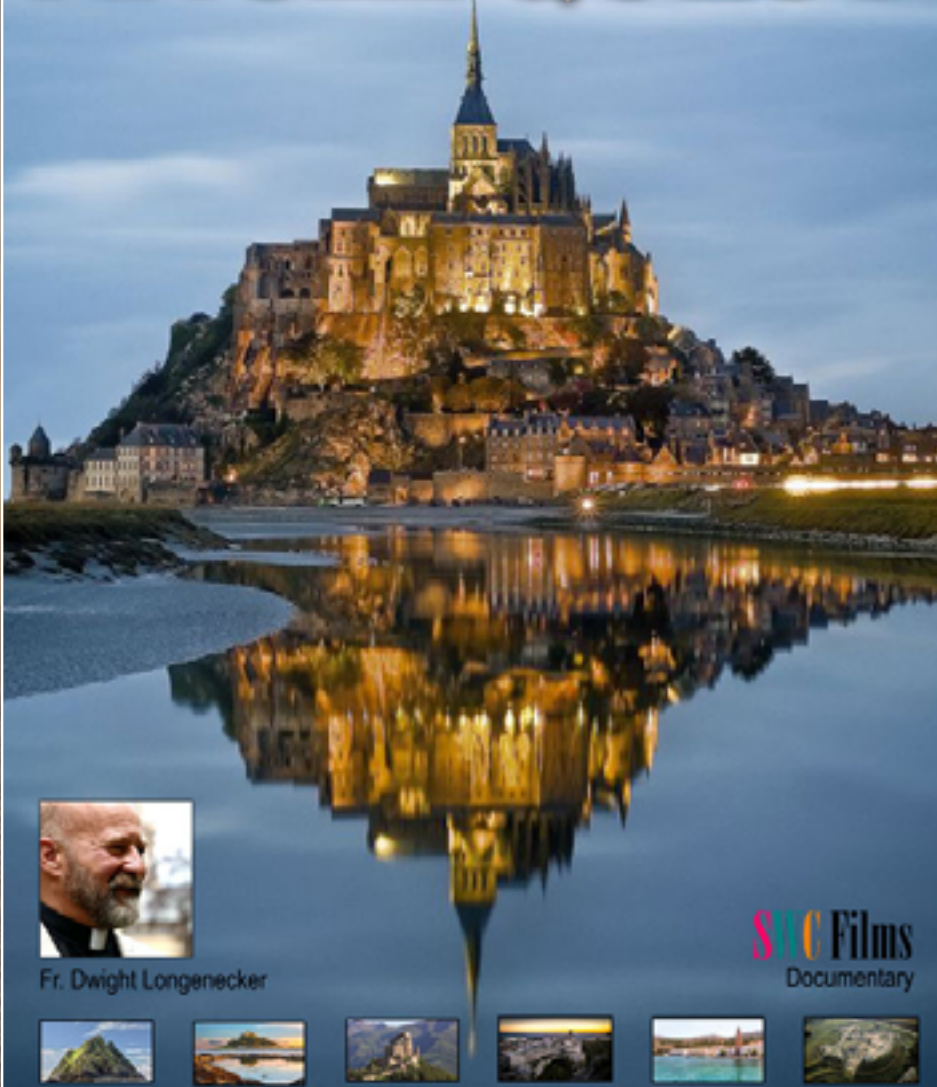


# ANGEL QUEST



Fr. Dwight Longenecker

**SVC Films**  
Documentary

Secrets of the Sacred Line of St. Michael's Sword

*ANGEL QUEST* is a proposed television documentary produced by Fr. Dwight Longenecker and Dr. Stan Williams

Join us as we embark on 2,500-mile pilgrimage in an effort to uncover the mysteries of the seven ancient monasteries, which stretch across Europe to the Middle East in a perfectly straight line. Do they represent an ancient and mystical spiritual system? Do they have any practical benefits for today? The line of monasteries is named after an archangel and his weapon, St. Michael's Sword.

We hope you will follow this project as a social media pilgrim, and perhaps support us financially in our efforts to bring this project to television. Prepare yourself for an exciting adventure as together we pilgrimage along St. Michael's Sword and reconnect with the supernatural.

***Reconnecting with the Supernatural***

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## STORY SUMMARY

*Angel Quest* will document a pilgrimage of discovery by Fr. Dwight Longenecker along the centuries old geographic line of Saint Michael's Sword, to investigate the legends of angelic influence in ages past and even to-day. Many people are skeptical about monasteries in general—"What good are they?" These seven monasteries, built centuries apart in hostile and inaccessible places, seem especially pointless. Did such mystical houses of prayer have some practical importance eons ago? Do they have any relevance to society and culture today?

The St. Michael line has long been the focus of research by our host, Fr. Longenecker, a prolific author, speaker, and television presenter. A former Anglican priest in Britain, he has traveled extensively throughout Europe and the Middle East. Today he is a Catholic priest in the southern United States.

There are many question regarding the reality of angelic beings, and skepticism about the usefulness of monasticism. Yet apparently, monastic life was the means by which one participated not just in the struggles of temporal society, but also in the cosmic, spiritual battles between the forces of darkness and light. Monasteries became a stabilizing force in the past; they became hubs of civilization by cultivating education, literacy, and providing humanitarian aid to the poor and hungry. But, can they teach us anything about how to lift up society and culture today?

By land, sea, and occasionally by air, Fr. Longenecker will journey along St. Michael's line, from the dramatic, "Star Wars" island of Skellig Michael off Ireland's southwest coast, to the Stella Maris monastery and tel Megiddo on Mount Carmel in Israel. As these mystical, mountain-top locations lie in a mystically, perfect straight line our journey unlock historical, cultural, and supernatural realities.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE LINE

Over the years archaeologists, cartographers, traders, and pilgrims have discovered what might be called "Sacred Geography"—ancient shrines located on straight lines that crisscross the globe. In Chinese lore they are called "dragon lines," These "dragon lines" connect elevated, isolated places where spiritual shrines were built suggesting the battlegrounds between the forces of darkness and the forces of light. The sites are separated by thousands of miles and their builders were separated by centuries. Is the presence of the shrines in a straight line coincidental, or is their origin supernatural? Do they reveal a sacred code left behind by the gods, or were the civilizations that created them simply far more advanced in archaeo-astronomy than previously thought? Is their alignment due to



some astrophysical or magnetic phenomenon? Do these ancient sacred places, along geographical lines, channel supernatural powers? Do they reveal dimensions of reality otherwise inaccessible to mortals on earth? Do they hold any significance for pilgrims in search of a deeper meaning for their lives?

Ancient myths<sup>1</sup> about epic battles, past and future, between the forces of good and evil pervade all historical cultures and society. The Star Wars saga is only a recent example. Such stories bring to mind the battles found in Judeo-Christian texts. *Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But they were not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him* (Revelation 12:7-9). *At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began* (Daniel 12:1). Is there any connection between such texts, Chinese dragon lines, and St. Michael's Sword? We hope to find out.

1 "Myth" is used here in the classical sense: a story that may be explicitly true or false, but its meaning is always true.

## ST. MICHAEL'S SWORD

One of the most amazing of these so called "sacred alignments" is known as the Apollo/St. Michael Axis or the Sword of St. Michael. It stretches from a craggy island off Ireland's southwest coast, used as a location in the latest Star Wars films, to the Stella Maris monastery on Mount Carmel in Israel where millennia ago the prophet Elijah challenged 450 pagan prophets. A few miles further along the line is Megiddo where legend tells us St. Michael will fight the devil in the final battle of Armageddon. Between Skellig Michael and Stella Maris five additional sanctuaries point to the starry heavens. All seven lie in a perfect straight line stretching across Europe. According to legend, the St. Michael's line represents the blow with which St. Michael battled the devil, casting him and his minions from heaven down to earth at the dawn of time -- and where he will defeat the Great Dragon at the end of time.

If this isn't intriguing enough, the geographic line of St Michael's Sword perfectly aligns with sunset on the day of the summer solstice.

## STRUCTURAL OUTLINE - 9 ACTS

The documentary will be produced as a 60-minute television program, in nine acts. Each act will interweave two story threads, one of the physical journeys to the mountain-top monasteries exploring their auster-



ity and beauty, and the second of their cosmic and spiritual role in past and present cultures.

- Act 1: Preparing for the Trek
- Act 2: Skellig Michael, Ireland
- Act 3: St. Michael's Mount, Cornwall, England
- Act 4: Mont-Saint-Michel, Normandy, France
- Act 5: Sacra di San Michele, Turin, Italy
- Act 6: Sanctuary of Monte Saint'Angelo, Gargano, Italy
- Act 7: Archangel Michael Monastery of Panormitis, Symi, Greece
- Act 8: Stella Maris Monastery, Haifa, Israel
- Act 9: Wrap up: Discoveries and Significance

In each act we expect to answer many questions and resolve paradoxes.

### QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE PHYSICAL ADVENTURE

How did these monasteries end up on a straight line? Did the apparitions of St. Michael have any historical significance? Why did monks build monasteries and hermitages in such inaccessible and inhospitable places? What can we learn about religious faith and its benefit to past societies, and about the people who built and lived in these sanctuaries? Why did the producers of Star Wars choose Skellig Michael as a location for a Jedi hideout? What connections are there between Star Wars spirituality and monasticism? How did monasteries like Turin, Italy's Sacra di San Michele get made? It's on the side of a mountain. What are the local legends about St Michael? How do you sort out superstition and legend from reality?

### QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE

Was monastic culture an antidote to the anarchy of the time? What occupied the day for monks and nuns? Did they pray all day long, or did they engage with the society around them? How did they benefit culture practically? What effect did their daily regimen have on history? Does any of that apply to us today?

## CULTURAL RELEVANCE

It is natural to question the relevance of monasticism, but the monastic life is one of the few shared traditions in all world religions. Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism all have mystical, monastic strains, however in a modern, technological and pragmatic society one wonders what monasteries are for.

In previous centuries monasteries arose as havens for prayer, worship and spiritual growth for the men (or women) who could brave a life of asceticism. The immediate benefit was an escape from the dangers of an anarchic and chaotic society. But from a focus on spiritual priorities sprung hospitality for travelers, food and humanitarian aid for the poor, healing for the sick, and literacy and education for young and old.

Today we take for granted the various institutions derived from monastic life. We enjoy the convenience of the hospitality industry: hotels, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, as well as monasteries and religious guest houses that we stay at while documenting this journey. Food pantries, soup kitchens and hostels for the homeless are the heirs of the institutions first founded and run by the monasteries. We have public and private schools, not just for children, but high schools and universities.

The common thread in all these traditions is the preservation of knowledge and values against attacks of barbarian ignorance, violence and brutality. More specifically, there is a parallel between what our ancestors did centuries ago to preserve culture and what many are doing today. During the recent pandemic when schools were closed, parents re-established their homes as family monasteries to care for and protect the sick, and to educate their children. Food shortages and store closures prompted church pantries and other socially aware organizations to become food and clothing distribution centers.

Monasteries, however, were more than social service centers. At the heart of monastic life was a priority of prayer, meditation and interaction with the supernatural realm. Popular culture expresses the ongoing fascination in supernatural masters in films like the Batman franchise, The Matrix and the Jedi knights of Star Wars. In past ages the supernatural conflict embraced by monastic masters was expressed through the symbolism of the cosmic battle. Angels and Demons were at war, but not through a fantasy board game, or in a Dan Brown novel. It seems that monks believed they were joined in a real life or death conflict.

## ARTISTIC APPROACH

The program's delivery will alternate between expository and poetic styles. There will be didactic descriptive segments juxtaposed with visual montages of the exotic settings. The camera or our pilgrims will always be in motion. Our B-Roll will seek strong visuals making use of magic-hour, sun and shadows, color and monochrome, close-up details and open landscapes, time lapse and slow motion, star tracks, sunrises, sunsets, and drone footage of the surrounding locale. Our drone will follow the sea racing across tidal basins and crashing onto rocky spires. We will be alert for poetic rhythms in the sequences of movement. We will utilize extreme wide angle, telescopic foreshortening, macro, and possibly 360-degree images to complement our normal lensing.

Narration by our host will alternate between conversations with his son and daughter and conversations with other pilgrims spontaneously met at the sites. These will be the expository on-camera descriptions, stories, and legends, and the viewer will be further drawn into our story by the many archaeological discoveries that have contemporary relevance. There will also be scripted voice overs illustrated with B-roll. While the conversational content will be directed at those on camera, the scripted voice over will be directed to the audience as if they are part of the pilgrimage.

Our host and his children will also informally interview local ex-



perts as they walk and talk through the destinations. These will NOT be sit-down, static, well-lit interviews. They will discuss archaeological features, history, geography, astronomy, angelology including the St. Michael legends.

Supplementing our original video will be archival video, animated maps, and superimposed titles. We have already found and acquired drone coverage of a few of our locations.

All video we shoot will be visually stunning at 4K resolution.

## PROJECT STAGES AND TIMELINE

We are currently in the packaging stage. Formal Development (Stage 1, below) will not begin until partial funding is acquired. We hope to begin the pilgrimage in August 2022.

1. Development (research content, logistics) ----- 12 weeks
2. Pre-production (legal and equipment)----- 4 weeks
3. Production (4 travel weeks, 3 post pickup days) ---- 5 weeks
4. Scripting (pre- and post-production) ----- 12 weeks
5. Editing (video, audio, animation) ----- 12 weeks
6. Final Post (grading, audio sweetening, output) ----- 5 weeks
7. Delivery Total (calendar) ----- 50 weeks

## YOU ARE OUR AUDIENCE

*You* are our audience and we hope you will follow us throughout this adventure. Through social media and videos we will take you with us. Sign up for our ANGEL QUEST E-List at [www.stanwilliams.com/ANGELQUEST/Follow.html](http://www.stanwilliams.com/ANGELQUEST/Follow.html).

Otherwise, our audience is wide and general: Men and women, youth and adults, of diverse cultures who are interested in international travel, history, religion, exploration, culture, myths, science, ancient construction, mystical legends, and cinematography.

## DISTRIBUTION

We are pursuing an international television cable channel for co-production funding and distribution such as the Public Broadcasting System, The Travel Channel, the History Channel, National Geographic, or The Discovery Channel, reaching millions of viewers worldwide. After the television distribution window, the project will be made available for cable networks such as EWTN, then we will release it for church and community screenings with Stan and Dwight in attendance to introduce and take questions. Simultaneously, we will release the program on DVD, Bluray, and PPV streaming. It should be noted that Stan and Dwight are frequently requested speakers at conferences and gatherings. Promotion will also be enhanced because both Dwight and Stan are often guests on Catholic radio and television segments.

## ANGEL QUEST BOOK

Accompanying the planned film, Fr. Longenecker is developing the book *Angel Quest- The Search for St Michael* that will be released concurrently with the documentary's release. The book will provide detailed coverage of facts, legends, and archaeological evidence of the seven St. Michael locations, not possible in a motion picture format. It will likely be published by Regnery History.

## CREATIVE PERSONNEL

- Producers: Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Stan Williams
- Host: Fr. Dwight Longenecker
- Director/Camera: Stan Williams and others
- Writers: Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Stan Williams
- Drone Operator: Local Hire, Archival, and Stan Williams
- Video Editor: Stan Williams
- Composer: James Stonehouse

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR KEY BIOS:**

## STAN WILLIAMS

SWC Films is an independent development and production entity owned by Stan Williams, a veteran documentary filmmaker of 35 years, and some 400 completed projects for corporations, television, the Internet, and DVD. During his corporate and non-profit years, Stan won local, national, and international awards for his productions. Since 2006, and the release of his book on narrative structure *The Moral Premise: Harnessing Virtue and Vice for Box Office Success*, Stan has helped develop motion pictures stories and scripts that have earned over a billion dollars at the worldwide box office. Will Smith calls Stan's book, *The most powerful tool in my new toolbox*. Stan holds a Ph.D. in Film Studies and Narrative Theory from Wayne State University, an M.A. in Mass Communications, and a B.A. in Physics. Before beginning his film career, he wrote flight crew checklists and trained astronauts at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston. His Moral Premise Blog of over 300 articles averages 175 unique visits a day. His YouTube Channel has over 7,000 subscribers, 3 million views, and 28,000 minutes watched per month. His documentaries have aired on PBS and a host of religious networks.



## DWIGHT LONGENECKER

Dwight Longenecker is a Catholic priest, writer, blogger, and podcaster. With a degree in English and Speech and a Master's in Theology from Oxford, Longenecker is the author of over twenty books and booklets on Catholic faith and culture. Having lived in the UK for twenty-five years he first discovered the Sword of St Michael while making a hitchhiking pilgrimage from England to Jerusalem. Since then, he has been an avid student of angelology, theology, and historic monasticism. An experienced presenter, Longenecker has worked as a script consultant for Gatehouse Television in England and appeared as a presenter on Yorkshire TV's Sunday Morning program. He has a popular following as a speaker and retreat leader in the US. His award-winning blog receives thousands of visits per month. He has 45K followers on Twitter and significant reach through his books and articles.



## FUNDING

### BUDGET

Angel Quest's developing and production budget is between \$250,000 to \$300,000. Funding will come from multiple sources.

### BROADCAST LICENSES

We expect to license the finished project for cable and Internet distribution through one or more of the following: Public Broadcasting System, The Discovery Channel, The History Channel, Nat Geo, Netflix, Hulu, etc.

### CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

In exchange for worldwide promotional consideration on television, print, and promotional items, SWC Films will make available a limited and restricted number of commercial and family Sponsorships. Five different levels of exposure are being offered up, including Executive Producer credit, imprint of your logo and by-line on all promotional materials, inclusion in SWAG gift bags for premiere screenings, website links, press release inclusions, and other premiums. Potential sponsors should write Stan Williams for a copy of the "Angel Quest Sponsorship Agreement."

### TWO FISCAL SPONSORS

You can donate to Angel Quest tax-free two different ways. The International Documentary Association (IDA), a 501(c)(3) Public Charity, has agreed to be a Fiscal Sponsor for *Angel Quest*. Detailed information is available on the project website.

Living Faith-Fine Arts Apostolate, a 501(c)(3) USCCB approved Catholic charity, plans to support the Angel Quest Project also as a Fiscal Sponsor for those foundations or individuals who only support official Catholic charities. Donations for *Angel Quest* can be sent to "Living Faith - Fine Arts Apostolate, PO Box 343, Farmington, MI 48332." Write "Angel Quest Doc in the Memo Line of your check.



### RETAIL STORE SALES

We will be designing St. Michael Sword Documentary Fine Art Collectibles, Paintings, Laser Woodcuts, Memorabilia, Tokens, Devotional Items, and Wearables that will be available for purchase through our on-line store.

### CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN

We may launch a Crowdfunding Campaign featuring premium items from our Store.

### PILGRIM MEMBERSHIPS

During production we will offer baseline (FREE) and premium subscriptions to our social media posts and content. These will include both print materials and videos of the production, our travels, and behind the scene reports.

### VIDEO SALES

When the project is complete, depending on the terms of our broadcast licenses, we will offer for sale DVD, Bluray, and Streaming content. These will be available in our store.



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