

IN THE SAME CHARISM....

with responsibility



n. 1 - 2013

**COMPANY OF ST. URSULA
SECULAR INSTITUTE OF ST. ANGELA MERICI
FEDERATION**

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TO THE READERS

*Have hope and firm faith in God;
he will help you in everything* (Prologue to the Counsels, 15)

Each one of us with the whole Company around the world lives the commitment and the grace of this Year of Faith. According to our Constitutions (4.2), “*our life will be one of commitment to being witnesses of charity, faith and hope in the heart of the world....*”

Saint Angela links hope and faith in all her writings to guide us to the core of love: charity.

The Constitutions suggest to us the commitment of being witnesses of the three theological virtues in the heart of the world. I do not believe that these three virtues can be isolated; they must be linked *in God alone and in the kind and ineffable Providence that is his alone.*

Faith is living for the Lover...

“Let them have Jesus Christ for their only treasure, for there also will be love” (Counsels 5,43).

Let us strengthen our relationship with our Lover, and we will live in faith, our hope will make for certainty and we will both receive and give love.

The Pope invites us to this: “*May this Year of Faith make our relationship with Christ the Lord increasingly firm, since only in him is there the certitude for looking to the future and the guarantee of an authentic and lasting love*” (Benedict XVI, *The Door of Faith*).

Faith is abandoning oneself totally to God...

And God, as Saint Angela assures us, *will help us in everything.* He will help us in every material and spiritual thing and will help us to reach the fullness of eternal joy.

If we try to read, in the Prologue to Saint Angela’s Counsels, the verses that come before and after the phrase ...*He will help you in everything...* we can proceed serenely in our vocational commitment. Each one, for her part, for her role in the Company, will have nothing to fear, should not lose heart, should not think herself inadequate or unable to know how to do what she must... but she should only *have hope and firm faith in God.*

This faith should be the nourishment of prayer, should be accompanied by the humility of our responsibility, of our everyday fidelity in confident abandonment into the hands of God: *“Only through believing does faith grow and become stronger; there is no other possibility for possessing certitude with regard to one’s life apart from self-abandonment, in a continuous crescendo, into the hands of a love that seems to grow constantly because it has its origin in God”* (Benedict XVI, *The Door of Faith*).

Faith is following the example of the Saints... for us in secularity

And again the Pope reminds us: *“By faith, across the centuries, men and women of all ages, whose names are written in the Book of Life (cf. Rev 7:9, 13:8), have confessed the beauty of following the Lord Jesus wherever they were called to bear witness to the fact that they were Christian: in the family, in the workplace, in public life, in the exercise of the charisms and ministries to which they were called”* (Benedict XVI, *The Door of Faith*).

For us it is precisely Saint Angela, whose name is written in the *Book of Life*, who teaches us to live the faith, the Trinitarian mystery, in daily reality... *in the common and ordinary conditions of human existence, united in a spousal stance to the Son of God, her "Lover"* (cf. *Constitutions 2.1*).

He helps us in everything! He helps us in everything!

This is our prayer, this is also our faith.... He helps us in everything.

Reading this collection reconfirms this faith: the Company belongs to the Lord, and he is directing it and accompanying it, according to his purposes and his love.

To us belongs the task, ever fresh,
*to recognize what such
a choice means
and what a new and wondrous dignity this is.*

(Prologue to the Rule, 8)

Caterina Dalmasso

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT **FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY**

“Together in service to the kingdom in secularity” was the motto of our assembly, and it is the desire of the council that this motto become a program and remain the guideline for the formation and renewal events for the next six-year term, especially for the international meetings.

Such meetings are truly privileged times for reflecting together, for unfolding new strategies, for getting acquainted and renewing acquaintances as fellow members of a single great Institute.

All the participants in the summer meeting had the duty of reporting to their Companies what emerged, in such a way that the fruits not remain isolated moments, but may be a stimulus to continue the processes of deepening and of reflection.

Every meeting, with its “acts” that are always published to be at the disposal of all, should have positive and beneficial results in the life of each Daughter.

The 2012 assembly entrusted to us four resolutions that we want to recognize and accept as setting important directions for our personal life and for that of our Companies and Groups.

The second resolution, “Formation and spirituality,” asks the Council of the Federation to “support courses and experiences of formation.”

The formation of consecrated persons should today take into account all the development that has taken place specifically in regard to consecrated life, from “*Provida Mater Ecclesia*” to the most recent document, “*Vita Consacrata*.”

We are called to grasp and to live the specific nature of our charism through fidelity to God in our call and fidelity to the Church, whose living members we are.

Paragraph #36 of the apostolic exhortation “*Vita Consacrata*” says, “*In the first place, there is the need for*

fidelity to the founding charism and subsequent spiritual heritage of each Institute.” This is what we wish not to forget and this is the objective of the Council.

Fidelity to the founding charism is cultivated through formation: *“The primary objective of the formation process is to prepare people for the total consecration of themselves to God in the following of Christ, at the service of the Church’s mission”... and “For formation to be complete, it must include every aspect of Christian life”* (VC 65).

This document remains a text that is fundamental for the life of consecrated persons, which should be reclaimed and revisited, like all the Conciliar documents.

Also, our Constitutions are very explicit in laying out the course: *“The consecrated member will continue all her life to care for her human, spiritual, intellectual, professional and apostolic formation...”* (Constitutions 7.2).

We have before us, then, a fine path that will give us direction for the next years and that we want to adopt, remembering Saint Angela’s warning: *“And take care, take care I say, not to lose your fervour, for every promise that I make to you will be fulfilled for you beyond measure”* (Last Legacy, 23-24).

Maria Razza



The President with the Company of Vicenza, December 17, 2012

THOUGHTS FROM THE ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION

THE YEAR OF FAITH AND REVIVING THE SPIRIT OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL



We are experiencing the Year of Faith that the Pope has called for throughout the Church. It is an opportune occasion, appropriate for all. May those who keep their faith alive also review and revive it, making their own the prayer of the father who begged Jesus, “*I believe, but help my unbelief!*” (Mark 9:24). May those who feel their faith to be like “*the flicker of a quenched flame*” (Is. 42:3) be able to “*fan into flame God’s gift*” (2 Tim 1:6) received through Baptism and the other sacraments. For those who no longer encounter the Lord, may God, through the witness and prayer of believers, open for them “*the door of faith*” (cf. Acts 14:27). On his travels along the roads of Palestine, Jesus “made disciples” by his very presence, by his word and by miraculous signs. In this way he stimulated in his hearers “*the decision to entrust themselves to God, in complete freedom.*” This decision is the combined fruit of the Word of Jesus, of the action of the Holy Spirit, and of the active adherence of a welcoming, inviting person. It is this faith-in-action with which one “*decides to entrust oneself to God, in complete freedom*” that the Pope invites us to renew and to reinvigorate this year, nourishing with the sacraments and the word of God and of the Church a journey on which we ever more deeply understand the meaning of our relationship with Him and the meaning of his teachings.

The Pope wanted this Year of Faith to be launched in the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the great Ecumenical

Council of the Vatican, so that the Church may revive the spirit and teaching of this Council. Let me recall briefly five aspects of major significance in the Council for the perspective that it opened up and on which there is still much work to be done.

1. The atmosphere at the Council: some fear, great hopes

Pope John XXIII's announcement of the Council, unforeseen by anyone, caused a huge echo and reached everywhere, inside and outside the Church, carrying expectations and hopes. The long road to the Council began with great hope in the hearts of all. Attention focused on the Church, on Christ, on the human person. The Council established expectations for a new pathway for the Church within contemporary society. Although being the same always, the Church is called to live from Christ and to announce him in the world of "today."

2. The Church, hearing the Word of God with reverence, as a servant of the Word of God.

In the aftermath of the Council, some commentators affirmed that the new attitude best describing the Church itself, as proposed by the Council, was contained in the opening phrase of the conciliar document on the Word of God, *Dei Verbum*: "*Hearing the Word of God with reverence,*" an expression that designates not only listening to the Word through Biblical texts, but also an openness to search for the various ways in which God is offered and revealed to humanity. "*The obedience of faith is to be given to God who reveals, an obedience by which man commits his whole self freely to God.*" This gratuitous communication on the part of God reaches its goal by bringing to life a profound communion within the human person whom God loves. God is revealed and speaks to humanity so that the human person may recognize his love, accept it, and respond. The category of listening can be considered the guideline and the legacy from Vatican II.

3. A renewed liturgy

From the Council emerged a liturgical reform that has restored the proper space for listening to the Word of God in the celebration of every sacrament. In the liturgy the saving Word is proclaimed and welcomed and the work of salvation is carried out through the Word and the sacraments, particularly in the Eucharist, the summit and source of the Church's life and mission. The People of God must be nourished by the *"Bread of life from the table both of the Word and of the Body of Christ."*

4. Church as communion

During the Council the idea ripened that all are called to Christian holiness, though in different ways, recognizing that every human situation can reach the fullness of Christian holiness. It is one's relationship with Christ that defines the reality and the dignity of every baptized person. Incorporation into Christ is not and should not appear as alienation from the world, but as raising the value of that world that the Father has loved to the point of sending his only begotten Son into it.

5. The Church in the world, the Church in service to the poor, the Church in dialogue with other churches and with the world.

The *"Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World"* sees the Church as smaller than the world and as an instrument of salvation for the world. Its opening affirmation is emblematic: *"The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts. For theirs is a community composed of men. United in Christ, they are led by the Holy Spirit in their journey to the Kingdom of*

their Father and they have welcomed the news of salvation which is meant for every man. That is why this community realizes that it is truly linked with mankind and its history by the deepest of bonds.” Hence this is a Church that is immersed in the world in solidarity with its joys and its hopes and takes on its sorrows and anguish, “*especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted.*” The Church is in the midst of humanity and is for humanity, really and intimately united with the human race. The Second Vatican Council gave its attention very particularly to the reality of the laity. Chapter IV of *Lumen Gentium* represents the first conciliar text in the entire history of the Church dedicated to the identity and the role of the laity. Here two particular elements are affirmed, qualifying the laity in relationship with the mission of the Church.

Ecclesiality: The laity not only belong to the Church, but *are* the Church, and their presence to the world is precisely the Church’s presence to the world. This concept decisively contradicts the concept of the laity as a bridge or a delegate of the Church in relationship with the world; lay persons are not intermediaries, but are the Church itself in the world, in the secular world.

Secularity: This means that the laity are called to live their own ecclesiality, in a secular mode, in so-called temporal circumstances, where they are responsible for building God’s reign. “*But the laity, by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God*”(Lumen Gentium n. 31).

Let us experience this year of grace by rediscovering our baptismal faith, and may our consecrated life not be barren through lack of care for our faith, and may our response to the gift of baptism not remain a “private affair” but become a grace for the whole community.

+ Bishop Adriano Tessarollo, Ecclesiastical Assistant

November 2, 2012

ABOUT THE RULE OF SAINT ANGELA MERICI Some points for reflection....



ABOUT PRAYER Chapter V, vv. 16-44

Let us pray with Saint Angela...

Keep me far from sin...

¹⁶ “My Lord, light up the darkness of my heart, ¹⁷ and give me grace to die rather than offend your divine Majesty at all today.”

“We ask the Lord not to let us take the road that leads to sin. We are committed to this struggle between the flesh and the Spirit. This request begs for the Spirit of discernment and of strength” (Cat. 2846).

Saint Angela’s prayer begins with a request for light, or rather for illumination. It is the request of one who knows that she stands amid interior shadows and does not want to allow herself to be totally wrapped up in these, but desires instead to direct her gaze on high. Even the shadows can be illuminated if we allow ourselves to be wrapped in the Lord. In Him we will perhaps discover better our own shadows and will glimpse better the true light. This light will make us capable of fidelity: rather death than a deliberate “no” to the Lord’s will.

Illuminate my way...

¹⁸ “Keep my affections and my senses safe so that they may not lead me astray, neither to the right nor to the left, ¹⁹ nor turn me away from your brilliant face which soothes every afflicted heart.”

She turns to the thought of light, or rather of the One who can illuminate the way: the brilliant face of the Spouse. He is the light that illuminates the way; He safeguards one’s steps along this way.

We ask him that we may run the road of love without too much deviation... to the right or to the left.

This love is undivided, and means choosing the *Lover of us all*; it requires a continuing adjustment, a continuous conversion, because “*the affections and senses*” could take us somewhere else.

His face, his presence, his light satisfy every love, even the most demanding, and his “*light and joyful splendour of truth*” (*Testament 11,20*) enfold us even at the point of death.

Look upon my heart, O Lord...

²⁰“*Alas! How sorrowful I am that while entering the recesses of my heart, from shame I do not dare raise my eyes heavenward*” ²¹*because I am worthy to be devoured alive in hell, seeing in myself so many errors, so much ugliness and blame, so many monstrous and frightening beasts and shapes!*”

The words of Psalm 129/130 come to mind: *Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord... Lord, hear my voice... If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? ...But with you is found forgiveness...*”

Saint Angela’s prayer is surely true and, in the humility that is truth, she has no fear in revealing herself to her daughters. There is no effort to hide herself, to present herself as better at all cost.... “*A humbled, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn*” (*Ps. 50/51*).

Only the Pharisee considers himself better than just, taking his place on a superior level, but we know that his prayer did not rise.

Our heart is secret; no one manages to read another’s heart all the way to its depths. Often it is a secret even to ourselves, but if we seek to enter a little into this secret place... even we will glimpse some “*errors, ugliness,*” obnoxious tendencies. On this account, we humbly recognize our misery and even our evil. If we also reflect truthfully and thoroughly

what those things deserve, we may well understand how Saint Angela and perhaps we, even more than Saint Angela, deserve the “*inferno,*” and do not dare to “*raise [our] eyes heavenward.*”

However, we also know that we can continue to direct our gaze to heaven because... “*I assure you that in heaven there is more rejoicing over a sinner who repents than over ninety-nine who have no need of repentance*” (Luke 15:7).

Grant me mercy and time for penance.

²²“*So am I forced, day and night, walking, standing, working, thinking, to cry out and shout to Heaven and to beg mercy and time for penitence.*”

This present time is the time for mercy, the appropriate time to do penance: “*Great is our sin, but greater is your love; cancel our debts for the glory of your name*” (Vespers of Lent).

The confession of my sin should be continuous and should be sincere: “*day and night, walking, standing, working, thinking*”... and, one more time, a thousand times, always... it will be heard.

We read in the Gospel according to Luke: “*Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity.... But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former...*” (Luke 18:9-14).

So too may it be with our prayer.

Forgive us our debts...

²³ *“O most benign Lord, deign to pardon me so many offenses and each of my omissions that I have ever committed from the day of my holy baptism till now. ²⁴Deign to forgive my sins, alas, even those of my father and mother and of my relatives and friends, and those of the entire world.”*

Saint Angela acknowledges the shadows, but light always penetrates them: In the face of evil, she nonetheless recognizes the goodness and the infinite mercy of the Lord. The Spouse so dearly loved...yet offended, kept at a distance...is still always the *“most benign Lord”* who can and wishes to pardon all, to purify the heart and restore its baptismal garment.

He is the immaculate Spouse from whom she seeks pardon for herself and for others, beginning with the closest: family, relatives, friends... and finally embracing and including the entire world.

Salvation is never a merely personal matter; this is a prayer that is also our responsibility. We must seek pardon for ourselves and for others, in the profound desire that we all be reunited in merciful and saving love.

Through your cross and resurrection...

²⁵ *“I beg this of you through your most sacred passion and your precious blood shed for love of us...”*

Forgiveness and liberation can and must be sought not on account of some sort of merit or some sort of holiness, but through the power of the Passion and death of Jesus Christ.

Spontaneously one thinks of that crucified companion of Jesus who recognized his need for mercy and implored: *“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus replied, I assure you that today you will be with me in Paradise.”* Through that Passion and through that blood which he shed, we too can implore him.

Through your holy name...

²⁶“...through your holy name—may it be blessed beyond the ocean’s grains of sand, beyond the drops of the waters, beyond the multitude of stars.”

“At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:7-9).

At this point Saint Angela seems to propose a shift... from human creatures to Creation... and almost seems to offer her praise on behalf of all Creation.

I found a similar expression in the Letter to the Hebrews in regard to Jacob: “...There came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore” (Hebrews 11:12).

The good and merciful God should be blessed always and infinitely. Who can count the sands of the sea, the drops of the waters, and the multitude of stars? It is a blessing that will never end.

Still this love is always a little love...

²⁷“I lament the fact that I have been so late to begin serving your divine Majesty. ²⁸Alas, till now I have not shed even a little drop of blood for love of you, ²⁹nor have I ever been obedient to your divine precepts...”

Who can keep accounts on love?

Compared to infinite love, ours is still always a little love. Our choice and service of the Lord are often slow, limited, calculated. When can we say that they are completely free, unconditional, pure?

Martyrdom is usually far from our experience, even if at times we make our egoism, attachments, and limitations pass for martyrdom. When is it truly love, only love?

And obedience to God and to every creature for love of God?

What restrictions we place on obedience... to the Word and to God's will!

And the difficulties, the adversities, the trials and sufferings of life? They too can feel "harsh" for lack of love. Not for nothing did the ancient ritual ask whether a candidate for the Company had been found "*patient in adversity.*"

Make me capable of being inserted in your project of salvation...

³¹ "Lord, on behalf of those miserable wretches who do not know you, ³² nor wish to be participants in your most sacred passion, ³³ my heart is wrenched, ³⁴ and willingly would I shed my own blood (if I could), in order to open up the blindness of their minds."

At this point in the prayer, Saint Angela makes another transition: not only is her prayer universal, but it becomes missionary, is inserted in the economy of salvation.

Angela thinks about how many are not aware of salvation, nor are concerned to know about it. This is the concern, the suffering that she offers for the kingdom of the Lord.

This is a prayer of reparation: "*I would shed my own blood if I could,*" would offer myself willingly as a victim in their place, desiring to light up the darkness of their minds.

But who, other than Christ, could shed his blood and obtain salvation? Another prayer leaps to mind, that of the Savior on the night before his Passion and death: "*I pray not only for these disciples of mine, but I pray also for the others who will come to believe in me through them, from listening to their words. That they all may be one...*" (John 17:21).

³⁵“My Lord, my only life and hope...”

In this expression I find all the faith, the hope, and the love of Saint Angela. It is an expression that requires no commentary. It echoes another expression of Saint Angela: “*Let them have Jesus Christ for their only treasure, for there also will be love*” (Fifth Counsel,43).

Take my heart, purify it, make it capable of true love...

³⁶“*I beg you to deign to receive this my most vile and unclean heart* ³⁷*and to burn its every affection and passion in the blazing furnace of your divine love.*”

From the examination of conscience, to the request for forgiveness, to the unconditional offering. The Lord accepts our heart as it is... *vile and unclean*, transforms it, purifies it of affections and passions *in the blazing furnace of his divine love*.

And his love will prevail.

I give you my liberty...

³⁸“*I beg you to accept my free will...*”

At this point Saint Angela offers her most precious, most personal possession: her own liberty. She accepts, like Mary, to be a slave and handmaid to her Lord.

I offer you my will...

³⁹“*...all of my own will, which of itself, because it is infected by sin, does not know how to discern good from evil.*”

And, together with liberty, the will... a will that is not always free, not always capable of true discernment.

Saint Angela will return later to the question of will, when she speaks of obedience as “*the only true self-denial of one’s own will, which is within us like murky hell*” and proposes obedience as a *great light*.

I offer you all that I am and all that I have...

⁴⁰“Receive my every thought, word and deed, ⁴¹finally, everything of mine, interior as well as exterior, ⁴²all of which I offer before the feet of your divine Majesty.”

It seems to be a pact of love, an unconditional gift...since the Lover deserves all, one's all: thought, word, deed, as much as one has and as much as one is. It is a humble and discreet gift, as if to say, “I offer you all, even if this *all* is as nothing to your divine Majesty; in fact, this ability to give is itself another gift from you.”

Look upon the lowliness of your handmaid...

⁴³“And I pray that you deign to receive them, although they be unworthy.”

Certainly our offering, our gift does not make us measure up to his love; we will always be “unworthy” spouses in comparison to the *new and wondrous dignity*. However, we will continue to ask our Spouse to accept and to raise up this offering and to change it again in a superabundance of love.

⁴⁴**Amen!**

Whatever has been expressed, whatever has been asked, whatever has been offered... happens according to God's will: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

Amen... the Counsels too end this way.

Amen... the Testament too ends this way, and these two have a Trinitarian conclusion which could also be the conclusion of our prayer, always in harmony with Saint Angela, who also begins the Rule in this way: “In the name of the blessed and indivisible Trinity.”

Kate

RESERVE



One day a few years ago, in the recollection after Holy Communion, I felt in my heart that Jesus wanted me to turn to a hidden life. Having a daughter who is a cloistered religious, I thought that might be the place for a hidden life; but since my elderly parents were still alive, it was not possible to realize that intention then, as I had to be involved in their care.

At the end of 2005, a series of circumstances introduced me to the daughters of Saint Angela Merici. I knew absolutely nothing about secular institutes, nor about Angela Merici: so it was a huge surprise to learn about this reality that was revealed to me, and that I think everyone should know about.

Various questions bothered me, and I found the reserve in which they live absurd, so much so that I thought about showing up there by surprise, as a way of “adjusting” that anomaly: I was extremely presumptuous in my great ignorance.

However, I kept these thoughts to myself and began to attend. Also, I kept quiet because I was thinking about having found in Saint Angela a new patron whom I wanted to get to know, and I also wanted to understand what the purpose of the Company of St. Ursula might be.

Gradually as I got better acquainted, my curiosity grew and I became fascinated by this very “reserve.” Through the witness of the Company’s sisters, living and dead, little by little what had seemed absurd to me now appeared in a different light. Talking about it with my daughter, I told her that I had come to understand that true hiddenness was in the

secular way of life, with no visible sign of membership and no cloister where one's state of consecrated life is evident.

After several months I was surprised to begin feeling in my heart that the Lord was calling me precisely to be a consecrated secular!

Now I think instead that reserve may be a prerogative of secular consecration as a hidden but effective leaven. The value of witness in the midst of the reality where Jesus puts us, a reality not enhanced by publicizing our life-choice, reveals itself mostly in our behavior, which flows from interior, intimate union with the Spouse.

We do not hesitate to place ourselves in the light, but only God is the true light. From another angle, reserve can also demonstrate that those who live a total consecration in the world can put God first, love him and be faithful to him.

Finally, reserve is a "lover's secret," most intimate, and is guarded as the most precious Treasure.

Luisa of Modena

Life is a celebration!

*How lovely it is to realize that we
belong
To the same spiritual family!*

*As many petals, united together,
Form a single rose...
Beautiful, colorful, fragrant...
So is our beloved Company.*

*Unity and love give strength;
Living in Christ
With trust and enthusiasm
Gives joy.*

Norma of Treviso

FROM THE COMPANIES AND THE GROUPS



EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF GITEGA, BURUNDI

ANNOUNCING THE BIRTH OF THE COMPANY

ARCHDIOCESE OF GITEGA (Burundi)

**Subject: How The Company of Saint Ursula Secular Institute
of Saint Angela Merici - Federation started in Burundi**

To their Excellencies All the Bishops of Burundi
To His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio of Burundi

Most Reverent Excellencies,

It is my pleasure, to introduce to you the historic group of women the “Bene-Angela”, who have been known for a long number of years as the "Bene-Nkundwa", a name which was officially accepted in the Archdiocese of Gitega on the 14th March 2012 and which they have taken in remembrance of the late Father Pierre Nkundwa, a priest from the Archdiocese of Gitega, who cared for them during his whole life.

As a matter of fact, most of the first group of 37 Bene-Angela live in the Archdiocese of Gitega, and made their temporary consecration for two years on that date. According to the International Federation of the Secular Institute of Saint Angela Merici, this group marked the beginning of the Company of Saint Ursula Secular Institute of Saint Angela Merici in Burundi.

This group was prepared and followed by the Federation itself. At the same time, our group was acknowledged for its vocational and spiritual validity and for being a real testimony of the Federation of the Institute. "Would that all the Lord's people were prophets that the Lord would put His spirit upon them!" (Numbers 11,29).

Is this not the right occasion, that the Lord is offering the Church of Burundi to publicly acknowledge the vocation and undertaking that these humble, faithful women have been living for so long?



The Company in the diocese is well organized and cared for by the fatherly bishop. The Companies form part of an international Federation under the direction of the Holy See. Most reverend Excellencies and brothers, please accept my humble words in the name of the Lord.

+ *Simon NTAMWANA*
Archbishop of Gitega

IN BURUNDI AUGUST 2012

After having gone for the first time in August 2006, in August 2012 I returned to Burundi with Maria of Slovakia and Mariarosa of Trent.

In the days spent in Gitega with the group in initial formation, I was edified by seeing their way of working: they

listen to each other, challenge one another, make references and synthesize with intelligence and clarity, they go to the



essence, and in their commitments there are no half-measures.

As in the first encounter with the Bene Angela, this time too I was moved by realizing their freedom and their courage, their docility to the Spirit and the faith

with which they rely in filial confidence on the Father.

I was accompanied by Father Giuseppe, their assistant, who conscientiously urges them to keep faith with their commitments, and by Father Bosco, who guides them in their spiritual exercises and who knows how to point out when some aspect of Scripture has a specific meaning for the essence of consecrated secularity.

In the formation sessions that required us to make a presentation, Maria, Mariarosa and I sought for how to respond to their questions about the historic experience of Saint Angela and about the first daughters. We both shared our European experience and asked about their own, to search out the road to take and to get down to the relevant choices in their environment.

Our dear Burundians' desire – and ours – to communicate is strong. Many of them have learned some words in Italian; however without Father Modesto, it is nearly impossible. Father Modesto is valuable and indispensable for our being understood and for communicating. He was and still

is God's instrument, because he makes it possible for the Company to begin in Burundi,

They have gladly accepted the initiative of the Federation to invite two Burundian sisters to Italy. To communicate it is necessary that someone know the Italian language.

At this point, I feel the need to thank the Lord and our officers who have given me the opportunity to return to Burundi.

Indeed this was for me a powerful time, equivalent to a program of spiritual exercises.

Lina Chisté



The Bene Angela... faith, prayer, enthusiasm...

In August 2012 I was in Burundi with Mariarosa and Lina of Trent. We were meeting with the Bene Angela but especially with the sisters in the first period of formation. The experience of Burundi itself and the days spent with our sisters were very powerful. Our hearts are full of gratitude to God for this gift of

vocations in Africa.

I admire their enthusiasm, their devotion and their warm hearts. They are growing in knowledge of the charism of Saint Angela and understand well the value of their consecrated life in the world. Let us pray together for them, that they can be faithful and may become a new Company of St. Ursula in the Federation.

Mária, Slovakia

Bestowing the Counsels and the Testament of Saint Angela in Kirundi

*AGATABU K'IVYIBUTSO
INTANGAMARARA: IMVO N'IMVANO Z'ICO
GITABU C'IVYIBUTSO*

*IRAGI RY'IBANGA RYA ANGELA MERICI
MWERANDA*

INTANGAMARARA . IMVO N'IMVANO Z'AKO

On our trip to Burundi, we also had the joy of taking to our beloved sisters a hundred copies of the Counsels and the Testament of Saint Angela translated into Kirundi.

Father Modesto had translated the texts, having them reviewed by Sister Maria, whose native language is Kirundi and who knows Italian. The printing was handled in Italy.

The plan was to deliver them first to the sisters who had made their consecration in March 2012, then, during the days spent on formation, to the sisters preparing for consecration in 2013.

I recall the deep emotion of those moments when all, with the texts in hand, listened to selected passages read by Father Modesto at Lauds and Vespers.

I was reflecting, asking myself, “Who knows what Saint Angela is thinking?” and I imagined her presence, and almost seemed to hear her speak.

Our sisters have received the words of the foundress as a precious gift and earnestly desire to be able to meditate on

these writings of the holy Madre. They are awaiting the translation of the Rule to be able to touch into the wellspring, especially for what Saint Angela says about the life of prayer and about consecration.

Their commitment and enthusiasm have demonstrated to us the value of the gift... Thank you, dear Burundian sisters!

Mariarosa Duchi

2012 BRAZIL THE COMPANY HAS BEEN IN NEW HAMBURG FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS



“Everything is a gift and a blessing from God and this shows how great His love for us is.”

In His infinite and merciful love, God has given the diocese of New Hamburg the gift of forming a group belonging to the Company of Saint Ursula, Secular Institute of Saint Angela Merici.

In 2002 Father Roberto Oliviera, who had received his education from the Ursuline Sisters and is from the Archdiocese of San Salvador (Bahia), by the grace of God asked for a twelve-month sabbatical in our parish.

Urged by the desire of a small group of women who wanted to consecrate their life to God, he invited them to meet regularly for prayer, to become familiar with the life of Saint Angela and understand the real meaning of the Company’s consecrated secularity.

In January 2003, Nicole Jeandot, of French origin but who had lived in Sao Paulo for 60 years, initiated our period of

formation and helped us to live our call according to the Merician charism, following Jesus Christ as our *only treasure and common lover*.

On the 17th May 2009, in the presence of the President of the Federation and other Sisters from Italy and Sao Paulo who were present for this occasion, we made our consecration for life, pledging ourselves to obedience, chastity and poverty.

In his homily, the diocesan Bishop Zeno Hastenteufel described Saint Angela as a pioneer in promoting women when, in 1535, she set up a company of women who wanted to consecrate their lives to Christ while living with their families in their own surroundings.

Let us thank the Lord for this call which helps us to live this consecration with others sharing joy, hope and love. We put our trust in the Holy Spirit to instil in other women, both single and widows, the desire to consecrate their life for the Kingdom of God, while leading their normal life and work, in the community they belong to, in answer to their heart's desire.

Ursula Ignés Schmitz



Consecration for life in the Company of Brazil - South

On November 25, 2012, I made my consecration for life in the Secular Institute of Saint Angela Merici.

I was not eager for such a grand festivity; I had wanted something very simple because my mother was not well. Thanks be to God, everything went very well. I

think that if it were not for the hard work of our leader Ursula Inés, the celebration would not have turned out so well.

The Mass was celebrated by our Vicar, Father Jivaldo Modesto Santos and, to my great surprise, a friend from the Office of Communication filmed the celebration, which was broadcast on the television channel “Rede Vida” [the Catholic TV channel]. It was very simple and very lovely.



I thank God for the honor of being part of the Institute. I also thank the Madonna and Saint Angela and all those who participated through their presence and their prayer.

Luisa de Rego Monteiro

Consecration in Cameroun August 24, 2012

In 2004, my attention was roused by the personal testimonial of a member of the Yaoundé group who was speaking on the local radio. That was in accordance with my own desire to consecrate



myself to God. I felt fully satisfied then, and still am. I found a family in this group. In my work with little children, I am doing my best to foster the complete development of each child.

Angèle-Tassi Mbida, consecrated for life

Since 1995, I have been progressing on my way along with the Company of Saint Angela. Several trials have enabled me to test the quality of my faith, as Saint Paul says. Saint Angela promised to be present among us to the end of time. Her words, “In the name of Holy and indivisible Trinity,” guide me every day and invite me to make a fresh start in combining action and contemplation.

Joséphine Nzobo, consecrated for life

Mexico in Trent...



Silvia Alonso Medina of Mexico renewed her consecration in the Company of Trent on November 25, 2012, the 477th anniversary of the foundation of the Company.

There was great celebration for this happy event that crosses

geographic boundaries and confirms the worldwide nature of the federated Institute.

Thoughts from Silvia:

“I want to thank God first of all for the gift of life and for his infinite love that gives me life, sustains me, and strengthens me. I am grateful to my family, who have always offered me their unconditional support; to Sister Norma and Sister Teresa, who spoke to me of this Company; to Sister Josefina, who has wisely and patiently introduced me to St. Angela’s life of service and of dedication to God.”

“I thank Pastors Jose Cerra and Tiburzio Barajas, who with their advice and teaching have helped me serve God in my sisters and brothers; all my friends and, particularly, Lila, who has accompanied me here today.



“Thanks to all you sisters... whom I am only now beginning to know, who have made me feel at home, a part of the family, each one of you, from the young ones to the elders. With your dedication, your love, your prayers, your work, concerns, attention to me, you have taught me in these few days the beauty of freely giving one’s life to God. A particular thanks to my sister and friend Mirella. Through her knowledge of the Spanish language, her accompaniment, her patience and perseverance, I am here today. May God continue to bless you all!

Silvia

Good wishes to Silvia for her joyous perseverance and for the good seed of secular consecration planted in Mexican soil. In a song based on the words of St. Teresa of Avila:

***Let nothing disturb you, let nothing dismay you:
one who has God lacks nothing.***

***Let nothing disturb you, let nothing dismay you: God alone
suffices.***

In Spanish:

***Nada te turbe, nada te espante
Quien a Dios tiene, nada le falta.
Nada te turbe, nada te espante solo Dios basta.***

Trent welcomes Burundi...



The Company of Trent has again made itself available for a project, this time on behalf of the Burundian *Bene Angela* (Daughters of Angela). There are already many members of the Group in Burundi, which is preparing this year to become an autonomous Company. For this it is necessary to be able to communicate directly. So two of their number, Paulina and Pascalina, arrived in Italy on December 1, 2012,

and are staying for a year to learn the language and to experience the life of a Company.

They arrived with this letter from their leaders:

“We know that you have prepared thoughtfully and very affectionately for the arrival of Paulina and Pascalina, in your distinctive spirit according to the Lord’s call, and we thank you deeply. They are coming not only to learn Italian, but to learn from your life and from the harmony that unites you, so that we may all be able to progress to this international level, to know how to advance in a better way.

“You will be together in everything, whether it be in work, in their schooling, in prayer.... We are certain that in times of difficulty you will know how to reassure them. Be patient if they do not quickly succeed as you wish.

“We greet you and embrace you in the love of Jesus, in the holiness of the Spirit. May the Madonna be close to you, and to all of us.”



Ntaliya Nzinhora and Odetta Ndhokubwayo, leaders of the Bene Angela

Sicily continues recalling the centenary of the Company with a pilgrimage by the relic of Saint Angela Merici



Saint Angela in Syracuse April 17-19, 2012

News of the arrival of the relic was welcomed with great joy. We had prepared our hearts and had informed those close to us with posters in all the parishes to prepare ourselves for the joyous gathering for the arrival of the relic of our holy foundress.

The first welcome was in the large Sanctuary of the Madonna of Tears where we recited the rosary with meditations. The Eucharist was celebrated and our Ecclesiastical Assistant, Father Alfio Scapellato, spoke in the homily about Saint Angela, about her spirituality, about secular consecration and about the Company.

On the morning of the 18th the relic was welcomed by the Saint Angela Merici Foundation at the new chapel of the institute that takes in disadvantaged people: elderly and minors. The guests and the staff participated very actively. In the afternoon there were prayers at our Casa Sant'Angela.

On the morning of the 19th, after Mass, we carried the relic to the homebound sisters, a very moving and joyful event for all.

They were the most wonderful days, a true providence that encouraged us to be better, more fervent and enthusiastic about belonging to the Company and eager to make it grow with new vocations.

Elena Auro

The relic at Canicattì April 19-22, 2012



The presence of the Daughters of Saint Angela Merici in Sicily came about as a result of the wish and patronage of Cardinal Lualdi of Palermo and of Madre Vismara of Milan.

From them the Company took root and spread into many centers on the island. Its activity and works, through the frightening times of partisanship and war and misery that the century has suffered, have contributed robustly to human and Christian promotion, especially for youth.

Canicattì too had the joy of welcoming the holy relic of Saint Angela; a crowd of clergy, civic authorities, and people celebrated with songs, prayers, and balloons.... The different celebrative events were crowned by a solemn pontifical Mass celebrated by His Excellence Francesco Montenegro, Bishop of Agrigento, and a full circle of concelebrants.

Schools, institutes, and organizations made contributions for it and committed to promotion.



Mons. Vincenzo Restivo



The preschool children in the Institute of the Daughters of Saint Angela Merici of Canicattì enjoyed the coming of the relic, and their contagious enthusiasm infected everyone.

The little ones prayed before the relic. Then one of them sadly asked, “Why does Saint Angela have to go back to Brescia? We’ll miss her!” We could only reply with Saint Angela’s own words, *“I will always be in your midst, helping your prayers. Now I am about to leave you; be consoled, and have a lively faith and hope.”*

Visit to the Diocese of Catania, April 25-27, 2012

For the first time the Brescian saint, foundress of the Company of Saint Ursula, set foot on this beautiful island, visiting the cathedrals and parishes of many dioceses.



For the Diocese of Catania the days of the relic’s presence were days of grace spent in praying, listening to the Word of God, and manifesting sincere joy in the presence of the Merician charism. An attentive crowd, deeply moved, took part in the many events planned by the Daughters of Saint Angela to spread a message which was never more timely and strengthening for our society. The first stop of Saint Angela’s journey in our diocese was in the parish named for her, in Misterbianco. During the Mass a group of new Associated Faithful of the Company of Saint Ursula were admitted, in a ritual that powerfully involved the participants and affected them emotionally. The relic of Saint Angela then reached St. John La Punta where, before going to the main church, it stopped in the burial chapel of the Institute of the Ursulines, where Venerable Lucia Mangano reposes, among the most splendid stars in the Ursuline firmament. Saint Angela spent the last day of her visit to our diocese in the Cathedral Basilica of Catania where, among other things, in the presence

of His Excellency Salvatore Gristina, Archbishop of Catania, a talk on the theme “The 100 Years of the Company of St. Ursula, Secular Institute of Saint Angela Merici, in Sicily” was presented by Bishop Gaetano Zito, president of the theological Institute of Saint Paul,

The days were rich in events accompanied by a traveling photographic display set up by the Ursulines on the occasion of this anniversary to re-experience visually a history made up of religious sensibility, culture, apostolic zeal and especially of love and self-giving.

Maria Pia Zappalà



Italy - Modena... the directress's 50th anniversary of consecration



With a spirit of deep joy and sharing, we gathered to offer praise and thanks to God for all that he has done in Olga, the present directress of the Company of Modena/Bologna.

Besides the sisters of our own Company, others were present from the Companies of Piacenza, Parma, Caltanissetta, and Florence, along with the president and vice-president of the Federation. We were glad to have the presence of Bishop Antonio Lanfranchi of Modena, with his personal secretary Father Franco and the ecclesiastical assistant of the Company of Modena/Bologna, Father Gian Paolo Sambri.

In the delightful little chapel of the Casa S. Angela, Mass was celebrated, enlivened by Manuela at the organ and Ileana with the guitar, who accompanied our singing.

In his homily, the bishop regaled us with very beautiful reflections, and we happily report here some passages:

“Whenever I celebrate an anniversary of consecration, I think of a page from the life of that great Orthodox theologian Olivier, a convert from paganism, who, when asked to say something about himself at his eightieth birthday party, minimized himself, saying “I cannot talk about myself, but I must talk about Him, about Jesus, about how He came searching for me and, catching up with me, smashed that mirror that reflected a false image of me: that is, my self-sufficiency, to see Himself reflected, to make me live in Him.” And I believe that these words of Olivier’s are valid for every Christian and are valid particularly when we celebrate a great

gift like consecration... to speak of Him, of how He is manifested, as the Spouse, as the one who invited Olga to an espousal and then to live in Him, with Him, for Him.... This being in Christ assumes particular shades and tones that differ according to different vocations. And then it is wonderful to celebrate consecration in St. Angela Merici's Company of St. Ursula, a secular institute, because this is the particular form of union with Jesus Christ....

"The Lord calls each one to spend her own talents well: to spend them in espousal, in motherhood, in secularity, to spend them supported by the communion in the Company of St. Angela.... You are called to be contemplatives in the world, bearing the mystery of consecration, carrying God in your life, giving value to your secularity....

"All this includes the gift of sisterhood in the Company, a sustaining gift that allows one to see how pleasant and important it is to share this charism, and always to have as a point of reference this sisterhood that is one's own vocational community.



"We truly wish to thank the Lord for the witness given by Olga, for all that we now recall; to thank you for your witness and for this great gift in our Church, and we also wish to pray to the Lord for the gift of vocations, so

that the charism of Saint Angela Merici may continue to generate new daughters living it out in today's world, seeking to build the Kingdom, within the commitment in the world."

After Mass: photos, lunch, presents....

Let us thank God for giving always without measure; He alone organizes all things for the good! Blessed be God!

Luisa of Modena

Italy – Piazza Armerina 50th anniversary of the Company 1962 - 2012



It was September 29, 1962, when His Excellency Bishop Antonio Catarella blessed the foundation stone of the “Priest’s House,” as the diocesan center of the Company came to be called then and still is today. It was on this very occasion that it

was decided to establish the Company in the diocese.

Fifty years have passed, and reminiscences bloom again in memory: events and persons, great enthusiasm and more difficult occasions... all overcome with the Lord’s help.

Today we thank God the Father that, through his infinite mercy, he has called us to be “*true and virginal spouses of the Son.*”

Particular thanks to His Excellency Bishop Michele Pennisi for having presided at the solemn Eucharistic concelebration of the 50th anniversary, to the Assistants, to the sisters of the Companies, to the civil authorities and to all our friends.



Our Company is reduced in number but not in enthusiasm. The way will change, but we wish to serve the Lord and the Church to the end.

Stella Faraci, Diocesan Directress

SISTERS IN INITIAL FORMATION Summer experience - Padua 2012

A powerful experience of spirituality...



We thank the Federation so much for permitting us to participate in the meeting at Padua together with sisters from other Companies. We had an opportunity not only to share this time for formation, but especially to share daily life together, face-to-face, getting acquainted.

All the days spent together were marked by a powerful experience of spirituality: time for adoration in the little church of Arquà Petrarca, the visits to the Abbey of Praglia, to the Basilica of St. Mark in Venice, to the Sanctuary of St. Anthony in Padua, etc.

We thank the whole Company of Padua, from the directress to each sister, one by one, who “spoiled” us and let us live in harmony.

Nelly, Maria Stella and Mariella

United in a single charism...

Beautiful days of “relaxation” and of “spirituality in sharing and in friendship... UNITED IN A SINGLE CHARISM” to give glory to God and to his love.

This sentiment resounded very strongly inside me and filled the days in Padua.

Saint Angela's prayer, taken as the exemplary text for the event, was presented and deeply felt and shared; it gave a certain "touch" of holiness and prompted us to live more intensely our union with Christ as sisters, on behalf of our brothers and sisters who belong to the "world."

Susanna of Como

An open prayer...

I experienced these days as rich and intense, insofar as I had opened and stretched myself to other horizons.

Now I have a different way of looking at things;

my heartfelt prayer is not only for my own Company and for my own area, but is for all the sisters spread around the world.

My identity as a daughter of Saint Angela and my prayer are no longer enclosed "in my own little world" but are open to other cultures and mentalities.

During these days I felt completely free, without the problems of work or schedules; so I had the opportunity to get to know other young people in formation or already consecrated for life and began new relationships of friendship and sharing.

After this experience flowed through me, a simple prayer of gratitude: "Blessed and indivisible Trinity, I thank you infinitely for having granted me the grace of being united together, in the same charism, with other sisters in the Company of St. Ursula."

Mariella of Como



TOGETHER FOR...



We are very grateful to those who, with so much enthusiasm, faith and courage, organized the days of spirituality for the daughters of Saint Angela on the path of initial formation July 4-8, 2012.

Gathering from southern and northern Italy and also from different continents allowed each of us to get acquainted, to exchange experiences, to share the gift and the joy of our consecration.

Together we experienced times of prayer, Eucharistic celebrations, study of the Rule, and group work, examining various points that emerge in the prayer of Saint Angela: forgiveness, petition, trust, all in a climate of welcome, availability, collaboration, and happiness.

During these days, we also visited the Basilica of St. Anthony and historic piazzas and churches in the city and took excursions to Mount Euganei and to Venice.

Visits from the president, Maria Rosa Razza, and from two priests, Fathers Raymond and Linus, left in our hearts awesome and unforgettable memories.

Now we're back home, but "united together" we thank the "Lover of us all" for this experience of grace in Padua, hoping to repeat it with the same fervor and atmosphere of spirituality and sharing next summer.

Valeria and Liliana of Sicilia



INCOMING MAIL

From Mbujimayi (Democratic Republic of Congo)

I am grateful both to the French Company and The Federation because they gave me the opportunity to take part in the Assembly for the first time. During my stay, I experienced wonderful and happy moments of friendship, fraternal love and reciprocal sharing of experiences.... I was impressed by the lessons, the interventions and evaluations of the activities of the Federation.

Most of all, I appreciated the homily by the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for Consecrated Life who stressed the importance of formation, a topic which is extremely important to us in Congo.....

All I saw in Rome and Brescia helped me spiritually; I feel spiritually enriched. Now, I look at my vocation with conviction and clarity and I am able to understand Saint Angela and her life.

Régine Mutombo-Lusamba



From Yaounde, Cameroon

Angela and the undersigned were lucky to take part in the July 2012 Assembly of the Federation of July 2012 which gave us the opportunity to meet the delegates from all over the world.

We delightfully experienced through that singular language, love, the workings of the Assembly unhindered by age, race or nationality. We lived and shared work in perfect

harmony and this experience of unity encouraged us a great deal. Our heartfelt thanks go to the President of the Federation Maria Razza; may the Lord grant her and her Council peace, health, wisdom and holiness.



Together with Régine and Célestin, our companions from Congo, Geneviève, Jeanne and Gianna, we went to Brescia to draw joy and strength for our daily lives from the Merician source.

Thank You, Lord for giving us Saint Angela Merici

as "Our Mother"!

Marie-Joséphine Essomba, leader of the Group of Yaoundé

From Singapore

Thank you for the latest issue which I just received a couple of days ago. Although I have not completed reading the whole booklet, I am already greatly astounded by the contents some of which bring me great joy. I shall certainly find time to savor the richness of what the articles hold especially the ones related to the latest meeting in Rome this July. I noted with gratitude the new council for the Federation and I thank God that each sister has come forward to embrace the task for the next six years. I know that I am amongst God's lovely angels who are not afraid of commitment and service. For all this I feel moved to write and say 'thank you' to the new council for taking up the challenge. Surely we all work as one but some have bigger roles. So, thank you. I smile to see the names of persons I have got acquainted with in a special way – Genevieve Chambris, our French directress, Meity from the Indonesian Company and Mary- Cabrini from the U.S. and Maria of Slovakia. (It would indeed be marvelous if there could be a meeting in her country. What a milestone that would

be!) I look forward to more interaction. Their presence, I pray, will spell new and exciting times ahead for us in Asia, and especially for us in Singapore and Australia, I hope. It would be timely to have a meeting of English speaking Companies, if God be willing.

At this point, I wish to make special mention of the help that has always been forthcoming to me. I am referring to Doris Cordina, who has so diligently answered my questions about formation and other matters all these years. Her knowledge of languages makes her suited to contribute for many years. I thank her for the materials that she sends to me in English. Ever grateful for that!

In friendship for all,

Josephine of Singapore

From Australia

Thank you again for the recent edition, which I received early last week. It is good to read about the Assembly and the talks and homilies given. I always find much to inspire me and am grateful for the all the effort that goes into producing this publication so regularly.

Con affetto.

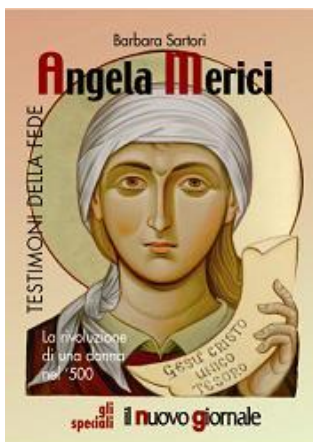
Monica, Australia

ALERTS

This small work, *Angela Merici* by Barbara Sartori, written in a popular style, has been reprinted.

Copies can be requested from:
Giancarla Brenna c/o Casa Betania,
Via S. Vittore, 49

20123 Milano - Tel. 02-48014358
e-mail: com.sami@tiscali.it



Also available is a short work
in the style of an interview with Saint Angela,
by Mary-Cabrini Durkin:

Angela's Story - in English
La historia de Àngela - in Spanish

To purchase, refer directly to Mary-Cabrini:
ursulines@fuse.net.

Saint Angela, Faith-filled Mother,

*Grant me at least a little
of your undaunted faith in the infinite divine goodness.
Help me to understand that, if I have faith,
I will overcome all dangers and adversities,
and I will pass through this momentary life with consolation
and will find the thorny and rocky roads
flower-strewn for me, and paved with finest gold.*

*Help me to be strong and courageous
in living this earthly pilgrimage
on the way to my heavenly homeland.
And now, embracing this holy Rule,
I wish to be attentive,
with a great and longing heart.*

So be it!

Kate

TO THE ATTENTION OF THE READERS

Information about our sisters on the path to canonization is available at the following sites:

www.biancapiccolominiclementini.it

www.luciamangano.it

www.mariannaamicoroxas.it

www.angelamerici.org/it_sorellegirelli.php

*IN THE SAME CHARISM....with responsibility
is also available online in Italian, French, and
English*

on the Federation website:

www.istitutosecolareangelamerici.org/archives

and on the website of the Company of Brescia:

www.angelamerici.org/it_documenti.php?testata=Periodici

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