

The Beloved

9 Days of

Spiritual Journey

with St. Angela

BRUZZAZZO
1506

Introduction

By praying, sharing, discussing the life and the spirit of St. Angela and trying to put in words the result of our reflection, we have come to one common term: the Beloved. In this description we see her roots, her way and fruit of her life in God.

Everything starts with the Holy Trinity, gazing at the earth and at every single human person with infinite love. At the very end there will be just one question: have I truly loved? This is why the title of this novena is 'The Beloved'. We invite you on a journey with St. Angela, the Beloved one of God, and we embrace you with our prayer. May it become for you a blessed time in the company of this unique Saint!

Day 1

Roots of
the Beloved

"That is why Truth says: blessed are those into whose hearts God has breathed the light of truth, and to whom he has given the will to yearn ardently for their heavenly home; and who then seek to preserve within themselves this voice of truth, and this holy desire. "

Prologue to the Rule, 12

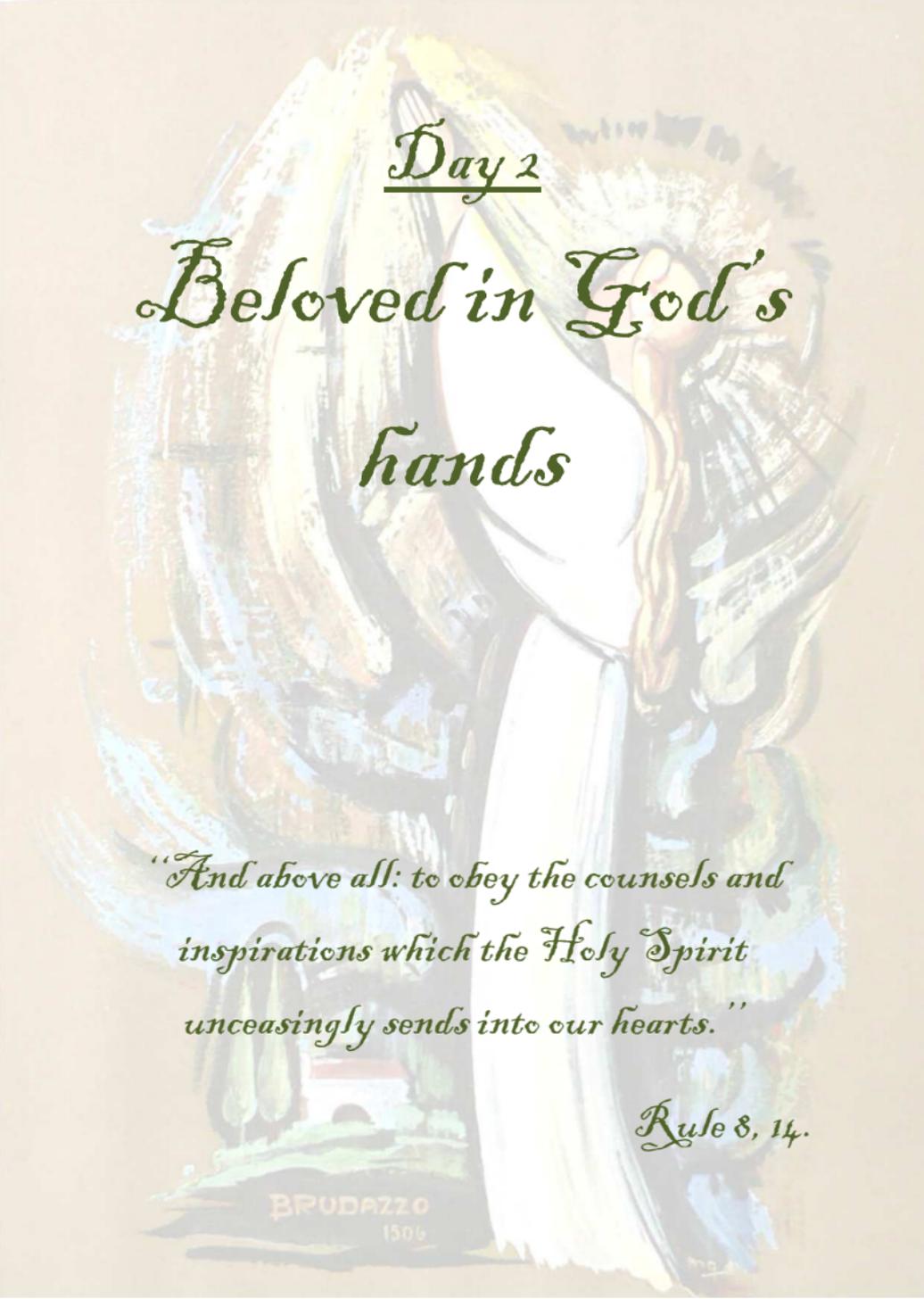
The daily bread of Saint Angela was The Word of God – Living Word, Incarnated Word, close to us all. All her writings are embroidered with Holy Scripture. This deep-rooted openness enlightened her way and helped to recognize God’s desire towards her.



Are the roots of my own thoughts, words and actions deep enough to reach the source of life?

My tree may be slowly withering; the tree saps have stopped to flow in it, lacking proper nourishment ...

In the picture of the tree above write down the Word of God that brings relief, joy, peace, life to you ...



Day 2

*Beloved in God's
hands*

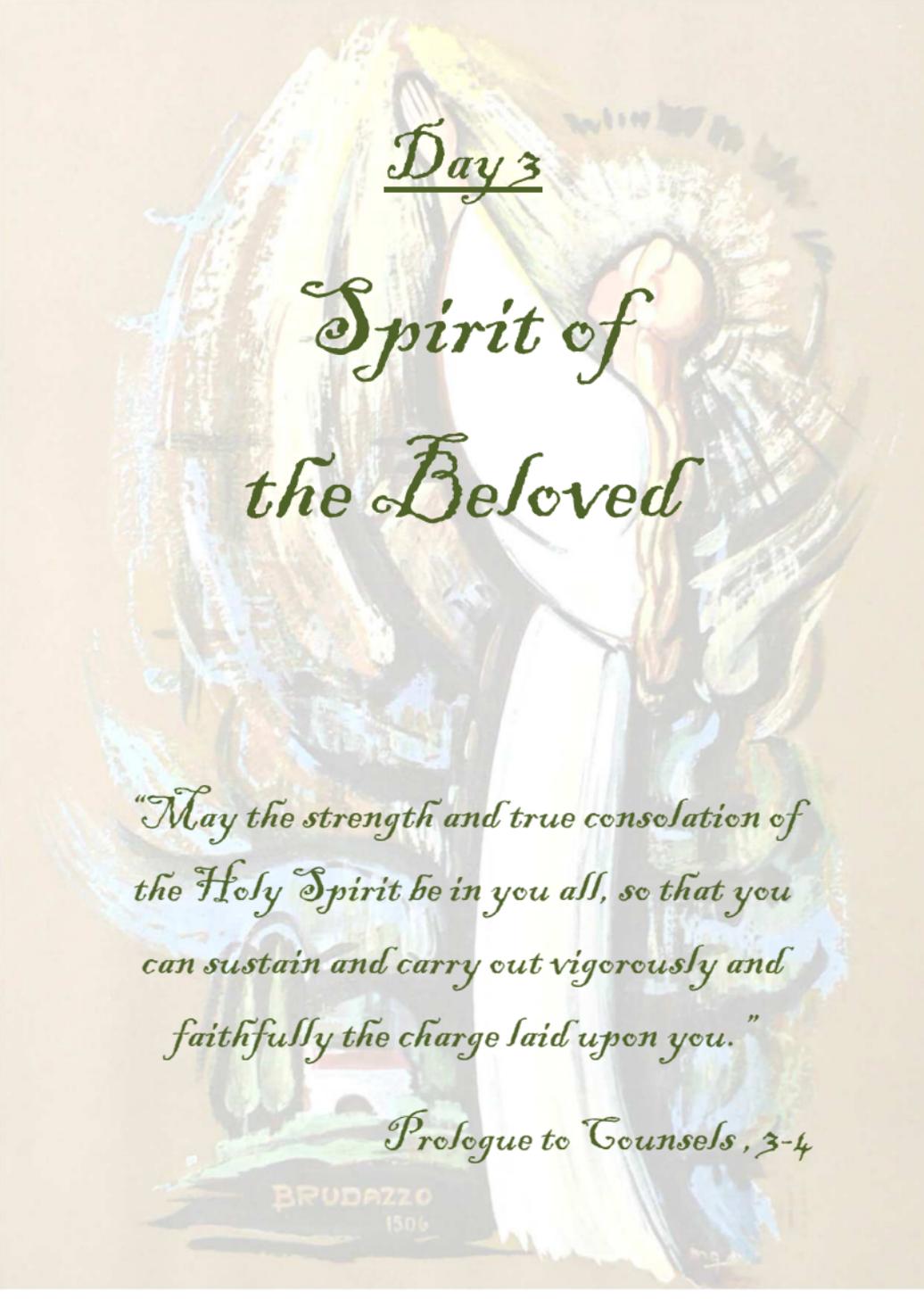
*"And above all: to obey the counsels and
inspirations which the Holy Spirit
unceasingly sends into our hearts."*

Rule 8, 14.

How could this simple, not educated woman be called to start something completely new in the Church? Human eyes may only see emptiness and missing abilities, but for God emptied hands and an open heart are the best spaces to pour in His abundant grace. St. Angela allowed God to fulfil her and to do marvellous things through her.



What are the ideas that I have for myself?
What can be God's project, desire for my life?
What are my 'empty spaces' and with what they
may be filled up?



Day 3

*Spirit of
the Beloved*

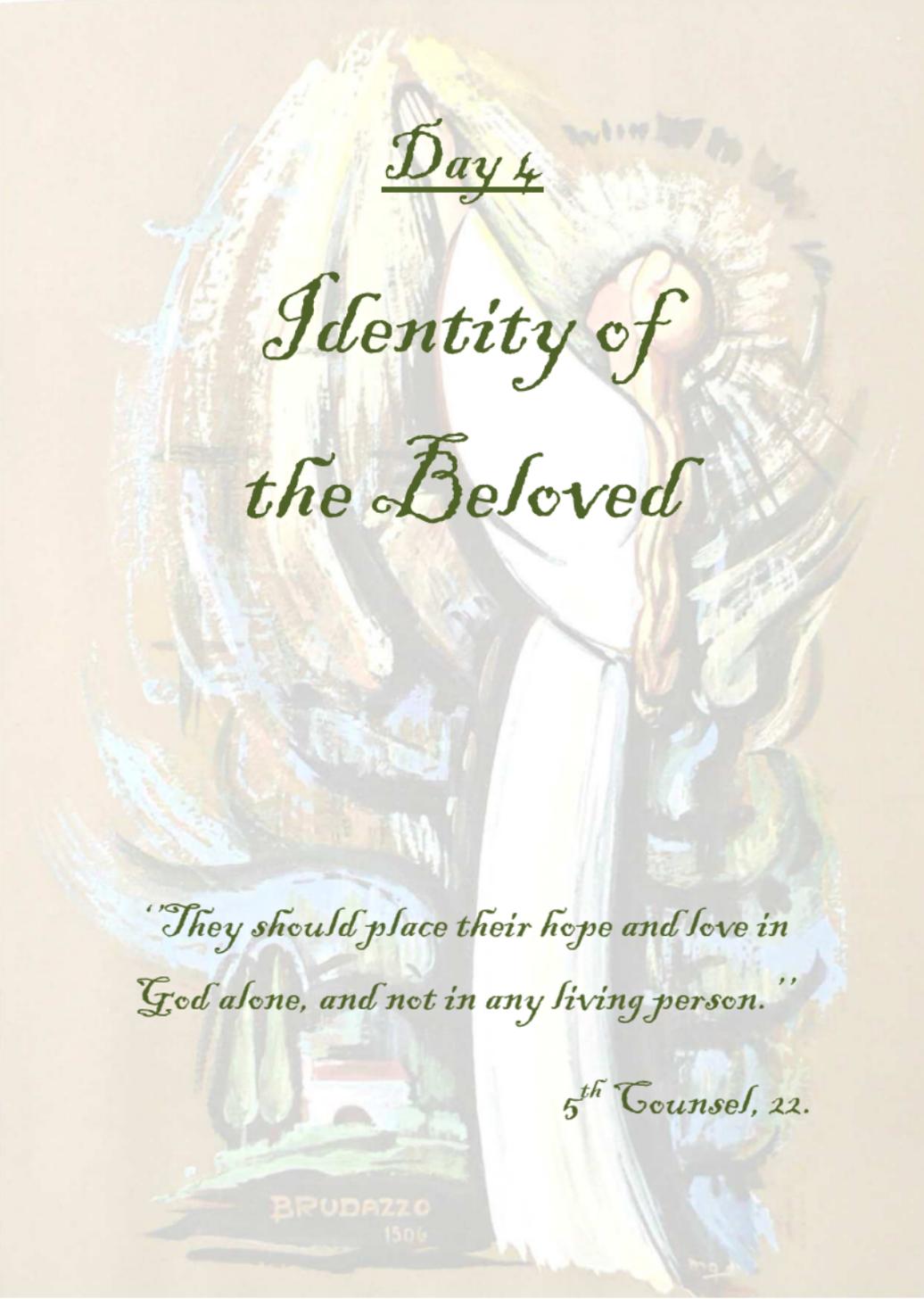
*"May the strength and true consolation of
the Holy Spirit be in you all, so that you
can sustain and carry out vigorously and
faithfully the charge laid upon you."*

Prologue to Counsels, 3-4

To welcome Holy Spirit in one's life means to be open for surprises and for ways that we have never expected to take. This is the kind of courage that Saint Angela had; her heart was never closed for inspirations and guidance of Holy Ghost. This enabled her to use gifts of Him in the fullness, always for serving to those in need.



Name and write down the gifts that you have.
Are you aware of who the Giver of them is?



Day 4

*Identity of
the Beloved*

*"They should place their hope and love in
God alone, and not in any living person."*

5th Counsel, 22.

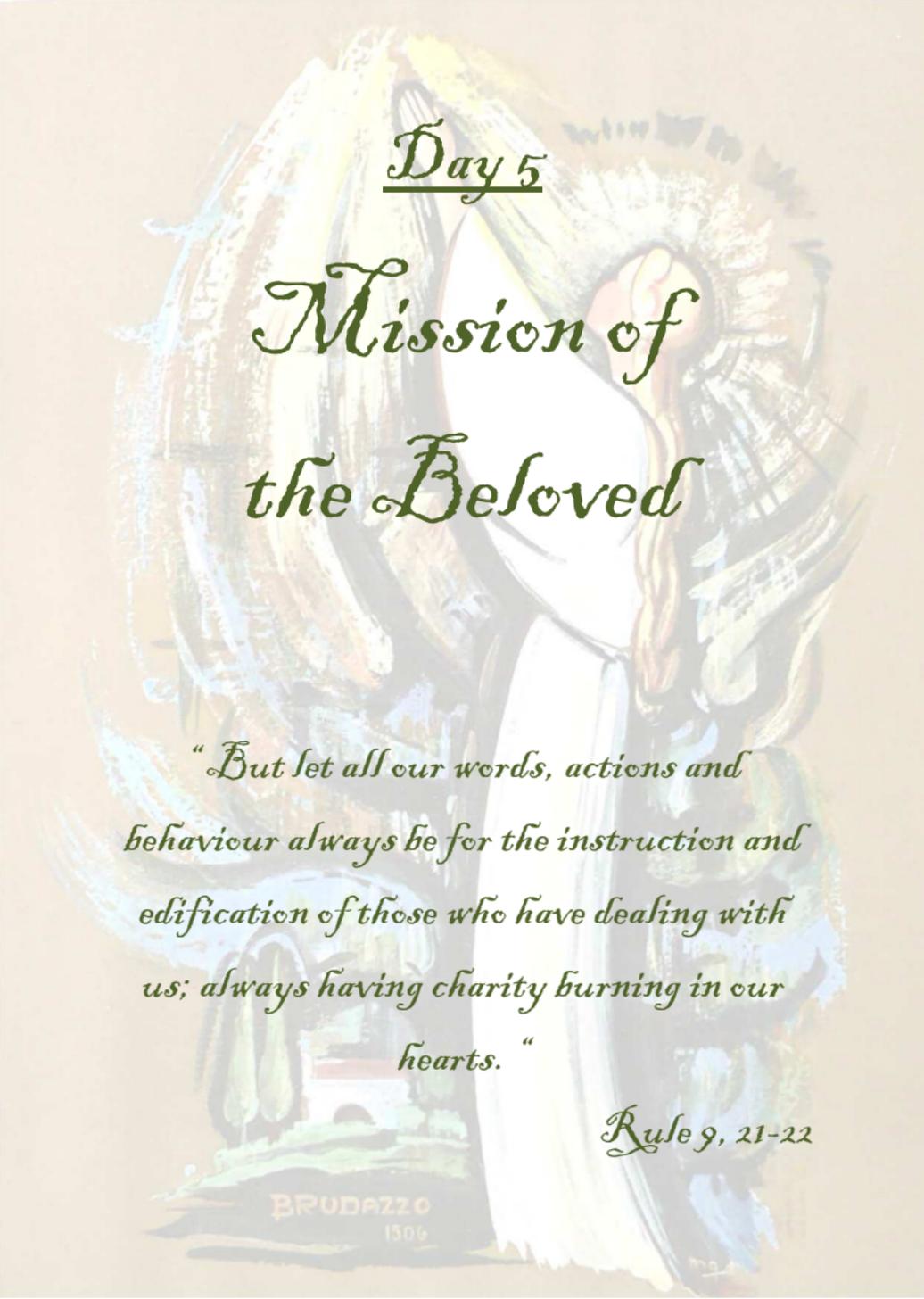
From where may come the strength to constantly search for the will of God and follow it whole-heartedly, the strength to persevere in difficulties, not be dependent on opinions of others, be free to be with people and leave them as was St. Angela?

Only the person who knows her real identity of the beloved child of God can do this. St. Angela found her deepest identity in the most intimate love of the Lord and from this sprang up her self-confidence, strength and inner freedom.



What do I firstly tell about myself when I have to introduce myself?

What do I build my identity on - on contacts, material goods, relationships, knowledge and skills, or on the unconditional love of God?



Day 5

*Mission of
the Beloved*

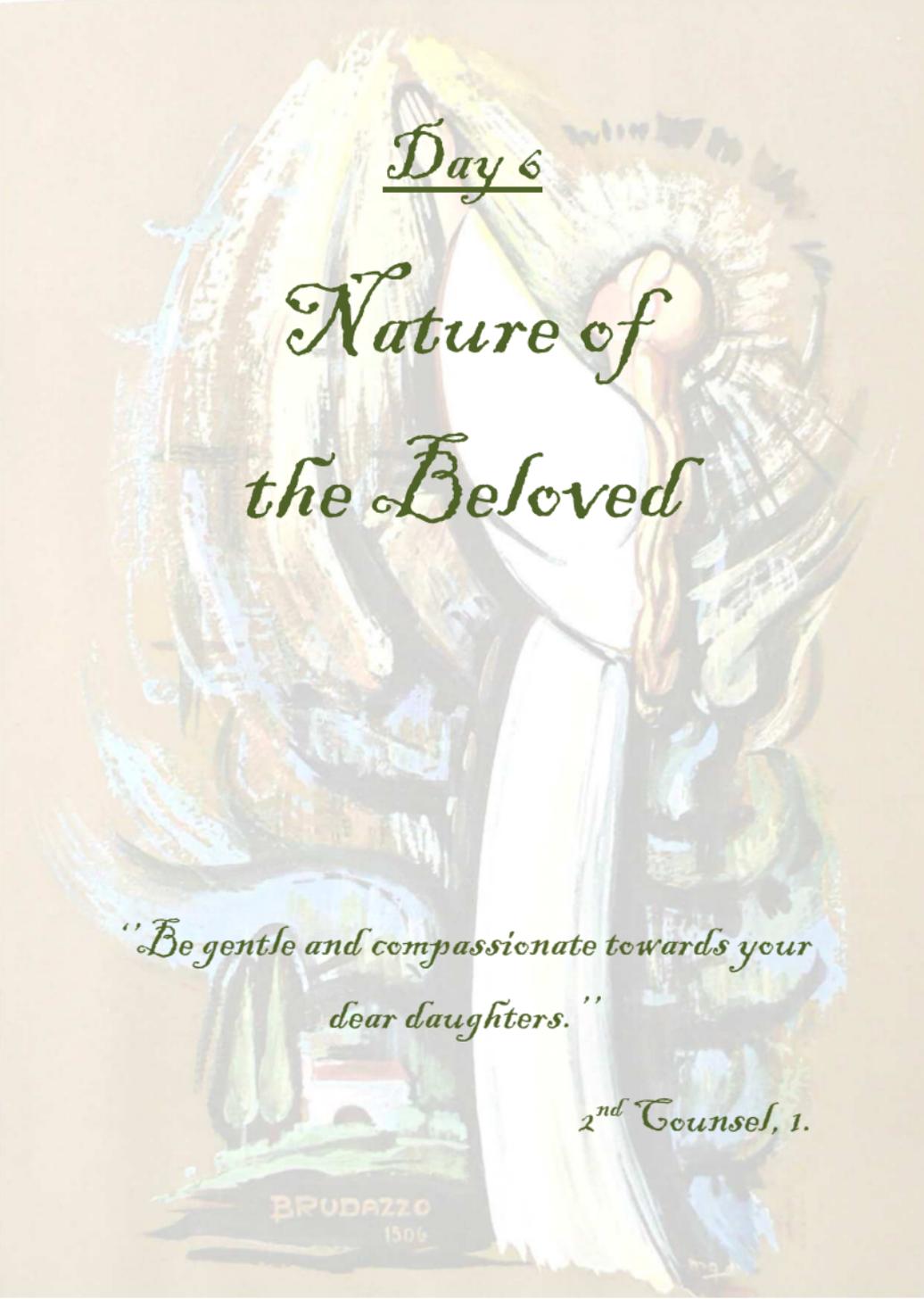
*“But let all our words, actions and
behaviour always be for the instruction and
edification of those who have dealing with
us; always having charity burning in our
hearts.”*

Rule 9, 21-22

Those who met Saint Angela were soon no longer able to live without her. What was so magnetic about her or rather 'Who'? She brought Him, His peace and love in this troubled, broken world and society. And that was exactly the change that hearts of her time were longing for.



Check today's news. Write down the needs of
our world that you see.
How do I answer to them ?



Day 6

*Nature of
the Beloved*

*"Be gentle and compassionate towards your
dear daughters."*

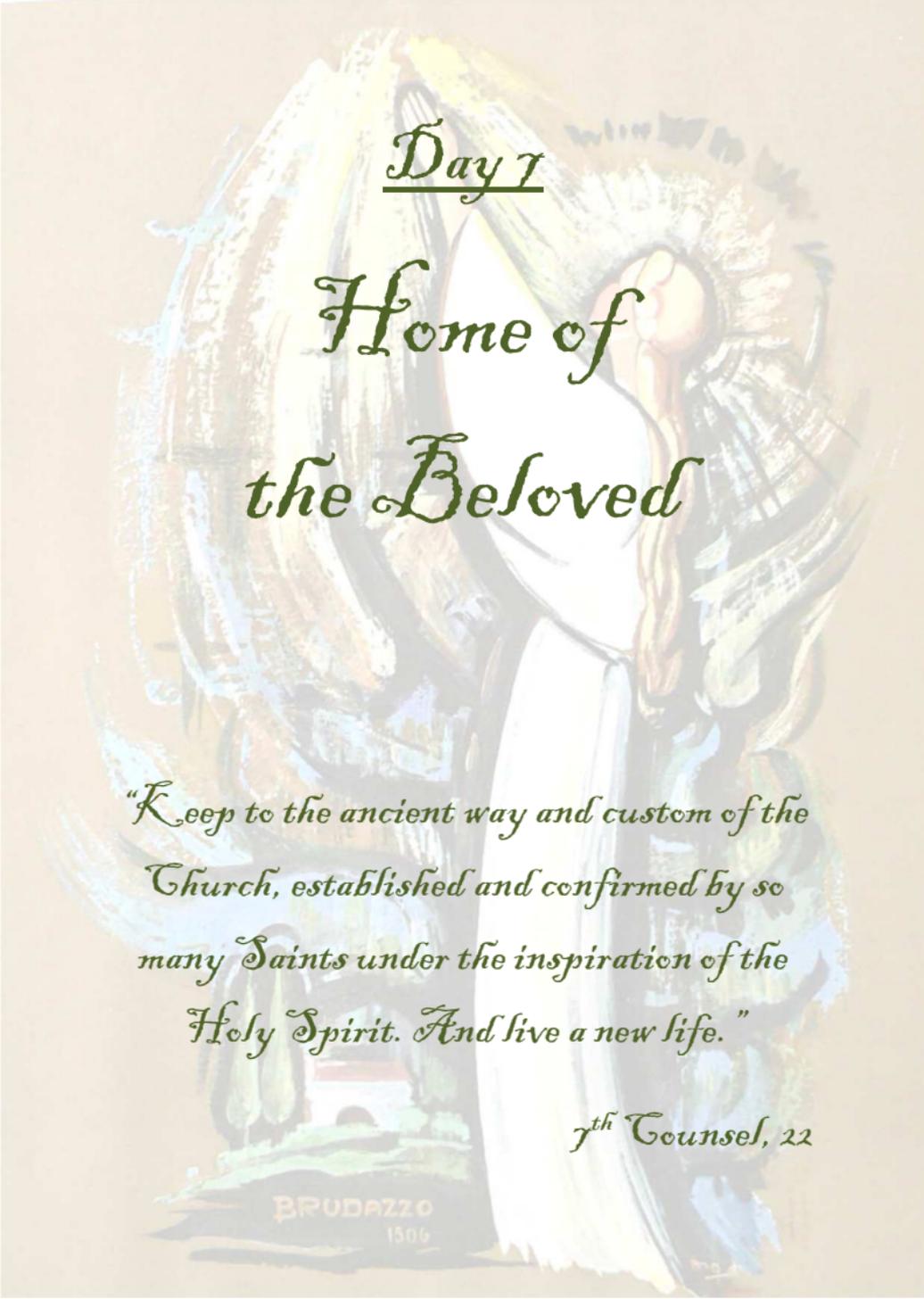
2nd Counsel, 1.

Gentleness can be the greatest strength of a person, coming out of the deep knowledge and acceptance of self, as it was in the case of St. Angela. She knew that respectful approach is due to every person as God's beloved creature. Being sure of her own identity, she was able to show respect towards others, open a gentle heart and accept them as they are.



Try to write a few positive things about three different persons in your surrounding who are challenging for you.

Do you see any connections between acceptance of self, your self-esteem and respect and gentleness towards others?



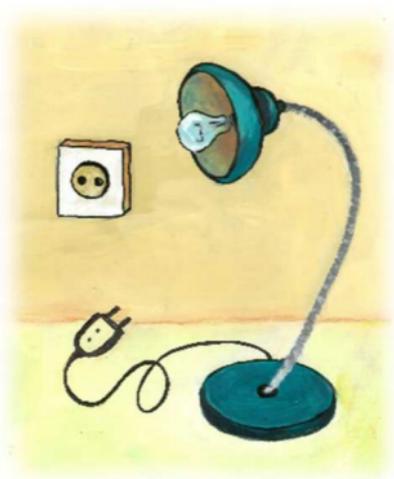
Day 7

Home of
the Beloved

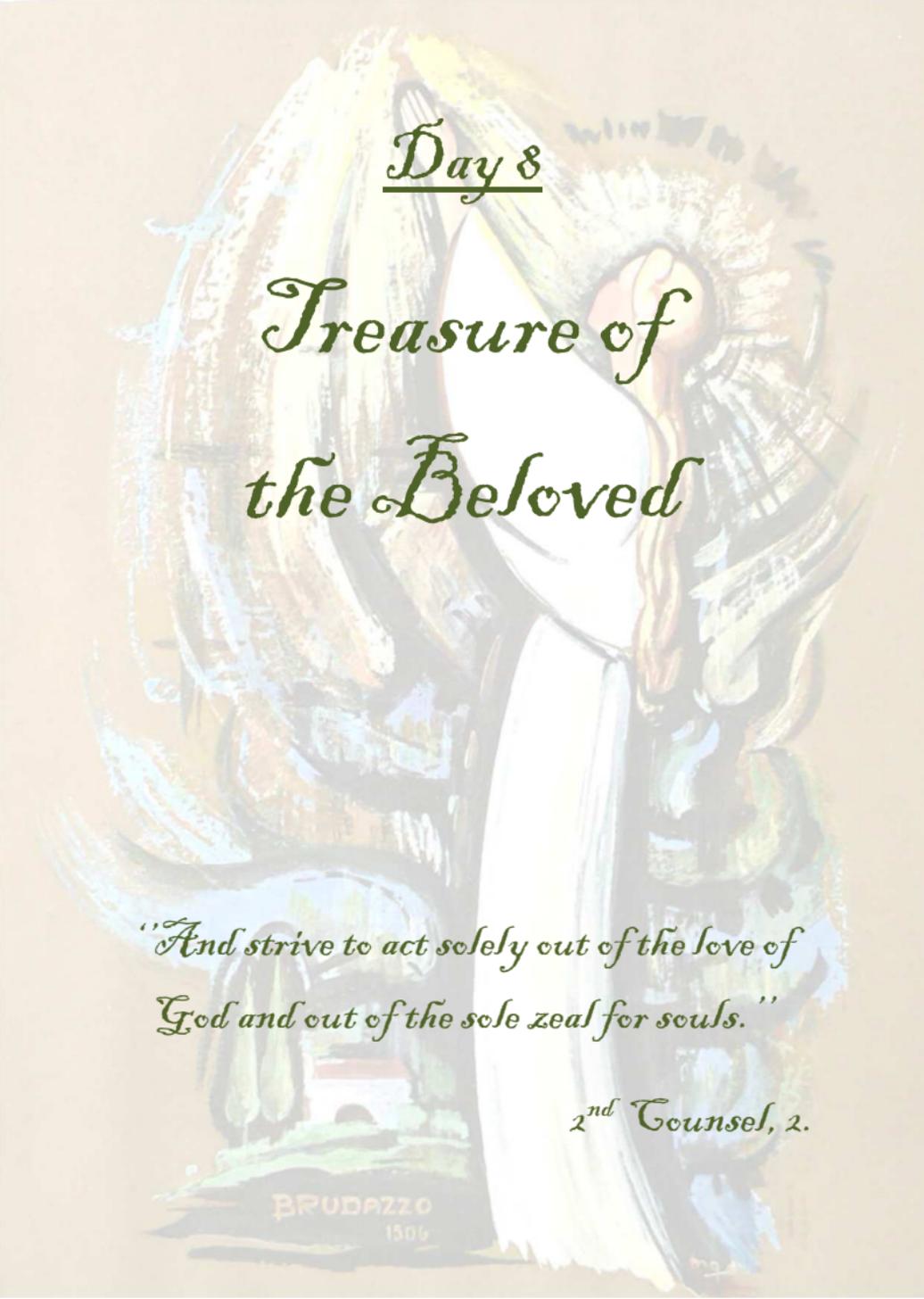
"Keep to the ancient way and custom of the Church, established and confirmed by so many Saints under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. And live a new life."

7th Counsel, 22

“And live a new life” – this last sentence shows that St. Angela was not the slave of the authority of the Church; in freedom and in love she accepted her in truth with her goodness and weakness as well. Thanks to that she could always feel at home in Church; she was closely connected the way a plug is plugged into a wall socket. She knew that living a new life needs unity more than division.



Express your attitude towards Church with a symbol (draw, make collage etc.)
Especially today pray for Church.



Day 8

*Treasure of
the Beloved*

*"And strive to act solely out of the love of
God and out of the sole zeal for souls."*

2nd Counsel, 2.

A person that is as blessed and talented as St. Angela knows that her or his time and skills do not truly belong to her or to him and that each of their gifts has been entrusted to them to carry out God's mission by using them. Her heart, filled with God and transformed by the burning, divine charity was constantly moved to go out to others and spend this precious and unique time of hers to fulfil the best purpose possible: to love and to serve in everything (Serviam).



It might seem a quite old-fashioned practice, but try to imagine that tomorrow is the last day of your life: would you spend it for yourself or
for others?

What ideas for serving with your gifts do you
have?

Day 9

The Beloved

"So, persevere joyfully and faithfully in the work you have begun. And take care, take care I say, no to lose your fervour. (...) But first I embrace you, and to you all I give the kiss of peace, begging God to bless you. In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen."

Last Legacy 22-24, 27-28.

Angela, the saint of great faith rooted and filled with good. A woman that was aware of her beauty and her dignity. A prudent counsellor. A faithful spouse. A fruitful mother. A zealous peacemaker. A gentle and demanding formator. Such descriptions of this unique Saint could be almost endlessly multiplied.

How can I describe her?

Do I see myself as sharing capable of sharing anything in the 'style' of St. Angela? What desires, inspirations and ideas appeared in me throughout those nine days of journey with Her?

To conclude, write a letter or a prayer in which you will express what really important for you during this time.

ST ANGELA MERICI PRAYER

O my Lord, my only life and hope,
I pray that you deign to receive this most
vile and impure heart of mine,
and to burn away its every affection and
passion in the fiery furnance of your divine
love.

I pray that you receive my free will,
every act of my own will,
which by itself, because it is infected by sin,
does not know how to discern good from
evil.

Receive my every thought, word and deed,
everything that is mine
finally, both interior and exterior.
All this I lay down as an offering at the feet
of your divine Majesty.

And I pray that you deign to receive it
even though I am unworthy of this.

Amen.

THE BELOVED:

9 DAYS OF SPIRITUAL JOURNEY WITH ST. ANGELA

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*Saint Angela,
reflection of God's love,
pray for us!*