

URSULINE SISTERS DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE OF VERONA

Generalate

Suore Orsoline F.M.I.
Via Muro Padri, 24
37129 Verona (Italy)
Tel. 045/8006833
segregen@orsolineverona.it
<http://www.orsolineverona.it>

Regional house

Suore Orsoline F.M.I.
Via Muro Padri, 24
37129 Verona (Italy)
Tel. 045/8000079
segreg@orsolinefmi.it
<http://www.orsolinefmi.it>

History

The foundation dates back to 1856, when three young girls of the “Oratorio Mariano” of Verona asked their parish priest, Father Serafino Agostini, for permission “to do something” for girls in trouble who lived in the parish of Sts. Nazario e Celso. The priest was acquainted with the character and spirituality of Saint Angela Merici and asked for cooperation from consecrated women, in order to help the many poor girls of his parish. With his bishop’s permission, Father Agostini tried hard: he established the first group of Ursulines and opened a school for poor girls.

The “Pious Union of Devout Sisters of Saint Angela” (as they were first called) continued to live with their families at that time. Later, in 1860, a group of them expressed the desire to establish a community, in order to consecrate themselves more deeply to God and to their neighbours’ service. The nuns “inside” community life and the members “outside” worked together until 1901, when the members inside embraced their Rule completely, while those outside embraced their own Rule according to Canon Law and became a congregation of diocesan right in 1940.

Today

The Ursulines FMI have always aimed at human and Christian training of youth. As its founder had wished, the congregation still regards Saint Angela as “its mother and teacher”.

The Ursulines FMI spread rapidly in Italy. They settled in Madagascar in 1960, in Switzerland in 1964, in Uruguay in 1965, and in Brazil in 1979. In 1992 they went to Paraguay and Burkina Faso (Africa), in 2001 to Peru and recently to Benin.

The year 2006, when the 150th of the foundation of the congregation was celebrated, was a year of thanksgiving and renewal, with a fresh impetus which would carry it to other countries and churches awaiting its presence: Chile and Togo.

Its works are: teaching, human and Christian training, assistance to teenagers and young girls in trouble, health care in dispensaries



(Madagascar), as well as care of elderly women in difficulty (in Italy).

Today the congregation has 650 members. In 1995 it was organized into regions and delegations. On October 25, 1998, the Venerable Father Zefirino Agostini was recognized with the title of Blessed by Pope John Paul II, in Rome. Nuns from numerous missions and many lay collaborators and affiliates attended the beatification.

