

# **In the same CHARISM WITH RESPONSIBILITY**



**n. 2 - 2010**

IN THE SAME CHARISM....

with responsibility



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

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## TO THE READERS

*...Witnesses of charity, faith and hope  
in the heart of the world*

This is *our way of life* and it can be clearly understood from the first chapter of the Constitution, we are called by Grace *to serve the Lord together*.

We have thought of living the 475th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Company and celebrating our next International Meeting, in the *merician style* the characteristic of our *consecrated secularity*. Therefore, in this booklet we will share our experiences and include varied examples and testimonies both *in the heart of the world and on its boundaries....*

*Witnesses*... not preachers, not teachers, not already accomplished..... but simply experts, because we experienced God's daily love for us.

*Witnesses of charity, faith and hope* ... it is not a superficial, easy life, but one full of involvement and at the same time joyful ... in following the three theological virtues, as was indicated by Saint Angela: "*may she be happy, full of charity and hope in the Lord*" (Rule 9)

We are happy and grateful because the testimony of the Secular Ursulines has reached all the continents. In this booklet, in which we share our experiences, we find ourselves in Europe, America, Africa, Asia and now also in Oceania.

*The heart of the world* can now beat and enjoy the theological testimony of each and every Daughter of Saint Angela until, as we find written in the dedication to the readers which precedes the Rule of the Trivulzian Codex,

“the stretches of land become  
a town and all the cities are dignified”

*Caterina Dalmasso*

## A THOUGHT FROM THE PRESIDENT

### 475th Anniversary

The 25th November 2010 happens to be the 475th anniversary of the foundation of the Company of Saint Ursula; our Company!

We are grateful to the Lord for giving us the opportunity to remember and celebrate that “happy intuition” with which the Holy Spirit aroused Saint Angela and we are grateful, notwithstanding the difficult inner struggles, that she accepted the Holy Spirit’s call!

**Let us recall with awe...** for 475 years this work has been a means of showing the world the way the Lord accomplishes wonderful things, using simple, poor and very often inadequate human instruments which were in the past and still are all the Daughters of Saint Angela, who were born of Her Old Charism which is still new today!

We are aware that the Mother’s holiness, led the way to holiness to the many Daughters who have followed in her footsteps as she had followed the “Common Lover”!

**It is a beautiful and emotional experience to recall the trepidation** with which the first 28 Daughters, way back on the 25th November 1535, gathered around their Mother to sign their name in the booklet “the size of a quarto, covered in white cardboard”!

What happiness ... and maybe an inner uncertainty.... a feeling placated as they were welcome by the Mother who could reassure anyone with her comfortable words and who was so sure of herself: “Hold this for certain: that this rule has been planted directly by His Holy Hand.....”

**Her vision of the stairway became** real and had unyielding borders in the foundations; its future and development were known only to God. Every Daughter was accompanied by an angel; are we perhaps “Angels” to one another in the “ups and downs” we encounter until we finally reach the fulfilment of our life?

**We are invited even today to be** “true and virginal spouses of the Son of God” showing by the life we lead that “marvellous synthesis” which Cozzano describes so accurately: “Being in the world, sharing in the active life, they enjoy their contemplative life and in an admirable way, join action to contemplation; the height of contemplation does not deter action, nor does activity hinder a taste for heavenly things”.

This is what we would like to achieve by the secular Merician way of life we lead because after 475 years, we can still say that we are pleased to be The Daughters of Saint Angela of the 21st century, and open to the future.

*Maria Razza*

## **The 475° Anniversary of the Founding of the Company**

**International Meeting**

**Brescia 13th -18th July 2010**

### ***CONSECRATED SECULARITY*** ***The Merician style of life***

***Speakers:***

**Mons. Adriano Tessarollo**

Ecclesiastical Assistant of The Council  
of The Federation

**Dott.ssa Paola Bignardi**

the Laity

A Member of the Pontifical Council for

**Maria Dravecka**

Vice Presidente of The Federation

**Mirella Turri**

Directress Of The Company of Trento

## A THOUGHT FROM THE ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANT

**So that we will be able to re plan our journey  
with the church of our times:  
thoughts drawn from benedict xv1's encyclical letter  
“charity in truth”.**

I would like to touch on “three relevant aspect of the encyclical”, about which articles have already been written in the previous issue. I would also like to discuss in depth the important themes of the encyclical itself, seeing that these themes are very important for those who lead a consecrated life thus committing themselves to be witnesses of the gospel by the daily life they lead and through which they will become saints.

### 1. THE DEVELOPMENT.

The Pope writes: *“The different aspects ..... require new efforts of holistic understanding and a new humanistic synthesis..... and a need of profound cultural renewal and fundamental values on which to build a better future.....The current crises obliges us to re-plan our journey, to set ourselves new rules and to discover new forms of commitment.... The crisis thus becomes an opportunity for discernment in which to shape a new vision for the future (no. 21). In no. 28 we read “Openness to life is at the centre of **true development**”.*

Man is called upon to develop and fulfil himself for every life is a vocation (no. 16), but growth becomes development if we do not depend only on the economy. Real development discriminates between necessity and what we are lead to believe is necessary, between the wealth we are surrounded with and the quality of life we can lead thanks to it.

The word “crisis” seems to refer only to economic terms (economic crisis): the Pope gives the word crisis a wider meaning: a crisis arising from lack of trust, a crisis in relationship, a crisis in shaping a new vision for the future. Therefore development is possible if it involves the



“whole” man and every man and this requires a cultural renewal (no.21) but development does not depend only on economic processes and resources.

The pope deals with the subject of development from three other aspects besides the economic perspective. Today, one of the most arresting aspects of development is the important question of respect for life. Man is responsible for the under development that exists in the world. The world’s economic situation is in crisis not because of economic instability but because of weaker human relations and lack of trust which has given rise to inequality (no. 31).

## **2. FRATERNITY; RIGHTS AND DUTIES**

In number 34 the Pope writes: "Charity in truth places man before the astonishing experience of gift" and in 36 "The principle of gratuitousness and the logic of gift as an expression of fraternity can and must find their place within normal economic activity."

The meaning of the word gift should be the basis of the economic laws; instead, profit is the only law which guides the actions and development of human and economic activity. In God’s plan, as the story of creation in the Bible shows, man is of utmost importance. So, all aspects of social life including the economy, should serve man and not as unfortunately often happens, be used badly. Fraternity seems to be an “outdated” word but for the believer it is closely connected with his belief in God “*whoever does not love the brother whom he can see, cannot love God whom he has not seen*” (1Jn 4, 20). Fraternity has also an important meaning for man (during the French Revolution together with liberty and equality, it was one of the Revolution’s three pillars of strength; however this great pillar was later “forgotten”) Even today we harp on the importance of either liberty or equality, thus creating two opposite societies but, once again, forget fraternity. The Pope invites us to pluck

up courage and admit that fraternity means gratuity. This brings about changes in the way we look at the economic activity where the most important factors are “my gain” and “my profit”. Everyone must realise and believe that where the economy is concerned, man is either the primary resource or main victim. In Western societies, the word atheist is often used to mean without God; so if we can live without God, we may also abandon man, our brother.

The Pope tells us: *“The reality of human solidarity, which is a benefit for us, also imposes a duty. Many people today would claim that they owe nothing to anyone, except to themselves. They are concerned only with their rights and they often have a great difficulty in taking responsibility for their own and other people’s integral development. Hence it is important to call for a renewed reflection on how rights pre suppose duties, if they are not to become mere licence”*(no. 43)., *“Today the subject of development is also closely related to the duties arising from our relationship to the natural environment ”*(no. 48).

It is my duty to see to the needs of others. However, nowadays, the word “right” is too often being interpreted to mean that nobody can prohibit me from doing or obtaining anything whilst forgetting what I owe others. The future of mankind and of the world can only be assured if, besides knowing our rights (what I expect), we also acknowledge our duties (what is expected of me). In a nutshell, moral principles are necessary if development is to be ensured, all we have to do is answer the question: “is this really beneficial for all?” I must consider the civic, social and environmental aspects before making a decision; this is the only way to give man the primary importance. “Civil economy ensures the centrality of the human person” and while not excluding profit, it considers the means of achieving human and social ends by asking the “right question”; how do we modify production and consumption so that we minimize the profit of few and ensure the gain of many. The profit of a society can only be measured by good relationships which are

built among the persons themselves.

### 3. SOLITUDE, COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY

The Pope writes: “The development of peoples depends above all, on a recognition that the human race is a single family working together in true communion, not a group of subjects who happen to live side by side (no.52) in harmony and is made up of persons who are not just one near each other. A more devolved and organic system of social solidarity, less bureaucratic but no less coordinative, would make it possible to harness much dormant energy, for the benefit of solidarity between people. (no. 59). Greater solidarity at the international level is seen especially in the ongoing promotion - even in the midst of economic crisis – of a greater access to education ..... which is, at the same time, an essential precondition for effective international cooperation.” (no. 60).

The Pope remarks “*One of the deepest forms of poverty a person can experience is **isolation***” (no. 52). Economic crisis reveals an even deeper crisis, the inability of building **interpersonal relationships**. Man is isolated. There are many reasons for this isolation. A person is isolated if “*he thinks himself to be self sufficient or merely an insignificant and ephemeral fact a stranger in a random universe*” (no. 52). A person is isolated because “society becomes more globalized, making us more neighbours, but not brothers” (no. 19). Work, on the other hand, isolates him even more and is geared on by competition. T o d a y , humanity shares a sense of being close to one another but this must be transformed in true communion. (no. 53). This is the gravest mistake (or the opposite of the truth, the biggest lie). In the course of development, we have the possibility of working in true communion, of cooperating and developing a sense of fraternity, but instead (either because we are indifferent or because we act out of autonomous jealousy) we are

challenged with finding individual solutions for common problems. A shared sense of just being close is the result of attitudes like lack of involvement, intolerance, hindering of progress, mere curiosity, belittling a person or showing lack of interest. Communion on the other hand means real concern, esteem in legitimate diversity, collaboration, perseverance in finding out what makes us a caring, responsible community towards the needs of every individual. The key note is the word cooperation: cooperation is the best solution for development, fraternity, rights and duties and overcoming isolation. To co-operate means to work together, build relationships, embark on enterprises and make the right choices. *“This shared sense of being close to one another must be transformed into true communion”* (no. 53). Cooperation must become a human, cultural relationship not merely an economic dimension.

*Don Adriano Tassarollo*



## FROM THE RULE OF SAINT ANGELA MERICI

### Some points for reflection ....



### ON FASTING, Chapter IV, vv. 1-3

*“We will welcome the invitation of our Foundress to  
accompany our prayer  
with fasting.  
In dialog with a spiritual guide  
and with the consent of the Directress,  
we will find personal times and forms of fasting, which  
dispose us to conversion,  
to moderation in our life-style and to solidarity with  
our poorer sisters and brothers.”  
Constitutions 14.3*

### Introduction:

To be in the world as true and virginal spouses of the Son of God, we must know how to walk

- the path of renunciation for the sake of love...
- the path of daily commitment...
- the path of joyful witness...

and on this path we will find our Madre Saint Angela and the Lover of us all: “I am continually among them with my Lover, or rather ours, the Lover of us all”(5th Counsel, 38).

This will be the road to freedom in the heart, in the mind and in the will; freedom to desire and to commit ourselves to what is true, beautiful, and good in itself and to what gives our lives truth and beauty.

This involves change, penitence, and commitment on the road of love:  
... leading to greater joy, a larger gift;  
... it is the energy and the exertion of growing in liberty and in maturity.

Fasting is necessary...

<sup>1</sup> *“Yet again remember that each one should want to embrace bodily fasting too as something indeed necessary”*

**Yet again remember...** The Rule is to be considered as a single letter, a single message, a single address upon the life of consecration to be lived in the world; the various chapters are important emphases in the address and are the means to arrive at the goal: full communion with the Son of God.

The Rule of Saint Angela is very short...only eleven chapters besides the Prologue. One of these is dedicated to fasting; it is one of the longest chapters. It is the chapter that opens the discourse on the spiritual life of her daughters, preceding those on prayer, obedience, virginity, and poverty.

It is to be read, then, as a direction suggested by the Foundress, indeed an emphasis in our spirituality. It is one of the hinges on which it is possible to construct our spiritual life according to the evangelical ideal.

Do these directions sound strange? Perhaps so... Perhaps for contemporary culture, perhaps because we think fasting has passed out of fashion, perhaps because we have never examined this chapter deeply.

But it would not appear so strange if, recovering the origins of the Company, we would find in the ancient Ritual that the virgins to be admitted into the chapter (acceptance and definitive welcome into the Company), underwent a kind of examination... and they had to be considered, by the person in charge of the Company itself, *serious and concerned about fasting*. It is only right that the daughter of Saint Angela chooses, **wants to embrace** the practice of fasting not as something secondary, but as **necessary** for the very life that she has undertaken.

To want and to embrace are synonymous with love, with giving, with joyful harmony, and they are not easily linked with our criteria to a unique sense of effort, renunciation, and sacrifice. It is not a law, it is a pathway of love that is proposed to us.

For Saint Angela, the Rule is embraced, as are fasting, poverty (and so on, for other “means”) as gifts of God “that he has offered us by his grace.” Thus understood, fasting must certainly be embraced with deep serenity and commitment.

**Bodily fasting** is “*2a means and way to the true spiritual fasting through which all vices and errors are lopped off from the mind*”

If done for its own sake, fasting, like any penitential act, has no other value and there would be no need to want it nor to embrace it. Saint Angela tells us that it is a means and a way to spiritual fasting.

**But what is spiritual fasting?**

It is fasting accompanied by conversion of heart. Fasting is seen as a means to combat the attachments, the vices, and the errors that are rooted deep within us: “*From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly*” (Mark 7:21-22).

The Catechism explains, “*Jesus' call to conversion and penance, like that of the prophets before him, does not aim first at outward works, 'sackcloth and ashes,' fasting and mortification, but at the **conversion of the heart**, interior conversion*” (no. 1430).

Conversion of the heart will be the result of the “practice” of fasting that will liberate us from “vices and errors” in relationship with ourselves, God, and our brothers and sisters and will guard our hearts from every form of pride, envy, and ill will: “*Above all let her keep her heart pure and her conscience clean of every evil thought, of every shadow of envy and ill will, of every discord and evil suspicion, and of every other bad appetite and wish*” (Rule, Ch. 9:7-10).

I'll have to pray with Saint Angela: “*Alas! How sorrowful I am that while entering the recesses of my heart, from shame I do not dare raise my eyes heavenward because ... seeing in myself so many errors, so much ugliness and blame, ... 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. O most benign Lord, deign to pardon me so many offenses...*” (Rule, Chapter V, 20-23).

### **We have the example of the saints...**

*“<sup>3</sup>To this we are invited very clearly by the example of all saintly persons”*

Close at hand we can see **the example of our holy foundress:**

The witnesses say of St. Angela that “she did not sleep in a bed, but on some matting; she had replaced the pillow with a piece of wood; she used to drink only water, only a finger of wine on Christmas and Easter; she ate no meat, but only bread, fruit and vegetables” (Romano and Gallo summarized by Mariani, Seynaeve, Tarolli).



It must be clarified that fasting, even in Angela’s times, was a renunciation, but permitted one to live. It did not intrinsically involve abstinence from meat except on days of abstinence; it allowed a complete, full lunch and a light dinner. Drinking was also permitted through the day, even wine or other beverages besides water. Angela, having faithfully practiced fasting from her youth, must have been trained to undertake it seriously in her mature years.

So she did and so she also wished for her daughters: “to embrace” with love this penitential practice.

*Kate*





## *Diocese of Brescia*

*24th January 2010*

**Saint Angela is proclaimed  
the secondary patron saint of Brescia**

**Excerpts from the homily  
by the Bishop of Brescia  
Mons. Luciano MONARI**



It is a great gift for our church that Saint Angela has been proclaimed the secondary patron saint for the city and diocese of Brescia; it is a gift for which we are grateful to the Lord and which we accept with responsibility. Special thanks go to Mons. Olmi who worked hard to obtain this proclamation and without whose zealous work we would not have reached our goal. Thanks also to the Daughters of Saint Angela who can boast that this is their particular feast; they, who along the centuries have kept this saint's exceptional charism alive, are its custodians and most important witnesses. Since it is the mother's feast it is also the feast of her numerous daughters.

Saint Angela is our patron saint near God; when we invoke God we are strengthened by her presence and her intercession. This does not mean that God needs Saint Angela's intervention to have pity on our misery; His love and generosity are enough. On the contrary, Saint Angela, like all the other saints is the work of God's love; God made her out of His loving grace, He moulded her with His Word and enlivened her with His Spirit. When we look at her we become aware of the great deeds God is doing in the church and what He would like to do to us and to

our life. Four hundred years ago Saint Angela foresaw and promoted an astonishing form of consecration to the Lord for women who lead a normal active life in the world. To me, her message still has a meaning for today's world, a message verging on the provocative.

I sincerely hope that presenting Saint Angela as a model of sanctity and



proclaiming her as our patron, will arouse in the church of Brescia and in the Brescian Christian women (fully aware of the place they occupy in the church and of their responsibilities), the urge to think of and live lifestyles which reflect sound Christian values. Because Saint Angela had foresight and acted freely during her time, she can be looked upon as our model as

well as an invaluable stimulus.

May Saint Angela grant us the courage and creativity we need.



**Brescia, 13th February 2010**

**Basilica of Saints Faustino  
and Giovita**

**Excerpts from the homily by Mons. Luciano Monari, Bishop of Brescia  
responsible for the translation  
of Saint Angela's relics**

Saint Angela Merici; a surprising woman for her time! While being in the world and sharing an active life, she pursued a high ideal of Christian perfection. Her life was extremely productive; not only because the Daughters of Saint Angela are now to be found in every part of the world and lead a life following her footsteps and experiences but, above all, because every reference made to Saint Angela has given these women a strong sense of dignity, has made them strongly aware that their life is valuable, has enkindled in them a great desire to give up themselves for the love of God and the church.

It is needless to say that Saint Angela's secret was her faith; her love for God and her complete trust in Him. This is what gave her strength and joy in the many difficulties and misunderstandings that must have cropped up at that time particularly since Saint Angela's concepts were very advanced for her time. Today everyone is aware that Saint Angela foresaw that Christian way of living which belongs to the Secular Institutes – Institutes which propose a way to holiness and lay consecration by being in the world and sharing an active life, not in a convent or in a religious community. This way of life was recognized by the church in 1947; but Saint Angela had foreseen and practised it centuries earlier!

This is what makes us, the people of Brescia, proud to have Saint Angela as our patron saint and we want to be worthy of her, learn from her how to live to the full the life God willed us to lead at our baptism. Saint Angela has taught us how to bond together faith and life; outside monasteries, living in the world and sharing an active life. We really do need women like Saint Angela! When I say this, I do not literally mean roaming about the streets like she did. The times have changed and change today is even more rapid. It would be wrong to even think of trying to stop time or adopting a more rigid attitude. What I mean is Christian women who are able to do today what Saint Angela did four hundred years ago; that is, to face the cultural challenges in the world today, attend normal places of work and activities but to represent the heart and soul of the Gospel everywhere they go, showing wisdom, responsibility and love.

May Saint Angela, our patron, grant us a clear line of thought and wisdom for life.



## **Congregation for the Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments**

The faithful of the City and the Diocese of Brescia, in Lombardy, have always venerated Saint Angela Merici, virgin, with sincere devotion....

She bequeathed a singular witness to the service of evangelization and human promotion in the life of the Church and of Brescian society. The clergy and the lay faithful have continued to keep her spiritual legacy alive up to our own time.

Therefore the Most Reverend Luciano Monari, Bishop of Brescia, receiving the endorsements of the clergy and the faithful, has suitably approved the choice of Saint Angela Merici, virgin, as Patron before God of the City and the Diocese of Brescia....

Therefore, on the strength of the special faculty received from the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI, and after attentively evaluating the explanations presented, the Congregation for the Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, assenting to the above-mentioned petitions, confirms

**Saint Angela Merici, virgin,  
secondary Patron before God  
of the City and Diocese of Brescia**

with all the related rights and liturgical privileges: In the future she may be celebrated each year with the solemnity of a feast in the city of Brescia, and elsewhere in the Diocese with the solemnity of a memorial....

November 11, 2009

*Antonio Card. Canizares Llovera (Prefect)*  
*+Giuseppe Agostino Di Noia, op (Archbishop, Secretary)*

**On the 475th anniversary of The Foundation...**  
**a remembrance of the pilgrimage on the occasion of the 450th anniversary.**

We are preparing ourselves for the celebrations of the 475th anniversary since Saint Angela founded our Company of Saint Ursula. This reminds me of the pilgrimage to Cologne in 1985 to commemorate the 450th anniversary.

Whilst 25 years ago, we met in Cologne, the city where the Holy remains of the Patron Saint of our Company, Saint Ursula, and her virgin martyr companions may be found, this year we will be meeting in Brescia,



It was the first president of The Federation, the unforgettable Mother Toniolatti from Trento, who came up with the idea of the pilgrimage. There were 91 of us in all from all over Italy. On the 10th August, 1985 we met in Augsburg and proceeded on to the pilgrimage together. We were accompanied by our spiritual assistants Mons. Cielo and Mons. Gilli.

We were divided in two coaches. On the first day, the 11th August, we toured Augsburg, a city founded by the Roman Empire about 2000 years ago. Needless to say we visited the Benedictine Abbey of Saint Stephen, because the founder of The Company of Augsburg and the Ecclesiastical Assistants came from this Abbey.

On the morning of the 12th August, we left for Haus Altenberg in Odenthal, where we were staying while on the pilgrimage. On our way we visited the Ursuline Mothers in Wlirzburg who warmly welcomed us and offered us their chapel so that we could celebrate Mass there.

On the 13th August, a day of penitence on our pilgrimage, we headed for the convent of Mount Calvary, the convent of the Ursuline Mothers of Ahrweiler. Here, we prayed with them and together we meditated the

Way of The Cross. Fourteen of the sisters each prepared a meditation for the stations and we still treasure the “Way of The Cross” which was printed and distributed among the pilgrims. Those present will also find it difficult to forget the hospitality of the Ursuline Mothers. Sister Blandine Merten, a member of their congregation, was beatified on the 12st November 1987.

The first important day was our arrival in Cologne on the 14th August.



Even here the Ursuline Mothers really pampered us they prepared an excellent meal and musical entertainment for everyone. It was an unforgettable experience for all of us when we visited our Patron Saint and her Companions in the Basilica of Saint Ursula.

According to the legend, Saint Ursula and her Companions travelled from England to Germany by ship and sailed along the river Rhine up to Cologne where they were martyred. To commemorate this event, we too sailed a short distance along the river

Rhine.

On the 15th August, the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, we heard a sung mass at the Marian Altenberg Cathedral with Michelina, our sister, playing the organ. After mass we happily returned to Augsburg. I am still thanking the Lord for those few days of holiness and I thankfully remember Sister Lina and Sister Luciella, who helped me prepare for the pilgrimage and all of those who in one way or another have made it possible for the pilgrimage to be a success.

*Teresa Hofle*

## **GOD BLESSED ME AT THE SUPERMARKET**

I am not tall, but she was shorter; I am thin, but she was much thinner, and she was rather advanced in years.

With her gaze intent on the supermarket's huge shelves, she was searching to find the tomato sauce familiar to her; she did not see it, and it was not presenting itself as she continued to run her eyes along the shelves. As soon as I saw her, I was touched at the sight; she, her thin figure, her delicate movements, brought me to a halt in this supermarket aisle, because it was clear that she needed help.

I didn't want to intrude, and given that I had already passed through this aisle and had finished looking for something particular, nonetheless I stood waiting to understand her need and whether she found a solution. By then I had decided that I would not leave that aisle until that amazingly small creature had solved her problem, which was obviously growing moment by moment and giving her a little displeasure.

Finally, as my glance caught hers, she said to me, "I'm not finding a tomato sauce that is like this one, but it's not this one." For a moment I feared that "her" sauce was out of stock, but those ten extra centimeters of mine allowed me to ferret it out, where it was barely in view, on a higher shelf. When I asked whether that was the right one, her smile was like that of a baby that has found a favorite toy. She asked me to take down two of those pretty red jars.

I had already said goodbye and was going, satisfied, when she said to me, "Whether you believe or not, GOD bless you!" Surprised, I spontaneously returned her thanks, in the same unexpected way, and at that point a tender joy filled my heart, because GOD is indeed unpredictable, and awaits you even in the supermarket aisle.

*Luisa Lorenzi*



## FROM THE COMPANIES AND THE GROUPS

### INDONESIA

#### July 2009 the meetings of The Company and The Consecrations

#### LIFE IS A PILGRIMAGE

Our annual National Assembly was held last July 3-7 in Bandung. This time we highlighted St. Angela as pilgrim. Accordingly we chose the theme: "Life is a Pilgrimage" with the following sub themes: Our pilgrimage lasts but a short time, The goal of our pilgrimage, Means to reach the goal, The Guide of our pilgrimage, Walking together, Walking joyfully, Obstacles on the way, How to make the most of our short pilgrimage.



We found a rich source from the Scriptures, the Writings of St. Angela our Mother, the teachings of the Church and contemporary saints, our culture and society.

Short introductions were given by Sr. Emmanuel Gunanto, followed by reflection and sharing and faith expressions like biblical dances and singing. There was time for meditation, divine office and word celebrations, Sacrament of Penance and the Eucharist. Our program was very varied, and the days passed by too fast.

We experienced great joy when on the evening of July 4th Lydia Kirdarsa was officially accepted as a new member in a simple but meaningful word celebration. Our joy culminated when on the next day, Sunday July 5th Cresentiana Aso made her consecration for life, and Theresia Lilyana and Yustina Soesilo made their first consecration in the chapel of the Ursuline Sisters. The celebrant of the solemn Eucharist was the Bishop of Bandung, Mgr Johannes Pujasumarta. The singing was done

beautifully by the Novices of the Ursuline Sisters.

In his homily the Bishop highlighted St. Paul, whose only desire was that “Christ be glorified in his body both in life and death”. He also stressed the fact that Jesus asked Peter three times whether he loved him. Peter replied “yes” each time, and Jesus commanded him to feed his lambs. In the same way Jesus asks each one of us now whether we love him and are willing to make him our only treasure, **our only and beloved treasure and take care of his flock.**

Journeying **joyfully together** is the choice we have made. We journey together in the Company and we promise to pray for new vocations to share this joy of serving God. How can we reach the destination? Jesus our Amatore has **told** us that the only way is **he himself**. He even shows us how to walk the way. Lovingly he **guides** us how to follow **his life**. Such a good Shepherd he is.



And so we continue our journey treasuring the words of St. Angela: “Live together in unity and harmony.” The National Assembly has brought us closer together. Now living far apart, in our own homes, we keep our friends in our heart, and walk together towards Jesus Amatore, our only and beloved treasure.

### **Second meeting: Flores**

Since our three friends from Flores Yasinta Hadjon, Katarina Nini Keding and Monica Uran could not come to Bandung, a second meeting with the same theme was held in Flores, an island in East Indonesia, on July 22 – 29, at the Orphanage in Waibalun, East Flores, facilitated by Meity Margaretha Widjaja and Maria Dolorosa da Silva.

Flores is a very beautiful island, surrounded by mountains, seas, stone

hills, with scarce population as the houses are more in the villages, almost unseen from outside as if blanketed by forests. Our small group met in the candle-production room for four days. In the room we prepared a small altar with the Crucifix, an Icon of Mother Angela, a Bible, candles and flowers. That created a prayerful atmosphere. We felt the presence of Jesus Amatore and Mother Angela very close to us, so that each session was followed with much enthusiasm.

We were very much enriched by the sharings of others, so that our consecrated life in this pilgrimage is more understood in the light of the preface of Mother Angela's Rule, *"We are called to so glorious a life as to be spouses of the Son of God ..... but we must be wary and prudent .... For there is no kind of evil which will not try to stand in the way ....* Living this vocation is not easy. There are many difficulties, e.g. long distance, financial problems, limitations in means... We can overcome all this by keeping in mind that God has called us, provided us with talents. Every obstacle can be overcome as God is on our side. Isn't Jesus our Good Shepherd, who even gave his life for us, his sheep? Our Mother Angela who knows the dangers of our life urges us to take the *"first step to come back to Jesus Christ," and to "pray earnestly"*.

We had a very beautiful experience when we rowed a little boat to visit a tiny island nearby, where there is a very good place to contemplate. It was a beautiful and quiet place, with an enormous statue of Jesus the Good Shepherd with his sheep, as if he is saying **"Feed my sheep"**. After contemplation, Yasintha and Nini went towards the bay to pick little mussels and cooked them as we sang "The Lord is my shepherd, he provides".

In the next sessions, "Walking together" and "Walking Joyfully", Fr. Laurence Hambac SVD, the spiritual director of the Secular Ursulines in Flores accompanied us. He stressed the importance of living together in unity and harmony, appreciating, helping and being patient with each other. In that way we will radiate love.

In the next session, “Obstacles on the way” we were accompanied by Fr. Benhard Muller SVD who stressed the gift of contemplation according to Constitutions #11-17. To live consecrated life it is very necessary to develop the gift of contemplation in order to strengthen our relationship with God our Amatore so that we may be strong and unshaken by anything.



And so we joyfully continue our pilgrimage together with Jesus Amatore, our Mother St. Angela and all the saints,

*our Sisters in the Company  
and all over the world.*

## Italy – Canicattì

On October 13 and 14, 2009, the Daughters of St. Angela of Canicattì (AG) recalled with great emotion the fiftieth anniversary of the elevation to heaven of Most Reverend Angelo Ficarra, archpriest of Canicattì, vicar general of the Diocese of Agrigento, and Bishop of Patti, spiritual father of the Company from 1919 to 1936. *“His dear, good daughters”* spent two unforgettable afternoons.

The first event was a conference at the Church of Maria Santissima degli Agonizzanti, presented for the occasion by the President of the Federation Maria Rosa Razza on the theme *“The Charism of St. Angela Merici,”* followed by the opening of an exhibit of sacred vestments and objects belonging to the bishop organized by the Directress of the Company of Agrigento in collaboration with the architect G. Ingaglio.



The second afternoon was the occasion of a sisterly gathering of the members of the Companies of Agrigento, Caltanissetta, Palermo, and Piazza Armerina around the president, to reflect together on the topic *“Consecrated Secularity: Suggestions and Reflections.”*

The evening concluded with the Eucharistic liturgy and Vespers, presided over by Fr. Emanuele Casola, spiritual assistant of the Ursulines of Canicattì.

These moments of spiritual and sublime friendship and of grace made us realize again how proud and happy we are to have as our Madre Angela Merici, a strong and courageous woman who continues to guide us through her writings. *“Be happy and persevere... Christ will enlighten and instruct you as a good and true master on what you must do.”*

*The Daughters of St. Angela of Canicattì*

## Brazil South

The Company of Brazil South marked the renewal of consecration by Luisa de Rego Monteiro at a Mass celebrated by Father Lázaro, in the Parish of the Mother of the Redeemer in Suzano (São Paulo), on November 22, 2009. “I consider myself very happy and sure in renewing the commitment of my consecration for another three years. It is a very



great honor to serve the Lord our God in the Secular Institute of Saint Angela Merici. Therefore I pray to Saint Angela, our common madre and foundress, to inspire me and to help me in all these good commitments.



*‘To prepare me for the renewal of my consecration, I made a three-day retreat and a triduum held in the parish on these themes:*

- *Angela, pioneer of the promotion of woman,*
- *Angela, missionary apostle,*
- *Mary and consecration*

*“The objective of the triduum was the spread of the Merician charism. “On the day of the consecration a priest spoke on the theme of consecration in the world.*

*“Present were the directress, Julia Maria da Solidade, Nicole Jandot, and a great many other people.*



*“The occasion was lovely and well-planned.*

*“I ask God the Father, although I am unworthy, that I may be a good daughter of Saint Angela.”*

*Luisa*

*Company of Brazil South*

### **ENGLAND... The first consecration**

The 25th November 2009, the anniversary of the founding of The Company, was a day of celebration in Lancaster England, it was the event of the first consecration of the two Maries in our Secular Institute. This was also the founding of the Company of Saint Angela in England. All this came to pass thanks to the Ursuline Sisters who in 2007, the bicentenary of the Canonisation of Our Mother Saint Angela, had decided to make known and spread the originality of the Merician Charism to the world.



It was even a happier occasion for the two Maries because many of their relatives and friends were present. Before mass an Ursuline Sister explained the importance of the Consecration and expressed her gratitude to God for this gift. During the homily the parish priest spoke about Saint Catherine, whose feast was remembered on that day and also the history of the Secular Institute.

After mass, according to the custom of the town, we were invited to refreshments and we could engage in conversations and make new ac-

quaintances.

One can point out that in Lancaster there is a strong catholic community, a community which had held on to its faith earlier, even in the times of persecution. Let us hope that the consecrated way of life in the world, according to the charism of Saint Angela Merici may flourish in this country.

It was a pleasure to take part in this festive celebration and to receive the consecrations in the name of our Company, because Marie and Marie form part and have their progress followed by the Slovak Company of Saint Ursula. Let us pray for our new sisters and for new vocations even in England.

*Maria Dravecká*

### **The Ursuline Sisters write to us from Lancaster**

While the two Maries were preparing for the Consecration, we also prepared ourselves by a novena of prayers based on words of advice from the Bible, readings from the Gospels, the Rule and the Constitution of The Company.

The Mass of the 25th November was a concelebration by our parish priest Canon Stephen Shield and Canon Luiz Ruscello. A good number of friends of the two Maries formed part of the large congregation.

The homily by Father Stephen was a masterly lesson on the teachings of the church based on the life of Saint Catherine of Alexandria and the history of the Secular Institutes, his explanation helped the congregation understand better the meaning of consecrating one's life while leading a normal life in the world.

The two Maries stood beside the Pascal Candle and said their act of Consecration in the presence of Maria, the Directress of the Slovak Company, with Zela and Maureen acting as witnesses. The congregation applauded the newly consecrated Maries, while the signed docu-



ments were placed on the altar.

What is the significance of all this? It was a date to be remembered: the beginning of a new Secular Company, according to the wishes of Saint Angela, who had suggested we *hold on to the old way but lead a new life...*

*The Ursuline Sisters of Lancaster*

## ONCE AGAIN IN BANGLADESH

17th - 23rd January, 2010



Together with the President, we are in Bangladesh once again; for an important event both for the Company and for the local church, the final consecration of Mary Juno and Nilu. In the meantime, another sister asked the Council of The Federation to delay her temporary

consecration by a year, to get herself better acquainted and learn more about the meaning of our way of life. This concession was granted to her. Our Sisters live and work Dacca, the capital city. It has not changed much in the 6 years since my first visit; there are evident unequal social classes, much poverty and a lot of people living in sub-human conditions. On the other hand, because of an increase in population, the already chaotic traffic continued to increase in an impressive manner.

Fr. Francis Rapacioli and Mary Juno met us at the airport while the others waited for us in Bethany Ashram, a little house of prayer where we had stayed on previous visits.

Intense days of activity awaited us; days that were divided between prayers, more profound studies of The Constitutions and answering the previously prepared questions put to us by the Sisters.

We had many group meetings to clarify difficulties, to discuss spiritual formation and to promote Saint Angela and the Company. We also met with the Council of The Federation to decide on the duties and methodology for our report.

There were also individual meetings to get to know better the persons involved and follow up on progress according to the wishes of Saint Angela *"...I beg you that you willingly hold in consideration and have engraved on your mind and heart all your dear daughters one by one, not only their names but also, their condition and character, and their every situation and state"* (Second Legacy).

Fr. Francis Rapacioli, responsible for the PIME priests in Bangladesh, is also responsible for the liaison with the Council of The Federation. He is very competent and willingly acts as an intermediary between us and our sisters.



On the morning of the 20th January, after a long time spent in prayer, the President gave the group an icon of Saint Angela made by Fabio Nones from Trento. Maria Rosa explained the meaning of this gift and asked that the

icon be exposed during communal prayers, formation sessions and sharing time as a reminder that Our Mother is always with us and it is she who binds us to all the sisters scattered in the world!

On Wednesday 20th January at 6.00 p.m The Consecration ceremony took place in the chapel of the house where we were offered hospitality.

The chapel was beautifully decorated with ornaments, flowers and candles by Sister Mable, a nun from the Order of The Sisters of Charity of Saint Capitanio. She is the nun who translates their monthly letters of formation and also a close friend of the group.

Many relatives, friends and colleagues of the “magnificent

three” as Fr. Francis calls them, were present for the ceremony, besides members of some of the male and female religious congregations and those belonging to a secular institute founded by an American priest who is still alive.

The solemn liturgy was presided by the Archbishop of Dacca while Fr. Francis, Fr. P. Dotti (Pime) and Fr. Arturo Speziale concelebrated. The

latter introduced Saint Angela and The Company to Bangladesh while Fr. Dotti is also a close friend of our sisters.



Our Sisters, visibly excited, entered the church in the form of a procession accompanied by the President, the undersigned, the Archbishop and the concelebrants,. They were greeted by the congregation who sang hymns ac-

companied by typical Bengali musical instruments.

During his homily the Archbishop emphasised the importance of this particular moment for the candidates and for the church in Bangladesh. He explained the meaning and the characteristic of secular consecration, pointing out how beautiful it was and its importance for the present times, but also highlighting the difficulties that had to be faced in the absence of the “protection” found in other enclosed religious orders. As a result, our ways of following the Lord require maturity, courage and responsibility so that we may always remain faithful to our call.

The rite of Consecration began with the singing of the hymn “Here I am Lord ... I come” in Bengali. The President called out the candidates’ names in Italian and they went near the altar holding the flowers adorned with candles.

As is customary, this was followed by a short dialogue in Italian and the sung litany of the Saints. Sister Mable was entrusted with the translation of the candidates’ names as well as the dialogue into Bengali.

After the litany, Yanu followed by Nilu recited the Act of Consecration for life with Maria Rosa putting the ring on their finger as a sign of Christ's love and reciprocal faithfulness. The other sister renewed the Act of Consecration for another year and the President and the three Sisters then signed the document of Consecration. Those present burst into a spontaneous applause which echoed throughout the church.



After the Eucharistic celebration everyone was invited to the lavish “wedding” banquet which was prepared by Dora and her friends. Even the Archbishop and the priests happily joined in the banquet and the feast.

Spontaneously, we all heartily thanked the Lord, Saint Angela and all the persons who have helped us so that the seeds of the virginal plants sown among the thorns of the world may blossom even on this soil!

During the following days we visited the places where “our magnificent three” worked, lived and did their apostolic work!

On Saturday 23rd January, after hearing the pre festive mass that Fr. Francis celebrated for us, we left Dacca.

The Holy Spirit will certainly accompany our Bengali Sisters so that they will be faithful spouses of The Lord and witnesses of His Love and Pity among the brethren. In the same way, He will accompany the three Sisters from Singapore and Australia, whom we will be meeting in a few hours time. They are also waiting to say their “yes” to the Lord according to the way laid out by Saint Angela 475 years ago!

A real miracle!

*Luciella*

## FEAST OF CONSECRATION IN SINGAPORE

### Pioneers of The Company in Singapore

Thank God for the joy of recalling and remembering the lovely week that has just gone by, a week filled with beautiful memories of our time together (22nd July to the 29 th July 2010) I will always remember the blessings and graces poured down so generously and abundantly as we gathered in Singapore for the profession of vows in the Company of St.



Ursula. Our planning had started in our minds and in our hearts for many months. We had our difficulties to overcome, strategies to work out and many decisions to deliberate over and to make. At all times we were praying and seeking to do what the Holy Spirit was inspiring us. Through it all, we also realised that being pioneers of the Company here on this

little island and in Australia.

Ebba Fernandez made her Final Vows on a very special day., the conversion of St. Paul, 25th January 2010, at the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Thanks to the generosity of her Parish Priest and her fellow parishioners, the event was well organised and many people could join in the celebration at the weekday evening Mass. A few hundred people including a total number of 14 priests, religious brothers and sisters, family members and friends were all there to rejoice with me.

On a day of special importance to all the daughters of St. Angela, on the Feast of St. Angela Merici, 27 th January 2010, the two of us, Monica Vaughn and I, made our profession of vows. Monica Vaughn, hailing

from `Down Under` Australia, made her First Vows,. What a joy it is to have her with us in the French Company! May God use her as an instrument to bring forth more vocations for it is the Lord who will give us growth.

I made my Final Vows on the same evening in the Church of the Holy Spirit and the Parish Priest who had been journeying with us was the



main celebrant.

Concelebrating the Mass with Fr. Andrew were four other priests all of whom I had been associated through church work for several years. Our Mass was mainly for about a hundred invited guests. We thank God for the blessings showered upon us.

What about my own feelings?

Two words could be used to summarise it all: JOY and GRATITUDE. Joy kept welling from deep within the depths of my heart!

It is a joy only the Lord could give me, a real gift of the Holy Spirit. I was also most grateful for the support of all of us in the Federation for unity is a clear sign of God's presence.

Yes, how can I ever thank the Lord for what He has done? Yes, with St. Paul, I can truly say that all of us will be embarking on a new journey in Christ. It will be a journey to be undertaken in faith and trust. The Lord Jesus will be the Good Guide to lead us forth. He will be our sole delight, the joy of our heart, our only Treasure. We will fight the good fight. We will run the race, and thank God; we will not do this alone. We know that all of you, our sisters in the Secular Institute of St. Angela all over the world, will be united with us in spirit. We will pray for one another. United as one Company, we will give praise to Our Lord!

Thank you.

*Josephine Liow*

## The greatest joy of my life

Praise God for all the wonderful blessings and graces He has showered



on me. On Jan 25th 2010, I experienced the happiest day of my life, when I professed my final 'YES' to Our Lord's invitation before all my sisters of the Company, my family and relatives, and my parish community. It was truly a wondrous event, a joy that will stay with me till the end of my days. A very very big thank you, to Maria Razza, Genevieve Chambris and Helene de Beaure-

gard and all the sisters that came from Italy, France, Malta and Indonesia to lend their sisterly love and support, to strengthen me to stand before Our Lord.

*Ebba*

## Pioneer of The Company in Australia



It was a gift to meet, in Singapore, so many members of the Company as we gathered to celebrate the final profession of Josephine and Ebba. My own initial incorporation into the Company of St Ursula was a long-awaited joy for which I am infinitely grateful. I marvel at the Holy Spirit's weaving of the individual threads of our lives

into the one tapestry. United in Christ.

*Monica Vaughan*

## MESSICO... “Caminando se abre el camino...”

On our trip to Mexico, Fr. Giampaolo, Mirella and I could understand the real meaning of this Mexican proverb when we set out to meet Silvia and the Company of Trento.

Silvia's initial period of formation in our Company was coming to an end and as she often says, God willing, she will make her first Consecration in November.

I got to know Silvia during her two year period of formation through email, telephone calls, Skype and Mirella, who





was the only one among us familiar with the Spanish language and had met her two years earlier. I had longed to meet her and this longing grew stronger during the two year formation period.

After a day of “adjournment” we left Trento on the 11th April, strengthened by the well wishes, affection and prayers of all our Sisters. These, in turn, continued to remember us in their daily prayers. During Holy Communion we entrusted our trip to the Lord and were ready to accept all He had prepared for us.



Silvia was also longing to meet us and together with her mother, Maria Santos, she welcomed us warmly at Matamoros airport and treated us as family members. We were her house guests from the 13th to the 19th April and met many

members of her numerous family (sisters, brothers, nephews and nieces and others ...)

We prayed together every day and, as we had planned, studied parts of the Constitution in depth; exchanging our views and experiences was enriching to all. Very discretely and with keen interest, Silvia’s mother also took part in our meeting; this really proved to be a time of Grace! Our meeting with Fr. Josè Luis Cerra, the parish priest, and Fr. Francisco Nieto, the Episcopal Vicar for the Consecrated Way of Life in the diocese of Matamoros were providential as well as very intense. In the morning on the 19th April, after saying goodbye to Silvia and her mother, Fr. Giampaolo, Mirella and I left for Mexico City.

We were very grateful and moved by the experiences we had lived and shared together. We spent the afternoon in prayer at the church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we thanked Our Lady and entrusted Her

with the initial stages of a new Company in Mexico, we especially prayed for Silvia, for all our Sisters, relatives and friends.

On the 21st April, we arrived in Amatlan accompanied by Sister Josefina, an Ursuline of the Roman Union, who will be responsible for Silvia, during her formation period. In Amatlan, we met Martha, a young secondary school teacher who was on sick leave because of a broken wrist. She forms part of the group of the Associates to the Ursuline Sisters, is familiar with Saint Angela, desires to understand the meaning of our charism and that of Secular Institutes and often questions whether this may also be her way of life.

Very discretely and in simple words, we tried to explain to her the charism of our Institute and our way of life.

The little time we had went by quickly and, after briefly talking to her mother, her aunt and tasting the fruit we were offered, we took a few photos and said our goodbyes, promising to keep in touch by email.



We returned to Cuernavaca together with Sister Josefina and, on the way, discussed the development of the stages of the formation period so far and what steps to take in future. We decided to carry on as we had been doing so far and agreed that the personal contact made would be beneficial for future progress. We felt very happy to be able to serve the Lord as was asked of us; in a simple manner and by helping each other.

We got to Mexico City late in the evening and arrived in Italy the following day as the airlines had

resumed their flights over Europe after the disruptions caused by the volcanic ash. There is nothing left for us to do except to thank God for the marvellous experiences we had lived through in Mexico.

*Miriam Lucchi*

### **ETHIOPIA: 14th – 20th April 2010**



During these dates, the President and Kate were in Addis Ababa to meet the small group of six sisters in Ethiopia: they earnestly desire to live their consecrated life based on the Merician spirituality in this narrow piece of African land.

During these visits we pray together, we do formation sessions, we discuss problems and difficulties; we share joy and hope to meet the Sisters in their active life. Two Sisters have made their first Consecration; it was a moving and joyful event for all.



#### **This is what Maddalena, in the name of the group writes:**

*“We were glad that the President Maria Razza and Caterina Dalmasso came to visit us. Since they have arrived, their advice, teaching and dialogues have helped us understand how we can continue on our journey towards Christ. Their presence has strengthened our sense of be-*



*longing to the Company in the world On the 17th April 2010, Abba Ghebrewold Worku, Cistercian monk and Assistant to the Group, officiated a Eucharistic Celebration in the chapel of the Ursuline Sisters of Gandino in Addis Ababa. During this celebration, our Sisters Tecla and Degnesh made their first Consecration. It was*

*a festive occasion of great joy, prayer and unity.*

*The celebration was followed by a fraternal “agape” prepared by the nuns. We thank the Lord for this gift as well as the Mother Provincial and the Ursuline Sisters who have worked very hard to give us a beautiful feast.*

*We would like to thank all our Sisters, who live far away in different continents and who help us both financially and through their prayers. We pray that, through the intercession of our One Mother Saint Angela, we may become handmaids of love, in faithfulness and in joy, here where we are now”.*

*Maddalena*



**This is how the two newly consecrated express their joy:**

*“Since I was a child, I always longed to follow the Lord; now I am on the right path and I am very happy.*

*During the past days, the advice and formation sessions we were given taught us new things; now our one desire is to persevere to the end”.*



*Degnesh*

*“I am happier now because my wishes have been fulfilled. I am also happy because your presence increased our joy. Convey our regards to all our Sisters and let us remember one another in our prayers ...”.*

*Tecla*



## INCOMING MAIL

### From Brazil

Thank you for the networking. It is a very great grace to have Angeline sisters around the world. We consider ourselves very honored and fortunate to be part of this “most worthy” Company. Greetings and good wishes in Saint Angela. A big hug.

*Luisa, Brazil South*

### Company of Canada... thanks from HAITI

I’m well by the grace of God and of Saint Angela, whom I invoked during the earthquake that ravaged the country.

I was in Haiti, out in the street, at the time of the quake. I remained safe and healthy, and my family, too. We lost nothing. The Lord spared us during this tragedy which cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of Hatians and left nearly a half-million on the street. It is truly sad to see this, something that we could never have imagined.

I am in Haiti for the moment to do volunteer work and to support certain families emotionally. I expect to return to the USA when families have some stability.

I leave you, but I will give you more information when possible. Access



to the Internet is not easy since there is no electric power, but I will keep you informed about everything that happens.  
Together in prayer.

*Muguette Joazile*

### **From the USA**

I have received the first issue 2010 of IN THE SAME CHARISM with responsibility.

The reports of the many trips you undertake are a real proof of how earnestly you work to spread The Federation to every corner of the world. Thank you for your hard work and for the booklet, which seems to encourage us to engage ourselves in an international conversation with The Companies in different parts of the world.

With you in the Holy Spirit.

*Cabrini*

### **From Eritrea**

I have received the first issue of **“in the same charism with responsibility”** 2010 and the President’s circular. I thank you for your care and dedication. I am so grateful for all the hard work you do in order to send this booklet to all the Companies and groups; in this way it is possible I am also grateful to those sisters who give up all their time and energy to visit faraway places and to guide and encourage the new members who are joining our Secular Institute.

Above all I am grateful to the good Lord for allowing the seeds of Saint Angela’s charism to spread to all parts of the world and to allow us to grow so rapidly.

May God repay you with his abundant grace.

My heartfelt regards in Christ.

*Minnia Ammar*

### From Treviso

It has been my wish for a long time to thank and congratulate all of you, Members of The Federation for our booklet: *IN THE SAME CHARISM with responsibility*.

We are so happy because this booklet brings us the news of all our Sisters scattered in all parts of the world.

I understand that you work very hard and that you are highly motivated by your dedication and love. I follow you in all your trips and at times I long to be with you..... but I feel close to you through prayers and affection.

Mirza

### Prayer for Priests

Raise up, O Mother of the Divine Savior, priests animated by great charity toward their brother priests.

Help them to know how to support one another in the difficult trials of life and to encourage one another in committing themselves fundamentally and daily to the Kingdom of God.

Help them to know how to foster truly authentic community, like the first Christian community, and help the communities to know how to appreciate them, so that they may feel that they are “brothers among brothers.”

*“The brother helped by a brother  
is like a strong city.”*

M.T.



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