IN THE SAME CHARISM....

with responsibility



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

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TO THE READERS

...tell them that wherever they are they should give good example .

(Counsels addressed to the leaders 5, 13)

Wherever they are... Saint Angela's Daughters are called wherever they are, to educate to the good life of the Gospel, as was suggested in the Episcopal Document of the Italian Church for the decade 2010 – 2020, a document which was well explained by our Assistant, Mons. Adriano Tessarollo

Wherever they are... they should be open to the world as individuals and as a Company. The Consecrated Secular Institutes have members outside one isolated diocese and are made up of members coming from different parts of the world; they are therefore a means of communication between different particular churches and their being open to the world.

Wherever they are... If they pledge themselves to lead the paths of a good life living in the world with others, the squares of the town will find comfort and the cities will become nobler.

Wherever they are... They are solicited to help our formation as lay consecrated persons to become perfect. They are called to bind their spiritual maturity in belonging to the church, to a deep love and respect for the cities where men live, and to transmit their sense of hope in all that happens to others today.

Saint Angela wants us to be real "educators" wherever we are and whatever the situation, so that we will be able to give meaning to whatever happens in everyday life, because we are happy "spouses of

The Most High" and we are willing, out of charity and by bearing with great patience our daily trials, to transmit our happiness to other. All this is possible through Him who gives me strength.

They should give good example... Since formation, testimony and education cannot be separated in all that we do through our life; therefore all we undertake to do has an educational value.

They should give good example... As is suggested by the dedication to the readers, where inner renewal and coherent way of life are concerned, they have to renew themselves and others, with their examples, their sense of values and their good behaviour.....they will sparkle because Divine Love gives them joy and strength.

They should give good example... since they are on a spiritual journey, throughout their whole life, they should always be of a good example, because, educating a person is a long process which requires much patience. Time, courage and an aim in life, are the characteristics which help a person's character to slowly develop until he reaches maturity.

They should give good examples in this way: by being of good judgment, prudent, modest, reserved, moderate, obedient, spread peace and concord, humble, gentle, patient, charitable and be to all a good odour of virtue. ... (5th Counsel)

In this way, in this booklet, we find the reflections and the simple, humble testimonies of the Company spread all over the world, which is the very source of good example which educates and nourishes the good life of the Gospel.

Caterina Dalmasso

A THOUGHT FROM THE PRESIDENT AN AUTHENTIC RENEWAL

"Referring to one's origins preserves and nourishes the spiritual energies capable of always paving the way for an authentic renewal" (Const. 37.1).

In our last annual International Meeting, which represents a crucial update and analysis for all of us, Responsibles and Daughters, we chose to reflect on our lifestyle.

It seems useful and important for Companies and Groups to continue deepening the reflection and the debate on this track.

The comparison and reflection are not new as we have talked about it for years, but it is good to continue, convinced that the future will be fruitful if we can "let go" of our past history while being opened to the new.

We must be increasingly aware: each "part" of us concerns our lifestyle in work, in profession, in family, in the social environments in which we are engaged, in our relationships with neighbours and with every person we meet...

We are still called in these "places" to be prophetic, not outdated, not old, not sad, not resigned...

Everyone is attracted to what is fascinating, not by what is "outdated"...

Sometimes I have the impression that we are related to patterns and traditions that, over the years, have become less real... on a scale and superstructure that, instead of enhancing our Charism, perhaps make it unintelligible to the younger generations...

"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..." (Rc pr, 3-4).

The Holy Spirit comforts us with His suggestions, and supports our courage to implement what we have understood.

We need perseverance in our dialogue, listening to each other in order to decide together what is good to do, what changes are needed in our personal and Company life and then implement what we have shared and decided...

That's the way to witness and especially...it's the way to be faithful to our origins.

"In the life of the Foundress, in the Rule, the Memoirs and the Testament, inserted into the current historical context by the present Constitutions, we find the fundamental guide of our life..." (Const. 1.5).

The Constitutions are "the guarantee", in order to let the Rule, the Memories and the Testament be a proposal for a more desirable life.

I am sure that in all the Groups, the Companies and in each daughter there is the desire to bring to life, because it is satisfying, the Charism of which we are heirs...and we are increasingly fascinated by the gift we have received, that satisfies our desire to give ourselves to God and to fill our lives meaningfully, giving ourselves to service in joy and freedom.

Maria Razza



THE THOUGHT OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANT EDUCATING THE GOOD LIFE OF THE GOSPEL EPISCOPATE ITALIAN PASTORAL GUIDELINES FOR THE DECADE 2010-2020

Introduction

The Italian Episcopal Conference, keeping in mind the theme repeatedly reminded by Pope Benedict XV1 "Education" a problem of our time, has chosen the subject Education as the pastoral duty for the Italian Church for the next decade. For this reason, the bishops have drawn up their "PASTORAL GUIDELINES OF THE ITALIAN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE FOR THE DECADE 2010-2020: "EDU-



CATING THE GOOD LIFE OF THE GOSPEL".

The document throws a new light on the topic Education, a topic which was always very important in the spirituality and the Ursuline-Merician ecclesiastical duties.

It is very important today to promote the education of the new generation for the well being of society today and in the future. What is the contribution of the Church on such an important issue as the education of individuals and mankind as a whole?

The Second Vatican Council had already stated in the introduction on the "Declaration on Christian Education" that "the sacred Ecumenical Council has considered with care how extremely important education is in the life of man and how its influence ever grows in the social progress of this age".

Even the meeting of the Italian Church recently held in Verona stres-

sed the importance of the same topic. The bishops emphasised the need for education to draw up formative guidelines for our times, so essential for every human being, especially adults

Our current cultural background seems to be characterized by lack of hope and a continuous crisis of trust in life. It seems as though there is nothing to guide us to find the real joy we all long for. Christian education should stimulate us to find this hope in the Resurrection of Christ, a hope which will instil trust in mankind and enhance our ability to love.

Teaching must be an act of love which helps regenerate in all a new form of love and hope. This will help us all to become aware of the joy that is transmitted through hope, especially in times of crises, poverty and violence which seem to threaten the lives of many; situations which undermine the joy that hope creates as well as overshadowing the prospect of experiencing love.

In times of crisis, the Church always had exemplary male and female models who acted according to the needs and the requirements of the situations that arose. Saint Angela was one of these figures.

Education was never an easy task and today, it seems that parents and educators are finding it even more difficult, so much so that they seem to abdicate such a responsibility. This is the meaning of "emergency education". But we must not give up. On the contrary, today we need more courageous and willing people who, sustained by their faith in Christ, are ready to lead their lives in such a way as to reflect the educational guidelines they themselves propose. Christ was acknowledged not only as a "Master" of the "doctrine" but as a "Teacher" and a model for the way of living; a great educator in love and respect for the men of His times, by challenging the customs of the times He lived in. It is by keeping all this in mind that we can understand the Guidelines. Let us look briefly at the main points.

<u>Introduction:</u> The theme Education was chosen for three main reasons: a) so that we will be <u>faithful to the mission</u> of Christ the Teacher, b) to

urge the Christian community towards a <u>renewal</u> in the educational system, c) to find a trustworthy <u>sense of hope</u> when facing the difficulties of our times. As an introduction to each of the five chapters that follow we find a biblical icon representing Christ, The Master.

Ch.1. EDUCATING IN A CHANGING WORLD: In this chapter we read about cultural and social situations; however, one must have prior, objective knowledge of the actual problems impinging on the education system today and the manner in which to address them.

Ch. 2. JESUS THE TEACHER: This chapter deals with the theological - biblical, ecclesiastic and spiritual aspects. In her teachings, the church follows the example of Christ, the Teacher of truth and the giver of life, whose mission was to bring salvation to the world. So educating is the most important mission of the church and the ultimate aim of Christian education is the formation of the person's character according to the Holy Spirit.

Ch.3. EDUCATING THE PATH OF RELATIONSHIPS AND

TRUST: This chapter deals with the pedagogic aspect; education is a meeting where a teacher student trustworthy relationship is built. In order to become an educator and be at the same time a disciple of Christ, one has first of all to learn to be a real disciple. It is only in this way that this educational relationship becomes real: here we are all invited to become disciples of the Lord **in** the same manner **as** the apostles, they were first called and then educated. From the <u>human</u>, spiritual



and pedagogic aspects, what are the characteristics of the educational system today? What are the requirements and expectations that make

a good educator? Here, special attention needs to be given to the teacher as well as to the adolescents.

Ch. 4. THE CHURCH AS AN EDUCATING COMMUNITY: This chapter deals with the wide aspect of pastoral care while touching on the anthropological and cultural characteristics. Today there is a pressing need for unity so that all those involved in education will work in harmony to promote real education. It is only if there is strict inter-relationship between the resources available and educational aims that we can find the right answers for the new generation. This is the widest part in the suggested educational path to be followed, where one meets <u>all those concerned with the educational development</u>; the family, the parish, the school and university, media and society.

Ch. 5. ALTERNATIVES FOR PASTORAL GUIDELINES: The final chapter offers a few points concerning the <u>alternatives for pastoral guidelines</u> which the Italian church and individual churches can choose for their programme for the next ten years.

WE PUT OUR TRUST IN THE GUIDANCE OF OUR MOTHER

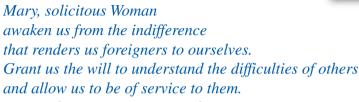
MARY: Mary Our Mother is our guide in the educational development for the next ten years. Mary was the disciple of the Lord; she "received" Her inward education for life from the Word. She answered to God's will by giving Herself totally, freely and courageously: "Here is the handmaid of the Lord". With the help of Joseph, She educated and sustained the infant Jesus, leading Him to grow up, become learned and full of grace. With His family, the Son of God learnt to receive and give love and together with His family, learnt to be a part of the community of Nazareth. The church will learn from Mary to be a disciple and a mother.

The prayer to Mary brings the document to an end.

Mary, Virgin of silence, do not allow that in front of the challenges of the present

our existence is suffocated by resignation or impotence.

Grant us the ability to listen, a womb in which the word becomes productive, and help us to understand that nothing is impossible with God.



Free us from our passive moods that our actions may follow the examples of Christ, Our Only Master. Mary, sorrowful mother, who,

after becoming familiar with the way God, the Child of Bethlehem, was humbled, had to suffer the heart breaking pain of holding His tortured Body in Your arms, give us the strength to await with hope for the Pascal dawn, which dries up our tears of pain.

Mary, you who respected life,

keep the new generations from sadness and indifference.

Let the change in them be to us a reminder of a life that from its very moment of existence is entrusted to us as a precious gift

+ Adriano Tessarollo



FROM THE RULE OF SAINT ANGELA MERICI A few points for reflection....

ON FASTING Ch. IV 4-9

In the 2nd issue of our booklet for 2010 we had started to discuss the first 3 verses of the Chapter about fasting and we had taken the examples from the lives of saints, especially that of Saint Angela Merici.

Now, in the next 6 verses of the chapter on fasting, we read that Saint Angela, to urge us to adapt

to a style of life which is constant and faithful with regards to the act of penance, quotes events from the life of Jesus Christ and the teaching of the church

We have the examples of the saints ... ⁴ and above all, the life of Jesus Christ, the only way to heaven.

In the gospel of Saint Matthew, we read that Jesus was lead by the spirit into the wilderness in order to be tempted, and He fasted 40 days and 40 nights and afterwards He was hungry... (Mt 4, 1-11)

Since He is our way, then the example on fasting is clear.

We are also invited by the church...

⁵This is why the Holy Mother Church proclaims all this, explicitly in the ears of all the faithful when she speaks thus to God... Oh God You, who through bodily fasting curb the vices, lift the mind, give virtue and rewards...

This is what the church tells us in the fifth precept: The fifth precept: You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence "en-

sures the times of ascesis and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts; they help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart". (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2043)

Fasting is **obligatory even** in the case of blood tests, special diets and various health reasons. There is also a **necessary** form of fasting to help us understand the concept of God, the Father. We need to fast in order to detach ourselves from worldly things, to understand that these are not enough to fully satisfy us, to become less egoistic, more holy and able to accept spiritual values.

Fasting helps us to control our attitudes and sins, predisposing us for a meeting and a dialogue with the Lord; thus also preparing us for prayer and helping us to welcome salvation as God's gift.

It is the foundation of our spiritual life...

... ⁶for, as gluttony was the origin of all our ills, so it is fitting that fasting and abstinence be the source and means of all our spiritual good and profit.

I do not fast for the things I renounce.

I want to cling not to the gifts of God, but to God who donates every gift, the Lord of all and everything.

One can, therefore, give up some of these gifts to live the life of the risen; if you have risen with Christ, look for the heavenly things and not the earthly ones.

It is the Lord's invitation.....

⁷That is why the holy canonist says... it was commanded by the Lord God and the transgression of the law is induced by the devil.

"When you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret..." (Mt 6,17-18)

It is necessary to keep this invitation in mind and, even more important, not to be influenced by others who want to destroy it.

In the previous chapter, Saint Angela herself recommends: "Or want to prevent them from fasting or prayer or confession or any kind of good, they should immediately refer the matter to the lady- governors of The Company so that they may see to it ... (Rule 3, 9-10). And we read furthermore: "Be on your guard, lest confessor, or some other religious, turn them away from some good inspiration, or from fasting or from the firm purpose of virginity or from esteem for this Holy Rule divenly ordained or other similar good things". (7th Counsel, 6-10)

Fasting does not mean eating little or poorly because of carelessness or bad habits and lack of will and time to prepare the food.

We are not sad or gloomy; on the contrary, we feel like queens enjoying every day as if it were a feast day with our groom. But let us keep in mind that in order to accept the invitation to the wedding, we must be prepared to give up many things so that the feast will be a success.

Let us pray, as the Church prays on Ash Wednesday:

"O Let us pray for the grace to keep Lent faithfully, Lord protect us in our struggle against evil as we begin the discipline of Lent, make this day holy by our self denial".

Fasting becomes part of the way we live... on special occasions ⁸For this reason we exhort each one to fast especially on these days of the year...

The word **especially** shows that Saint Angela would have liked her Daughters to make fasting a regular pattern in their lives. Fasting was considered very important in attaining Merician spirituality and when one looks at the number of fasting days and times Saint Angela indicated, the word especially seems to produce the desired effect. She urges fasting throughout the whole liturgical year.

The Bishops of the Episcopal Conference are of the same opinion; they make fasting a regular habit in the Christian personal and community life and, once again, they insist that in practising fasting and abstinence, the Church is accepting Christ's invitation to the disciples to trust completely in God's Divine Providence without worrying unduly about food. Life is worth more that food and the body more than clothes. Seek the kingdom of God and they will also be given to you.

In obedience to the Church

⁸...First.... all those (days) recommended by the Holy Mother Church, that is the whole of Lent, the Ember Days and the Vigils of obligation.
⁹ Then: the whole of Advent...

Before dictating her wishes, Saint Angela expects her Daughters to respect and obey the Church and fast on the days indicated. These particular times and days are chosen by the Church in the course of the Liturgical Year because they are closer to the Pascal Mystery of Christ and are demanded in order to satisfy the needs of the Ecclesiastical Community.

The 1994 Episcopal Conference's Pastoral Note outlines the following with regards to fasting and penance:

"While fasting during the Easter Triduum is an expression of the participation of the Christian community in the mystery of Christ's death, that of the beginning of Lent is directed towards the confession of sins, imploration of forgiveness and the strong desire to personal conversion. These are equally appropriate and significant for the penitential practices during all the other Fridays of the year in the daily Christian life which remind us of Good Friday and as a weekly preparation for Sunday "the weekly Pascal celebration".

Kate

To be continued

CELEBRATION OF THE 475th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE COMPANY OF SAINT URSOLA

A historic meeting in Brescia between the 25th – 28th November 2010

The female contribution towards the needs of the Bourgeois era;

The rebirth of the Companies and the Ursuline Religious Institutes between the 19th and early 20th centuries

> Excerpts from the welcoming speech by Mons. Luciano Monari, Bishop of Brescia 25th November 2010

I think that, for an institution, 475 years of existence are quite long; on the other hand, they are evidently a sign that Saint Angela had the foresight and spiritual intelligence to act at the right time of her life. She was very much aware of the needs, the demands and the expectations of the society she formed part of and came up with an adequate and productive answer.

Not only that; if the Company of Saint Angela withstood the passing of centuries, this meant that not only did Saint Angela act with spiritual intelligence but that, over the years, there were many sisters in the Company who were capable of regenerating and living the original intuition, in line with the needs and expectations of the people despite the changing times.

It is very interesting to look at all this from the historic point of view, because it is very enriching and educational to be able to follow the ways and trace the basic foundations which Saint Angela foresaw during her



time and which were kept alive up to our time. Somehow, this broadens our views and allows us to look out for new perspectives.

As a bishop, i believe that the real problem lies in being able to live whilst addressing in an innovative manner the situations we find ourselves in.

Saint Angela acted as befitted her times, now it is our turn to face and solve the problems of our society in the same way.

We have to find a way of showing our Christian faith even in this modern world we are living in.

What I wish for is that, while looking back at the past centuries and remembering the foresight and intuition of Saint Angela and her followers, we will allow the Lord to help us understand His divine will and come up with genuine and adequate answers.

I am glad that we are seriously reflecting on the past 475 years since The Company was founded, on its contribution to the world since then and Saint Angela's divine insight. My wish for you is that, by keeping all this in mind, past events will lead you to live the present and be productive in the future as much as Saint Angela, who was able to understand the real needs of the society of her times.

Who would benefit if all this were to happen? You, The Company of Saint Angela, who will learn to live the present, but, above all, the church because we thirst for such testimony....

Excerpts from the concluding speech of the Meeting by Sister Claudia Cavallaro Co-President C.I.M.

After having remembered the times that followed our acceptance of the fusion of the Ursuline ideal with all its biodiversity in our world, a world which at times remained static and unmoveable, and at others was open to change; I will point out a few important Merician accepted rules without which, we could not put forward these pertinent questions:

1. Angela – and therefore all her followers – offered us a **prophecy for the feminine gender.** It is the gift of producing a new life, a long lasting spiritual maternity, which is the result of one particular lifestyle, that of being "guardians of the spouses of the Most High" (Prologue Counsels addressed to the leaders)...;



- 2. **The ability to understand** the times she was living in according to a woman's intuition and act according to its needs, as "the Holy Spirit suggests to you";
- 3. The prophecy of a **liberating** consecrated virginity, a feminine genealogy, a sense of unity and harmony which fit Angela's character to perfection and are characteristics which have been adopted by her Daughters up to the present time.

Having said all this, this is what I question; what is to be done now to help rebuild the present?

- How can biodiversity, which embellishes the Merician charism, help to keep us always aware of what we have already attained and that

- which we still have to work for; the "saeculum" and "escaton", of the consecrated way of life?
- How can we protect this charism, if caring for a gift does not mean making sure that it will never be forgotten, will last till the end of time and does not belong to anyone in particular but is a gift to the whole church and entrusted to the Companies and Institutes in order to be lived and bear fruit?
- How can we become part of the present, when the Church asks us to AP-PRAISE TIME as can be read in the



first chapter "Educating the changing world"? (Organisation CEI Educating through the good examples of the Gospels)

While thanking the Lord for this special event in the church, and for the wealth of goodness we have given each other, I also wish to thank those who have planned, organized and arranged in advance all that was necessary for this meeting, the Centre of Studies, Professor Belotti, the Company of Saint Angela, Bishop Monari, the bishop Emeritus, the civil authorities and all of us here or far away.

Today we have been enriched and bonded in spirituality and even if few in number, we represent all that makes our Merician vocation a particular one.

475th Anniversary Sanctuary of Saint Angela Merici Eucharistic Celebration - 28th November 2010

A few points from the homily by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re



During this mass which brings our meeting to an end, we clearly remember an important date, when 475 years ago, Saint Angela Merici founded the Company of Saint Ursula here in Brescia. She was accompanied by a group of good young women, who urged on by the example of Angela Merici, pledged to live a steadfast spiritual life based on the examples from the gospels but lived in the world with their families.

The original idea and, I must admit, a very modern and surprising one for its

time, was a form of consecration to the Lord for women, who, while leading a normal everyday life, were also the salt, the light and the yeast of the society they formed part of.

During that time, women were only offered two lifestyles; they could either choose to get married or enter the convent, protected inside the walls of a cloister, wearing a habit and following the rules and programmes of the particular religious order they belonged to.

Angela Merici created a third pattern or lifestyle: that of a lay consecrated life to God outside the convent, leading a free autonomous life in her own house and carrying on with her work. She formed part of the family and society and wore no habit which made her different from the other women.

Showing great insight, Saint Angela chose a style of life which was full of spiritual values for women who chose to live a normal life in the world. She had understood that holiness was not a gift reserved only for those who lived in a convent, but for all the faithful, all the laity, all the chosen people of God.

It was Angela's wish that Christian women could inspirit the human and social existence, helping it to be better in the eyes of the Lord without having conventional code or conduct of behaviour or wearing a habit. When we look at things in this way (and we must keep in mind that all this happened 475 years ago), Saint Angela must surely have been a very important figure, because through divine insight, she managed to understand the needs of the society she lived in. Her love of God made her see things differently and for this reason she loved all that existed during her time.

But there is more; centuries ago Angela foresaw religious and humane



solutions, which were only approved for other institutes a century ago. In fact, it was only during the Pontificate of Pope Pius X11 that secular institutes were officially approved and before that we find only one historic precedent which was formed by Angela Merici's intelligence and kindness.

When Pope Paul VI greeted the Company of Saint Angela on the 27th August 1966, he told them, "...you have a characteristic which the other secular institutes, approved by the church, cannot boast of having.....you are the oldest secular institution of all and your constitutions were adopted by the church

centuries later". Angela is therefore the forerunner and pioneer of that spiritual movement which in the every day running of the church is found in secular institutes.

Soon, the idea and teachings of Angela Merici spread to all parts of Italy and the world. There are many institutes in the world that are constituted on



the Merician charism; some are secular, others religious, but they are all inspired by the same charism of Saint Angela and are doing a wealth of good in different places and on different matters.

Angela Merici's genial insight achieved success because she was a good organizer and listener, gentle and courteous in giving advice, but the secret of her success lay in her infinite love of God and constant prayer. The word God to her was not an abstract idea. In God she found her fulfilment...

Even today Angela Merici has a lot to teach us.

It is of utmost importance that today we bring God back into the world and include Him in all we do, we must help the people to find their way back to God. Today people are faced with many economic, educational, social and ecological problems; but unless we make God the centre of our lives, we cannot find the right solution for them. Without God we tend to lose the sense of values and find ourselves at a loss where personal gain is concerned. Without God, our life and behaviour have no meaning.

Saint Angela, who belonged wholly to God, will help us find the real meaning of God in our lives.

BURUNDIA Meeting with our Bene Angela Sisters

Our trip to Burundi, together with the President and Maria V. lasted 12 days, from the 11th to the 23rd August. I would like to share with you a few ideas and opinions that we exchanged during our special meeting with our Sisters.

On the 14th, the vigil of the Assumption, we finally reached Gitega and met Natalie, Odetta and some other Sisters in "Saint Angela House", their home.

Our guardian Angel, Fr. Modesto, was always available to show us the way and to act as a translator, while our President drove the 4x4.

After lunch, we travelled to Mugera together with Natalie taking most of our luggage with us.

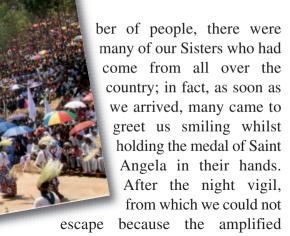
The other Sisters from the group of Gitega, followed on foot, except for a few, who hired a bicycle for a short distance.

We met many people on the way who were going for the solemn cele-

bration of the Assumption.



Going uphill and looking at the slope in the direction of the Seminary of Mugera, one could see what looked like a multi coloured stream, moving up to the source instead of going downhill to the valley. We knew that among the large num-



sound of the prayers and hymns echoed through the valley, we heard the solemn mass which was celebrated in the beauti-

ful amphitheatre which was packed with people singing hymns and dancing. Our innumerable Bene Angela Sisters were lost among the crowd. Afterwards, we had two meetings, one with the Council of the Bene Angela and another with those who wanted to take the first steps which would lead them to join the Federation.

Early in the morning of the 16th, all those who wanted to take part in the Spiritual Exercises were gathered in the chapel of the seminary of Mugera. We also said the vespers and heard mass which was celebrated by Fr. Joe, the assistant, Fr. Bosco who led the Spiritual Exercises and Fr. Modesto. The meeting took place there immediately after Mass, our President addressed the meeting on Consecrated Secularity and the Charism of The Company. It was in the same place that we bid each other goodbye and I must say, it was quite moving.

I now realize how edifying it was to hear their individual prayers during the assembly. I was moved by the serenity and simplicity and I believe I also enjoyed being in close contact with the Sisters of other countries who follow in the footsteps of Saint Angela just like we do.

What struck me most was what Fr. Modesto explained to me later. The

"poor and young women" are overjoyed at the thought that their vocation was not "a fanatic or exaggerated" wish brought along by a priest 50 years ago and which was painstakingly developing, but a project designed by God, who "raises the humble" like He did with Our Lady.

I really believe that our travelling abroad and meeting with the Bene Angela Sisters is a real universal mission for very simple people who, through the grace of God, can transmit to others graces and other favours which are the fruits of the tree whose roots were planted by Saint Angela long ago and are still alive today.

Thanks be to God.



Mariarosa Duchi

The ways of the Lord take us to far away places.....

Together with Maria Razza and Maria Rosa I attended the meeting with the group of the Bene Angela Sisters in Burundi. The main objective of the meeting was to get to know better and to share the joy of the Sisters who asked to form part of our Institute.

Yes, I can say with certainty that the ways of the Lord take us where we never thought, would have liked or dreamt of being. When you visit far away places, make new friends, find yourself in different situations and meet with new experiences, which uproot you from your protected environment you learn to rely upon the providential care of a God who is also a Father.



Burundi is situated in the region of great lakes in the heart of Africa. It has an area of 27 834 kilometres and stretches for 150 kilometres on

nvika. A chain of mountains runs along from

north to south becoming rounded hills as they reach the plain; it is called the country of a thousand green hills. 60% of the population is catholic and during the past decades an ethnic war has put the population and the church through a harsh ordeal.

Notwithstanding the insecure and oppressive

environment, there are many religious and lay vocations in that country. What an edifying experience it was to hear Fr. Bosco Wakana's speech. During the war he was a seminarist and shaken by what was happening and the hopeless situation of his countrymen, he was thinking



of ending his studies. After meeting a group of girls who were working in the parish (now the Bene Angela Sisters), he changed his mind. Now, he is the Spiritual Director and promoter of the Bene Angela group and together with Fr. Joseph, guides them in their vocation.

We glorify and thank the Lord for the wonderful things He does, anytime, anywhere!

Maria Viliotti



1860 - 2010 150th Anniversry of The Company in Torino

Happy Birthday!

On Saturday 18th September we celebrated in style. The members of the two Sister Companies of Turin and Cuneo were present together with the

Ecclesiastical Assistant of The Council of the Federation, Mons. Adriano Tessarollo.

One cannot help noticing that the joy of the visitor matches that of the person who is waiting to meet the visitor. If it were not so, the words of Saint Angela: united together all of one heart and one would be meaningless.

We met to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of The Company in Turin and it was fitting to recall Christ's words when He took leave of His disciples, since His words are an important message: that they may be one in Me. In Him, with Him, for Him!



Angela keeps reminding us this very often in The Rule, The Counsels and The Legacies to help us understand that we do not strive only to save ourselves but that we must work hard to save others because salvation unites all of mankind.

It is our duty then to pray, be humble and faithful and to accomplish what the Lord asks us.

During the meeting in Turin, we had time for reflection, an experience of fraternal love as well as to socialise during an excellent meal prepared by our sisters.

Our thanks to The Company of Turin and we will do our best to reciprocate in Cuneo in 2016.

Today, our Company is only 145 years old



Carla Anversa- Comp. di Cuneo

"On this 150th Anniversary we ask the Lord to help us remain faithful to Him today, and to be able to renew our faith and hope.

Let us look ahead in hope that the Lord's goodness will be accomplished in us..."

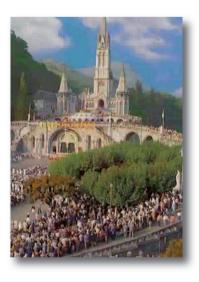
Mons. Adriano Tessarollo

AN ARDENT LOVE FOR GOD AN ARDENT LOVE FOR THE WORLD

European Pilgrimage of the Secular Institutes to Lourdes 15th - 17th October 2010

Thanks to the invitation of Michelle Langlois, it was possible for me to visit Lourdes between the 15th and the 17th October, on the occasion of the first European pilgrimage of the Secular Institutes to Lourdes; a place which inspires spirituality.

There were many of us, a delegation representing 40 Secular Institutes from 12 different countries; Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Luxemburg, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. There were 32 Italians, 8 Daughters of Saint Angela, 6 of whom were from the French Company: Michelle, Geneviève, Vi-



viane, Jeanne, Pascaline of Congolese origin who lives in France and Josephine also of Congolese origin but who lives in Belgium and two Italians, Tonina and the undersigned.

The National Conference of the French Secular Institutes (CNISF) and the CMIS organized a well planned meeting which gave us the opportunity of living an ecclesiastic experience. Bishops, representatives of the French consecrated life, priests and nuns, members of the National Vocational Centre were present and we were greeted by Mons. Perrier, the Bishop of Lourdes. The topic "An ardent love for God an ardent love for the world" was very interesting.

During the meeting, which was also attended by a Bishop and a member of the CMIS, we heard the beautiful testimonies of a French engineer, an Italian gynaecologist, a trade unionist, a secretary, a nurse and other persons; and all this to emphasize the importance of secular vocation!

Although we had different cultural, geographic and linguistic backgrounds, we shared a common enthusiasm. We spoke different languages, but understood a common language which urged us to give ourselves to God and to our brethren, to work for the coming of the Kingdom of God and to lead a life dedicated to "the glory of God and the salvation of mankind." In a country like England, at times it is not easy to lead a secular life especially since there are very few members; but, in such meetings we find respect and make new friends and thus it is still possible to be enriched by the experiences and cultural differences of others.

We experienced the joy of living our vocation in the world; we lived the experience of being pilgrims, of reciting the rosary, of the Eucharistic celebration in the grotto and the procession of "aux flambeaux".

It was an experience that is worth repeating, an occasion like many others offered by the Conference of the Secular Institutes that is not to be missed, whether it is a local, national or international meeting. These meetings give us the opportunity to widen our views, renew our acts of faith and compare the different environments we live in, which, in reality, are very similar! Our warmest thanks go to the CNISF and the French Company for their usual, extraordinary hospitality!

Gianna

Who was aware that the European Secular Institutes were having a meeting?

It will be very difficult for me to gie you all the details about the pilgrimage. I will touch on a few aspects of our talks and the reports of the members of the Secular Institutes, without forgetting the support and encouragement of the bishops who were present for the meeting and the rector of the sanctuary.

The reports

A French engineer, a member of the Secular Institute reminded us that God allows us to be His witnesses in the different places we find ourselves in. He is very fond of his job and thanks to his being a secular consescrated person, He can practice the evangelic



counsels with ease; chastity allows him to love as Christ did, obedience helps him to consent to God's will and poverty puts him on his guard against excessive gain.

A gynaecologist, an Italian secular consecrated person, spoke about her conversations with people who find it difficult to live the true values of Chrisian life. Through her work, she finds the opportunity to draw closer to Christ together with many different people.

Another Italian secular consecrated person, a tradeunionist, spoke about the support given to workers, when they fight for their rights; recognizing the legal rights which are practically denied to them.

A teacher explained that in the life of a consecrated person and as a member of the Secular Institute, poverty has nothing to do with outward appearance. In order to be faithful to this promise, she had to learn; to give up all of herself, her time and her belongings because she owns nothing and everything belongs to God.

A priest, a member of the Secular Institute, explained in depth the specific characterists of priests in Secular Institutes. Since we all live in the world we are also faced with the contradictions that arise, but we are aware that our threat to salvation is Satan, not the world around us.

An African lady living in Belgium, told us that her experiences in life led her to believe that God, in His infinite justice, is merciful so she has learnt to be merciful and gentle

An English consecrated person reminded us of the episode of Jesus and the marriage of Cana. "Do all He tells you." If you are faithful to the mission you are called for, remember that the call is very demanding, you have to be immediately aware of the change of our times and as members of the family of he institute be ways ready to act quickly for the success of universal justice.

Future Events

The next CMIS world congress will take place in Assisi in July 2012. Since the first meeting of the European Secular Institutes was a success, we are thinking of holding such a meeting every four years, instead of the CMIS meeting which happens to fall on that year. The website is being updated so we can soon give more information about our Company.

Conclusion

Attending the meeting was a rewarding experience and I am very thankful to Michelle of the French Company who, during the meeting of the Council of the Federation, made me aware of the importance of this meeting and helped me decide to attend. I have lived and shared the experiences of others who, while living in the world today and trying to find the ways and means which modern times offer, put their trust only in God. I have also lived through a strong spiritual experience with Our Lady and Saint Bernadette.



Finally, I had the opportunity to meet and share positive ideas with many members of the Secular Institutes, leading to mutual enrichment. Above all, I was overjoyed to meet the Sisters of the French Company and Gianna from Italy.

Antonia Rocca

FROM THE COMPANIES AND THE GROUPS ITALY

Syracuse... a new beginning

The Federation Council ...will be available... to help the Companies upon their specific requests to resolve possible difficulties... This is what is written in our Constitutions (ref. 32.3) and they are not meaningless phrases but words which reflect an innovative way of life.

The Company of Syracuse found itself in grave difficulties because

of an unfortunate series of events; these include the passing away of Sisters and Leaders, illness and old age, the closing down of Institutions, problems regarding immovable property and a limited number of members.

There is only one Institute and this is made up of diocesan and inter-diocesan Companies, which are uni-



ted under one and the same charism.

It is the duty of the Council of The Federation to follow the new members who join the Company in all parts of the world; they are also duty bound to care of and make sure that every Sister remains faithful to the spirit of the Merician Institution and renewing herself.

For this reason, the President, Filippa and Kate visited Syracuse to meet the Sisters and to familiarise themselves with the current situations problems and resources.

Discussing and reasoning out things on a spiritual level, we could cheer up and console each other and I must admit, it did us all a world of good... Once again, we lived an experience which showed us to live our vocation in any situation and that *in fidelity to the Spirit proper to a Merician Institution* it is always possible to start afresh and ardently enkindle once again, even The Company.

On the 19th October, the small assembly of The Company met in Ida's house. Ida, the oldest of our Sisters, is respected by all for her venerable age, wisdom, faith, spirituality and her invaluable help to The Company. She



was accompanied by her closest friend Enzina. In the presence of the Ecclesiastical Assistant, the new directress, the Vice and her Council were elected.

Everything was carried out in accordance with regulations and a serene and calm atmosphere hoping to promote renewal and new ways of living.

It was as though a miracle happened; but, after all, one of our strengths is unity and unity can make miracles happen. It is however necessary to be strong in unity and to start afresh whole heartedly.

Congratulations dear Elena – Directress; Lucia – Vice; Carmela and Maria – councillors and all the Sisters.

Now, closely united among yourselves and with all the Federation, carry on with your journey and collaborate with the other Sicilian Companies at the Merician meetings, consult one another, express your opinion but feel closely united in respect and love for one another and in prayer.

I thank you, your thoughtful Assistant and the rest of the Company for your help, friendship, hospitality and your great desire of goodness. Saint Angela hugs you warmly in her Motherly embrace.

Kate

Scicli (Rg): Inter Diocesan Meetings of Companies

Delving into the theme "closely united" which was highly recommen-

ded by Saint Angela. Our dear President Maria Rosa and Kate, out of wanting to be of service for The Companies, flew to Sicily for a direct meeting with the Companies of Syracuse and Noto, which took place between Monday 18th and Thursday 21st October 2010. On this occasion, the Company of Ragusa joined the other Companies at Scicli on the 20th thus satisfying the longing they had for a long time for such

to, and as see

a congregation.

It was a warm reunion; where one could experience a sense of deep spi-

ritual and humane well being, characteristic of our being all Sisters. Once again, we became aware of the real meaning of being "closely united" because our unity urges us towards the real heavenly goal of our Christian vocation and strengthens us to strive harder for reciprocal holiness.

It is very important that we are always ready to

act as Consecrated persons in the Church and for the Church, fully aware that even though our presence is hardly felt, yet, it is a learned testimony, because love unites us closely to "Our Beloved".

For this reason let us relinquish our misgivings and infidelity to



"Love" and like the woman suffering from a haemorrhage in the Gospel, let us make an effort and not remain passive as part of the crowd, but touch Christ because we know for sure that we will be cured. Above all, let us allow Him to "touch" us because His touch gives us the strength to face the difficulties we meet with in life and sows courage, enthusiasm, faith and love instead.

We heartily thank Maria Rosa and Kate, because they are always available to support us and with their fresh and genuine ideas, they are examples of a faith that is generously welcoming and gives freely in return.

Maria Zisa

SOUTH BRAZIL

An interview with Maria Helena De Paula on the day of her first consecration in **The Company of South Brazil**

Maria Helena De Paula has celebrated her first consecration in the Company of Saint Ursula's Secular Institute of Saint Angela Merici during a mass which was celebrated by Don Givaldo Modesto dos Santos on the 25th March 2010.

Nicole Jeandot and Luisa Monteiro were present besides relatives and a large number of friends.

When she was interviewed for our booklet "In the same charism with responsibility" Maria Helena spoke about her vocation.



1) Tell us something about your family, your childhood and your vocational choice.

Maria Helena: - I was born in Penedo and I have lived here all my life. Since childhood, I used to go to Mass, to recite the Rosary and take part in the activities held in the parish together with my maternal grandparents who are also my godparents. In this parish, I received my first

Holy Communion and was confirmed at the age of 15.

I studied at the Patronage of the Fathers of the Holy Society of Saint Gaetan, who at that time were in Penedo. At a relatively early age, I started working as a secretary on a farm in Penedo but which has since moved to Resende. I worked part time, in order to be able to look after my mother who is sick.

I felt I was called to lead a consecrated life as early as 1990, when I used to attend meetings of biblical studies called "Light to brighten up my pathway". I attended spiritual exercises at Cruzeiro (San Paolo) in 1991 and 1992 and the group meetings "Ruah di Dio" at Resende between 1993 and 2002.



2) How did you end up belonging to the Institute of Saint Angela Merici? Maria Helena: - I was invited by Luisa and, after that experience, I asked to be admitted to the Institute of Suzano (San Paolo). Since 2006 we studied the life and spirituality of Saint Angela in weekly meetings at Luisa's house or in church. Nicole, a missionary, sent us the printed material about the Institute and besides, we also read "In the same charism with responsibility".

To become a member of the Institute means to lead a prudent, vigilant and prayerful life.

3) What are your plans for the future?

Maria Helena: - During the next two years, I will try to put into practice the Rule and The Constitutions, I will bind myself to be watchful and to pray because the enemy is always ready to overcome us and is never quiescent! The next step in my journey will last for three years. I long to keep my candle of faith well lit in order to reach my goal. I believe that Jesus Christ is always besides me offering me help. I ask all of you to pray for me that I may persevere to the end.

Luisa- Compagnia del Sud - Brasile

THE COMPANY OF CANADA

The anniversary of Ms. Jacqueline Morin, o.s. Local foundress of The Company of Saint Angela Merici in Canada

This year Jacqueline Morin has celebrated her 60th anniversary of consecration. According to her wishes, it was a very quiet celebration which was held in Toronto on the 12th June 2010 during the annual meeting; only about 15 members of the Institute and the Ecclesiastical Assistant Father Claude Mayer, o.m.i. were present.

On this occasion, we asked Josephine to sum up in a few words the highlights of her long busy journey as one of the founding members of the Institute. Without hesitation, Jacqueline listed the most important events in her life, comparing them to important events in the church.

- She was born on the 17th May 1925, the same day of the canonisation of Saint Theresa; it was the year of the Jubilee.
- The occasion of her solemn profession as an Ursuline in Rimouski was in 1950; the year of the Jubilee.
- In 1966 she made her Consecreation in the Company of Saint Ursula, while the church was celebrating the year dedicated to the Faith.
- In 1975 she celebrated her silver jubilee. It was again the year of the Jubilee.
- In 2000, she celebrated her 50th anniversary of profession during the great year of the Jubilee which started the 3rd Millennium.
- Her 60th anniversary this year is closely tied to an important event in the history of the diocesan church of Quebec because Cardinal Marc Ouellet was called to Rome and the event was followed by the enthronement of his successor.

If we look closely at the most important stages compared above, we can see that:

- 1. She considers all the events in the mission she was called for as "acts of holiness"
- 2. We can see that her vocation is a call for sanctity It is striking that all the important events in Jacqueline's life happened to fall on the years of the Jubilee of the church. These are considered as signs of joy, gratitude, freedom and opportunities for the future.

Another reason for Jacqueline to be happy and grateful

During the meeting we also celebrated the 35th anniversary of consecration of Thérèse Bolduc, the present directress of our Company and Jacqueline our local foundress' right hand.

As things turned out, when Thérèse made her consecration in the Institute 35 years ago, Jacqueline was celebrating her 25th anniversary of profession. It is evident that Thérèse was Jacqueline's gift from God on the occasion of her silver Jubilee.

The members of The Company of Canada

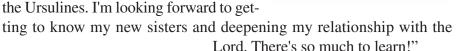
CANADA: THE UNITED STATES

Susan and Karen were admitted into the Company of St. Ursula on October 26 2009. Each received a medal picturing St. Angela Merici and St. Ursula. The ceremony took place during Eucharist at Bellarmine Chapel in Cincinnati. Rev. Ken Overberg, S.J., was the celebrant. Mary-Cabrini led the reception ceremony as the delegate of the Company's leader, Therese Bolduc. At the same time we celebrated the joy of Liliane's final consecration (made on August 15 in Montreal).

Several friends joined us at Mass and afterwards at dinner.

Karen reflected, "No experience this side of heaven has filled me with greater joy than the moment I received 'the medal' and was officially received into the Company of Saint Ursula. What a blessing it is to be joined to this wonderful Company of women whose lives are centered in Christ! The togetherness, support and spiritual intimacy I've experienced among them fuels my passion for Christ and intensifies my desire to serve as he did."

Susan is "so happy about this new phase of my life together with Jesus and the Ursulines. I'm looking forward to get-



Susan and Karen have embarked upon a two-year period of study and spiritual preparation for temporary consecration

Mary-Cabrini





A greeting and a souvenir from Indonesia!



INCOMING MAIL

From Palermo:

I think of you and imagine you are always busy, co-ordinating, writing, putting in order the articles for the booklet so dear to us all and which, thanks to you, keeps us united in all parts of the world.

Thank you! Saint Angela thanks you for all the hard work you do for The Company and also for all the visits you pay in different continents.

I wish you well in your work!

Rosalia Lo Giudice

From Australia:

I eagerly wait for the arrival of the booklet IN THE SAME CHARISM WITH RESPONSABILITY.

Thank you for your hard work..... I gladly visit the sites I am familiar with. I pray daily for all the Sisters of The Company and pray that others will join our Institute. I also pray for all the Sisters who I met in Singapore in January 2010 on the occasion of my first consecration and for the consecration for life of Ebba and Josephine...... it was a really memorable day.

I try to find the time to learn some Italian so that I will be able to write more frequently, because writing is a good way of keeping in touch. Best wishes and a strong unity in Christ through Saint Angela.

Monica Vaughan

From Singapore:

Thank you for the booklet IN THE SAME CHARISM WITH RE-SPONSABILITY which I have received.

Every time I receive it, I warmly remember all the Sisters in the Companies around the world. I thank the Lord for each and every one of you. Long distances cannot separate us. We are united in the love of God! The 27th January 2011 will be the first anniversary of my consecration for life and also that of Ebba here in Singapore; I remember your having been here for that occasion. I know that it is a long journey and that I must learn every day how to live the charism of Saint Angela in the world, but I also know that I am not on my own. This is very comforting. I praise God for the internet which helps me to keep easily in contact with some of my Sisters.

May God bless us!

Josephine

From Malta:

Thanks for the connection booklet. I read it and reread it before I put it on the shelf with the other books...because all the articles are very interesting with a spiritual element.

With much affection.

Martoine (translator for the English language)

From France:

Thank you for the translations that you have suggested me to do because it has been a great pleasure for me. The research work on the dictionary to find the right sense of thoughts and phrases oblige me to reflect deeply the expressed thoughts.. It is an incomparible enrichment. Thank you for everything. I and my sister think about the sisters we know of the Company and that we have had the great joy of meeting in

Congresses in Italy. In the hope of other meetings we send our affectionate greetings.

Marie-Therese Chabrier (Translator for French)

From England – 25th November 2010

"And thus rejoice together And together encourage one another..." (Eighth Legacy)



Greetings for our 475th Anniversary with prayer and thanksgiving in union with Angela our Mother/Sister and all her daughters

Jayne, Maureen, Zela, Marie & Marie LANCASTER



Flight: Milan Malpensa - Tel Aviv
Here is the itinerary with an exceptional tour leader:
His Excellency Mons Adriano Tessarollo
Assistant of The Council of The Federation

Tel Aviv, Cesarea Theatre, Roman Aqueducts, Church of Mary, Queen of the Sea Haifa, Mount of the Beatitudes, Basilica of the Annunciation, Archaeological Museum, Church of Saint Joseph, Cana, Nazareth, Tabor, Tiberia, Boat to cross over to Ghinosar. Sanctuary of the Miracle of the Loaves, the Archbishop's Cathedral, Capharnaum, Jarash, Amman (Citadel and Theatre). Mount Nebo, Petra. The valley of Jordan, Allenby Bridge, Qumran, Dead Sea, Jericho, Mount of the Quarantine, Desert Of Judah,. Ain Karin, Church of the Magnificat, Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity, Saint Joseph's Grotto.

Jerusalem, Mount of Olives, Betfage, Ascension, Our Father, Dominus Flevit, Gethsemane, The Tomb of the Virgin Mary, S. Peter In Gallicantu, Supper Room, Dormitio Mariae, The Jewish Quarter, The Gates of Damascus, Saint Anne, Via Dolorosa, Holy Sepulchre, Temple Square, Mosques, The Wailing Wall, Emmaus/Necopolis.

Booking from Paola Città tel. 0934/672250 - cel. 338/2140947 E-mail: paolacitta@tiscali.it

FROM THE READERS'INFORMATION!

IN THE SAME CHARISM ... with responsibility is available in Italian, French and English one can visit the site of the Federation: www.istitutosecolareangelamerici.org by clicking:

NEWS

or

ARCHIVIO

We need more translators ... thank you ...

Compiling the booklet in French and in English,
which is much appreciated ... is encouraging
but is also a very demanding job!
We heartily thank the translators
who willingly do the job but we need more help,
firstly to lighten their burden
and secondly to be able to mail it.
It would be of a great help If there were more persons,
preferably members of The Company,
who are fluent in Italian and can
translate in French or English,
even if it were translating a
few pages or an article ...

If you are willing please contact Kate Dalmasso: kate16@alice.it

