# IN THE SAME CHARISM...

# with responsibility



n.1 - 2012

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

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#### TO THE READERS

...joined together to "serve" the Reign of God as seculars. (Const. 3.1)

2012, is definitely a very important year for the Federation of The Companies, in preparation for their own Assembly.

Sisters, groups and Companies are asked to discuss the progress of their role in the Federate Institute and try to improve it, they are also asked to find new paths which lead to fidelity and innovation. The motto of The Assembly of The Federation took its name from one single phrase of The Constitutions: *We are called to be "true and unsullied spouses" of the Son of God, to be separated from the "shadows" of the world and to joined together to "serve" the reign of God as seculars.*(Const.3.1)

This is the real definition of our Charism and is clearly what Saint Angela said in the prologue to The Rule: God has granted you the grace of setting you apart from the darkness of this miserable world to serve His Divine Majesty... that you have been thus chosen to be the true and virginal spouses of the Son of God...

*United together...* The spouses of the one Common Lover coming from all parts of the world, hold their meetings of The Company, certainly not to enjoy each other's company for a few days but for sure to be able to share the *astonishing dignity of their role*.

*United together...* by the same Rule and formative Constitutions... because these are the real foundations of our well being.

*United together... like dear Sisters...* usually in a group, belonging to the same Company, with other Companies..... from time to time as one Institute.

*United together...* unity gives us strength, keeps us alive and is the real meaning of our being consecrated seculars in The Company. We willingly travel near and far to be able to share in the trials, well being and inheritances of the same spiritual family, to strengthen our family ties and commitment and moreover to promote encouragement and renew strength on our spiritual journey in The Company.

We, delegates and leaders, will meet in Rome in July. Those who will be at home, however, will also be participating in this meeting by means of prayer, meditation and suggestions... because all must be present for the family reunion, each and everyone is called to be present in one way or another and give her contribution.

To "serve" the Reign of God... In The Company unity is a means of serving the reign of God in the environment we live in, in our local churches and in all parts of the five continents.

To "serve" the Reign of God... United together to serve and not to reign in the Kingdom of God. Ours is a humble service but one of loyalty, grandeur and efficiency.

*To "serve" the Reign of God...* even as a spiritual family, a Company and a Federation. Thus we are fulfilling the aim of our Institute: "honouring Jesus Christ, serving God and His Reign and collaborating in the salvation of the world". (Const. 1.5)

*In secularity...* by the life we lead in this world and in the circumstances we find ourselves in, being *in the world and sharing in the active life and enjoying the contemplative life and in an admirable way join action to contemplation... as suggested by Cozzano.* 

*In secularity...* in docility to the Spirit, we assume and express even more the lifestyle of a consecrated secular typical of The Company ... (Const. 6.2)

*In secularity...* in all that we do, whether we are in motion or not, in all our thoughts and actions we must behave as "true and virginal spouses of the Son of God".

In this booklet we will find articles and suggestions which will help us to prepare ourselves for the Assembly of The Federation, but we clearly find the very lifestyle of The Federation in the testimonies offered by the members living in different parts of the world.

Therefore, my wishes go with you, on your spiritual journey, *united together in one unending prayer and an ardent desire of fidelity.* 

Caterina Dalmasso

#### A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### UNITED TOGETHER TO SERVE HIS MAJESTY

We will soon be having the Assembly of The Federation; we can envisage the various topics and imagine the contents, see the highlights and the days ahead of us full of meetings, dialogues and sharing of ideas.

The Companies and the Groups are "working" on the circular which was sent to all so that after reading and reflecting on the topics, we can have your feedback.

The preparation is as important as the Assembly itself: it is during the preparation that we have to point out what is of interest to us, what we would like to suggest, add or improve on to help our Companies, Groups and all The Institute on their spiritual journey in an innovative and faithful manner.

Those participating in The Assembly will validly contribute if they bring along the feedback of the meetings previously held in the various Companies. We are called to reason out things together like beloved Sisters, we feel highly responsible and involved because all of us form part of The Federation and belong to our own Company!

The title chosen by The Council "Working together for the kingdom while leading a secular life" urges each one of us to work hard to determine one's "loyalty to the Charism and the Constitutions and promote and set up a programme for the next six years".

These are the words which we find in the beautiful and profound article written in the introduction of the booklet by Mons. Adriano Tessarollo, Ecclesiastical Assistant of The Counsel of The Federation.

It is of an invaluable help which prepares and pre disposes us for a full participation in The Assembly. I invite all of you to read it carefully and medi-

tate on its development.

The service that The Federation has to render is clearly stated in The Constitutions "...The Federation has as purpose to foster growth in sisterly communion among The Companies....." (Const 30.2.)

When I visit the Groups and The Companies as part of the services I render, I am aware that the sisterly rapport is strongly felt among The Companies; Sisters are hospitable and ready to give their help especially to the Sisters who do not live in Italy!

I believe that, one must persevere and make progress, where it concerns hospitality, reciprocal support and, particularly, communal fraternity in helping one another to find the ways and lifestyles for our everyday life.

We can always refer to the words of Our Holy Mother and Foundress: "And if according to times and circumstances the need arises to make new rules or do something differently do it prudently and with good advice". (Last Legacy 2) **The Constitutions** are "the new rule" and they indicate clearly how to "do something differently".

During this period of particular importance, which precedes the Ordinary Assembly, we turn to The Constitutions because they offer "...a path of holiness for a more effective witness in the Church and in the world". (Constitutions Decree)

Maria Razza

# A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION

# In respect of the forthcoming Assembly of the Federation with the theme: "WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE KINGDOM WHILE LEADING A SECULAR LIFE"

The assembly which the Company of Saint Ursula, Secular Institute of Saint Angela Merici, holds every six years is, in reality, a privileged feedback of the spiritual journey of the past six years and an examination which determines the loyalty of the members to the Charism and Constitutions. Moreover, it promotes and sets up the programme for the next six years under the direction and guidance of the President and the Council who are elected and entrusted with its organization.

The title, made up of three parts, centres on the vocation and mission of every baptized person; 'to be of service for the Kingdom'. However, two important phrases, 'together' and 'secular state' precede and follow the phrase. I would like to discuss further these three aspects, in order to be able to show the concrete, steadfast progress of the Institute and to create an awareness of the way we are led by the Holy Spirit. Very often, something happens which makes the members act differently from the way they intended to and gives a different innovative interpretation of the original Charism. In the Acts of the Apostles we read that Saint Peter had to change his old ways in order not to offer resistance to the Holy Spirito (Acts 11,17b: "Who was I that I could withstand God").

### 1. "BEING OF SERVICE FOR THE KINGDOM"

Judging by its Members, who live and work with other people in the world

and follow the teaching of the Gospel, sharing their everyday life and problems, the Institute today forms a real part of the world around it. The Institute thus becomes an active example for all the church in the world. In the church the "Merician" woman is called to live her lay vocation to the full and work in collaboration with all for the sake of the Kingdom. Her whole life becomes one vocation, wherever she lives or happens to find herself, be it in the world or in the church; in this way she will be living the typical Charism of the Institute.

In this way, the evangelic foundation of every consecration which is manifested when practising the Evangelic Counsels becomes, in the Merician Institute, a way of life. This leads the members to live an ordinary life in the world in answer to Christ's call, pledging to give a positive meaning to the Gospel through poverty, chastity and obedience.

Chastity is a nuptial union with Christ, loving whatever He loved and gladly and willingly dedicating oneself to be of service to others. Chastity is the strength to live this demanding evangelic measure which is the result of our relationship with Him; "our lover". Prayer is the time during which we develop our intimate union with Him and through Him with the Father according to the Holy Spirit "as the Holy Spirit will suggest to us". Our relationship with Him will allow us to meet others and build sincere relationships with them.

**Poverty** means to make good use of our earthly goods without binding ourselves to them; making use of them out of love and justice towards others and in solidarity with the needy Sisters, members of the Institute. Sharing spiritual and material goods and giving up one's time to those who really are in need of it, are always reminders to evangelic coherence.

For the Members of the Institute, **Obedience** means always being available and compliant to the will of God as well as adhering to His plan for each and every one of us. Through the counsels and inspirations which the Holy Spi-

rit sends us, we will live our lives in obedience with the Word of God and to The Magisterium of the Laws of the Church. We also commit ourselves to making our contribution in the life of the diocese we live in, in consultation with the Members of our group, the leaders of the Company and the Institute. Obedience also means facing and fulfilling our daily duties, duties stemming from our consecration, profession, or commitment which in turn will become a positive example of our obedience.

#### 2 "IN THE SECULAR STATE"

To live the consecration in a secular state means to give oneself unconditionally and to be of service for the kingdom of heaven, participating in the church and with the church of the particular diocese one lives in. It means creating a privileged situation where the church meets the world. Moreover it means building a particular deep relationship with the world, firstly on a personal level and secondly through education and evangelization. This can be achieved by being of service to others or by being directly involved in politics or in social services. The spiritual beliefs of the people living in the world today will help others to understand the work of the church in the light of the realities of the world outside it and enable them to recognize the signs of the kingdom of heaven wherever they are manifested.

The consecration of each and every one can only be lived in a secular state, "either with a firm intention or with a vow or with a promise". Consecrated secularity defines in detail the characteristics of baptismal consecration.

Secularity allows each and every one of us to learn to discern according to the situations we experience in our lives; furthermore, it has also led to the opening of many Institutes in various parts of the world. In this way, today, the Institute has spread to the furthest corners of the world. The lay consecrated person, passes from being simply a baptized person to one who had consecrated wholly to God, participating in the evangelic mission of the church

while still leading her normal daily life. This happens because "lay members participate in the evangelizing function of the Church whether through the witness of a Christian life and of fidelity toward their own consecration, or through the assistance they offer to order temporal things according to God and to inform the world by the power of the gospel" (Code of Canon Law no. 713 – 2)

The members of the Institute therefore promise to undertake the evangelic counsels to the realities where they are living, among the people they meet, sharing their conditions, needs and professions.

#### 3. "TOGETHER"

Consecration in a secular state is a Merician charism which allows the Holy Spirit to instil in us a great love for God and for our Sisters. The sisterly communion that exists between all the members of the Companies of the Institute, irrespective of where they live, is a living testimony of the unity that exists in the church and in the world. It is so wonderful to belong to a real "Company", one promoting spiritual evangelic fraternity. Commitment to live the Merician charism, prayer and ardent love for the same Mother Saint Angela, are a communal sign of fraternity.

The members of the Merician Institute are not asked to lead a particular organized, enclosed form of life even though there are some rules to be followed. The Constitutions invite us to a time during which we will be able to share the same ideals, to communicate to each other the joy of being together, enrich our spiritual life and experience a sense of belonging to the Institute.

The Assistant, Mons. Adriano Tessarollo

#### ASSEMBLY OF THE FEDERATION

**Together in service to the Kingdom in secularity** Rome, 21-26 July 2012

Let us prepare ourselves for The Assembly through meditation and prayer!

# 1. TOGETHER... THE COMPANIES IN THE FEDERATION

"The diocesan and interdiocesan Companies united together constitute the Federation: Company of Saint Ursula Secular Institute of Saint Angela Merici" (Cost. 30.1).

# 2. IN SERVICE TO THE KINGDOM... SPIRITUALITY, FORMATION, RESPONSABILITY, SPREAD OF THE CHARISM

# 3. IN SECULARITY STYLE OF LIFE, WITNESS, PROPHECY...

- **)** Being autonomous Companies and, together, a federated Institute ... what does it mean, what does it inspire, what does it involve?
- What would your Group, your Company be able to do? What availability would it be able to offer?
- For what fields, for what commitments, thinking about its own situation and also about the necessity of taking responsibility for our worldwide reality?

# FROM THE RULE OF SAINT ANGELA MERICI

Some points for reflection....

### **ABOUT PRAYER, Ch. V, vv. 1-5**



"The grace that God our Father has granted us, to give ourselves totally to Him in Christ, through the Church, requires unceasing prayer and a keen desire for radical fidelity, in order to be brought to fulfillment.

Persevering prayer will make us participants in the filial colloquy of Jesus with his Father and will dispose us to welcome the gifts of the Holy Spirit"

(Cost. 11)

# The example of Saint Angela...

To enter into meditation on the chapter about prayer set forth in the Rule, we instinctively recall the one who bequeathed us this spiritual legacy... "this woman who belonged more to heaven than to earth...used to sleep very little, she probably spent the greater part of the night in prayer, contemplating and considering those divine things which are granted to so very few people to see." This is how Agostino Gallo observed Angela when she was his guest in Brescia... a woman who directed her spirit, without interruption, toward an encounter with God.

### Solicitude about prayer...

"Remember again that each one be solicitous about prayer, mental as well as vocal."

We are in the central chapter of the Rule, and it certainly treats a message that the Foundress considered fundamental.

The *solicitude* about which Saint Angela speaks makes us think about desire and, at the same time, about necessity, joy, and commitment, importance and urgency... Prayer, as a dialogue and an encounter with God, is about seeking and about willing, it is a time and a place... a time and a place to return to always. It is a style of life and, as such, it cannot be an option, something to avoid, to postpone, to put off...

*Solicitude* makes us think about pleasant and important moments (we think of Mary's travel to Elizabeth's home) that prepare us for living and also about the care with which we prepare ourselves to live well. Therefore it is a commitment, an alertness, and, at the same time, an extraordinary reality of encounter and of life.

This *solicitude* is for prayer woven into the totality of experience, involving the body and the mind, both what is expressed and what lives out the sentiment that is expressed, prayer of the lips and of the heart. "Prayer is the life of the renewed heart. It should animate us at every moment. It is necessary to remember God more often than to breathe. But it is not possible to pray at all times if one does not pray at set times, willingly; there are times of Christian prayer that have great power in their intensity and duration". (Cat. 2697)

### Prayer is the companion of fasting

<sup>2</sup>"[Prayer] is coupled with fasting; in fact, Scripture says...prayer with fasting is good."

We return here to a well-known characteristic, to a specific emphasis of Merician spirituality. Saint Angela does not limit herself to saying that prayer is important, but she recommends it, proposes it as a companion to fasting (see the preceding chapter).

This emphasis of the Madre spurs us to a serious examination and to a commitment to true conversion... only in this way will we be able to welcome the Word and the will of God; otherwise we may even risk filling our lives with

formulas, with rituals, with empty prayers.

# This style of life entails continuity and perseverance

<sup>3</sup>"And one reads in the Gospel about Anna, daughter of Phanuel, who in the temple day and night continually served God in fasts and pravers" (cf. Luke 2:36-38).

Prayer is not only the companion of fasting, it is also a style of life and, as such, presupposes and requires constancy, consistency, perseverance, fidelity.

Continually... not only when it is prescribed, not only through obligation, not only through emotion, not only when I say that I'm in need, when I feel that without God's help I cannot continue to live my vocation faithfully, but always... Day and night, walking, standing, working, thinking... "since there is little or no difference between freely saying: 'I no longer want to serve God' and not wanting the ways and the rules necessary to be able to keep oneself in this" (Rule, prologue, 14).

"The choice of the time and duration of prayer depends on a resolute will, which reveals the secrets of the heart. Prayer is not done when one has time for it; time is taken for the Lord, with the firm decision of not letting it be taken away along the road, whatever may be the trials and the aridity of the encounter" (Cat. 2710).

"Persevering in love... We are not commanded to work, to stay awake all night or to fast continually, yet incessant prayer is our law. This unquenchable ardor can come from nothing but love... humble, trusting, persevering". (Cat. 2742)

### **Mortification and pleading**

4"Since indeed through fasting one mortifies the appetites of the flesh and one's own feelings, just so, through prayer one beseeches from God the grace of the spiritual life."

Here Angela uses a comparison to take up the concept that prayer and fa-

sting are indispensible in our life. Fasting and mortification, in this concept, sound like purification, liberation from evil, making room for God.

In this way prayer asks God for the grace of the spiritual life, the joy of a deeper communion with the Lover of us all.

For Saint Angela prayer remains a means, and the end remains communion with the Lover.

## The need to pray always

<sup>5</sup>"One needs to pray always with spirit and mind on account of the constant need for God's help, and for this reason does Truth say, it is necessary to pray always."

"Prayer is a vital necessity... nothing is as powerful as prayer, which makes the impossible possible, the difficult easy" (Cat. 2744).

We need to pray always because we always need God's help.

We need to pray always because the spiritual life, which always comes to us as a gift, is never totally guaranteed.

We need to pray always to draw life from God and to live in God.

We need to pray always to live faithfully the grace of our vocation.

We need to pray always in spirit and mind... we need to welcome the living God into our very selves, we need to let the Spirit pray within us, because we do not know what it is best to ask for, but the Spirit will teach us.

"If our prayer is resolutely united to that of Jesus, in trust and childlike boldness, we obtain all that we ask in his name; even more than this or that thing, we obtain the Holy Spirit herself, who encompasses all gifts" (Cat. 2741).

Kate

#### To be continued

#### **POVERTY**



« Finally, we exhort each one to embrace poverty » (Rule Ch. X)

"In union with Christ and in imitation of Him, we will practice Gospel poverty in total dependence on God, who wants our good and our joy" (Consitutions 21.2)

At Spoleto, on the way to Assisi, Saint Francis, who was at the time a knight, had an inspiration which helped him understand that worldly glory is vain and that he should offer his whole life only to God.

That incident marked the turning point in the life of Saint Francis; from wealth, glory and authority, to poverty, a poverty which gave him freedom to be able to give himself up totally.

To become poor...... does not mean to lead a miserable and insecure life. God provides His creatures with all that is necessary; and this is the only way possible to become a human being in the real sense of the word.

One has to leave behind the present way of life, appreciating that freely giving it up completely is a gift. This means that we have to leave behind the ego-centred image we have built of ourselves and transmute into a new person as an offering. To understand this process better we must contemplate and meditate on the example given to us by Jesus Christ Himself who made Himself poor to make us richer by His poverty and put poverty as the most important of all the Beatitudes.

The most important thing is to be able to change from something to somebody. I am simply in existence; that is, I am a prisoner of my ego-centred life; if I leave my egoism behind I become a real human being. This happens if I share and build relationships, when I respect others, when I recognize that they are as worthy as I am and therefore I have to be considerate.

It is only then that I can relate to others because they can help me understand who I really am.

Poverty means throwing yourself towards your neighbour. This can be achieved in two ways; expropriation and the gift.

The ego that holds on to self possession passes to the ego that is dispossessed and is able to offer and to receive.

But how can this be achieved?

Very simple; one step at a time...

There are three important steps to follow:

- ☐ The first thing to do is to abandon our possessions and forget about the things we would like to own.
- ☐ The second step is to free ourselves from the image we have built of ourselves and of all that keeps us imprisoned in our old ways and habits.
- ☐ Finally we have to make a gift of ourselves; but building a relationship needs something deeper. One has to meet the other person and give himself freely.

This means freeing oneself from one's old image with "LOVE" to promote and make worthy the other person, without expecting anything in return.

"Love regenerates love", this can be clearly seen from the example given to us by God, the Creator who provides us with everything we need, the example of Jesus Christ who gave up His life for us and the example of the Holy Spirit who is the loving breath of the Father and the Son, as we find written on page 137 of the book *L'humble Présence*, by Maurice Zundel. May our love not be sterile, but a gift which does justice to our poverty.

M. N. Jeandot

# In the Company ...ten good reasons for "being there"...

Let's give ourselves permission to "warm up our hearts"; let's promise ourselves to commit to:

1. **believe**, when we encounter "obstinate" people, that we are in this together, keeping each other company.... It's appealing, but also exhausting: "even if there's a cost, maybe it's worth it!";



- 2. make a healthy effort to **be present**, in person, with our heart, our mind, our spirit... to feel the energy of "taking part," of belonging to a beautiful spiritual family;
- 3. **illumine** our experiences with the light of the Word of God and St. Angela's words, with the light of our guidelines for holy living...of the Constitutions of the Company...and of our sister-companions on the journey;
- 4. **bear witness** that to "make Church the way we make Company" is to build the future, is to insert into our lives a mentality of giving, of reciprocity, and of attentiveness;
- 5. **go through** experiences of confrontation in an exquisitely Merician style;
- 6. **feel** the richness of an experience of Company that requires us to be both protagonists of our own life projects and responsive to the choices of others entrusted to us;

- 7. **refresh** our awareness that our own formation and that of people entrusted to us is a benefit gained through the ecclesial community and through the civic reality in which we are inserted;
- 8. **perceive** the Company as a resource, as a wellspring of wisdom, of innovation and freshness;
- 9. **pause** to check our personal choices and those of the Company and to revitalize pathways that are "possible and faithful";
- 10. together **recognize** and support the undertakings of the leaders and of the sisters in our Company and in the Company around the world.

### Travel happily together!

Kate



#### THE COMPANY IS A GIFT

Yes, The Company is God's gift, a gift for the Church and for the world; and to form part of this Company is a freely given gift from the Lord. As we aptly read in the Gospel "Freely you were given and freely you shall give back!" Be it little or much does not make any difference; what is important is that whatever you give is given out of love, without expecting anything in return, just like Jesus and Saint Angela did.

What a joy it is to be chosen, even unworthily, to form part of this extended spiritual family, which Jesus Himself wanted. How is it possible not to be grateful for such a unique gift?

The Company makes life worth living for; it means reciprocal love, fraternity, participation and real sharing among Sisters. It means helping each other to sanctity even if many obstacles are to be overcome and the final goal seems far away. Together, we encourage one another and carry on, faithfully and serenely trusting in the Lord's mercy. This is what Our Mother Foundress Saint Angel wants.

The Company is now richer and stronger because it has spread to many parts of the world; our big family is made up of many different kinds of flowers, which are washed by the dew and glitter in the sun. These multicoloured flowers let off various fragrances which glorify the Creator and give joy to mankind.

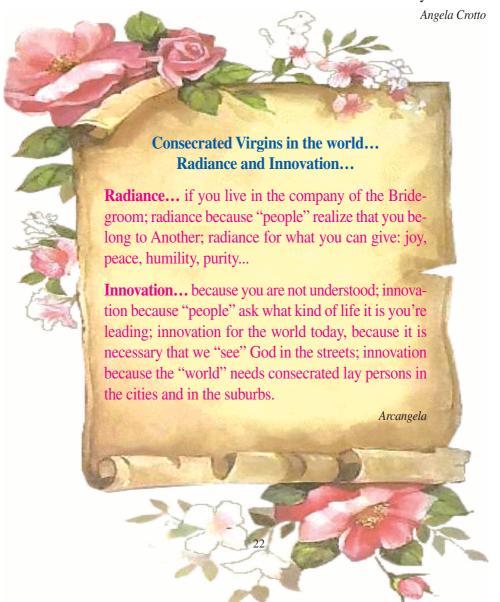
These are Saint Angela's Daughters; be they near or far, they are, like flowers in a bouquet, always held tightly together, through prayer and unity.

Even if it is not possible to meet personally, by means of the booklet "In the Charism with responsibility" we are able to recognize faces, names and localities.

For all this, we must thank our Assistant Monsignor Adriano Tessarollo, our dear President of the Federation and her Council and every Sister who contribute to make this booklet, the link between us, worth reading......

May the Lord reward their willing sacrifices and may we have more of this kind of "material".

May Saint Angela bless each and every one of us and, through the Holy Spirit, intercede so that, in accordance with her wishes, our Company may be more "radiant" and effective in the Church and in the world today



# Prayer for progress in the spiritual life

Lord Jesus, the only way to heaven,

help me to embrace and to desire all the means and all the ways to be faithful to the end

Lord Jesus, the only way to Heaven,

help me to embrace fasting as a necessary thing, as means and way... to spiritual goods and progress.

Rein in my vices, lift my mind, grant me virtue and its reward.

Lord Jesus, the only way to heaven,

help me to believe in your resurrection,
but help me to understand that resurrection
follows a life taken and given,
follows crucifixion and death.
Here, now, I wish to be solicitous about prayer
accompanied by fasting, and in this way I will place
my hope and my love in you.

Amen!

Kate

#### FROM THE COMPANIES AND THE GROUPS

#### Feast at Lubumbashi R.D.C.

It was Marie-Bernadette that welcomed us into her house at "Bonne espé-



rance" for these two in April weeks 2011 which ended with the celebration of consecrations on Easter Day. Beforehand we had met with the Pères Carmes for spiritual preparation and get ready for Easter triduum which we lived through in parish.

Sunday April 24th,

that "Day that the Saviour made" was a great day for our Company. The celebration occurred at 2 p.m. Some families had arrived very early in the morning so that they could get some rest before the celebration. Distances are long at Lumumbashi and several hours must be expected before you reach the Carmes' by taxi or on foot... Régine Lusamba came from Mbujimayi to represent the group and Marie-Bernadette, quite tired after her medical treatment, met us for Mass.

Four consecrations took place during this joyful Mass during which everyone could commune with themselves:

Marie-Céline: life consecration; Célestine: renewal; José and Françoise: first consecration.

Godelieve entered probation.

"You-you" and dances ended the celebration and everybody enjoyed a good meal around a well filled buffet.

On Wednesday April 27th, the day before I left, we all met at Marie-Bernadette's for a thanksgiving mass. On my way to Lubumbashi I stopped off at Kinshasa. It was a



flying visit but it made me so happy to see these friends again who are so deeply involved in the world through their work at the radiotelevision, at the hospital (intensive care for children), or as teachers. Each of them built a house in magnificent scenery near the Congo River. They will all be quite close to one another and that will allow them to meet more easily.

Thank you to each of them and especially to Marie-Bernadette for making me so brotherly welcome at "Bonne espérance", in this house where life is so good.

Geneviève Chambris

On Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>, the French Company welcomed the first steps of Joséphine Kamuabu in the chapel of the Benedictine Sisters of Montmartre. Father Lorin, our Assistant, presided over the Eucharist. Previously we worked for a

#### **Feast at Paris**



three day session on the theme that had been developed by Paola Bignardi during Brescia Congress.

Joséphine, very happy with this "first step", went back to Belgium where she lives and works at Bruxelles.

Let us glorify God our Father for his admirable deed in our friends' hearts. Let it extend over all their life with the help of Saint Angèle!

Geneviève Chambris

#### Cameroun - Yaoundé

On August 21st.2011, in the Chapel of Jean XXIII Centre, Marie Elisabeth Embolo-Ngandi renewed her consecration for three years during the Eucharist presided by our Assistant, Father Benjamin Atanga





who had previously conducted a four day retreat.

After the célébration ali the companions, the associate members and the friends here present were invited to share the collation prepared by the Centre.

We glorify our Saviour for this day of great joy.

Praised be Jesus-Christ!

Marie Josephine Essomba Cameroon delegate



May 2011 The Sisters of the Polish Company together with Maria Dravecká, Vice president of the Council of The Federation

# INDONESIA June - July 2011





Indonesia Bandung 29th June 2011 Lidia's First Consecration with Meity the directress



Following Lidia's first consecration on the **29**<sup>th</sup> **June** in Bandung, sixteen sisters from the Indonesian Company met on the 5th July in the Carmelite retreat house in Bali for their annual meeting and ordinary Assembly.

On the **7**<sup>th</sup> **July**, Maria Kewa Raring made her consecration for life, while Lilyana and Yustine Susilo renewed their temporary consecration for another three years.

The 8th July was election day:

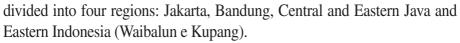
Meity Margaretha Wijaya was re-elected as directress;

Maria Kewa Raring vice directress and secretary.

Yohana Eny Prihatiningsih and Cresentiana Ona as councillors.

Yohana Eny is also responsabile for Formation.

The Indonesian Company is



During the annual retreat we have discussed and shared our ideas on the different themes proposed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue *In The Same Charism 2010*.

I have translated into Indonesian the articles by Mons Adriano Tessarollo, Paola Bignardi, Mirella Turri, and Maria Dravecka. These themes were very well received by the Sisters.

All the Ursuline Sisters in Indonesia send you their best regards. Affectionately!

Sr. Emmanuel Gunanto, OSU





#### **JUNE 2011 IN BURUNDI**

For some years we have known that there was in Burundi a large group of consecrated seculars who claim the spirituality of Saint Angela Merici: *the Bene Angela*.

Father Modesto, a priest originally from Trent, a Xaverian missionary in Burundi, had discovered them. In Trent Father Modesto had known the Company of the Daughters of Saint Angela, secular Ursulines.

In 2006 some sisters belonging to Trent,





together with Jeanne of France, wanted to get to know this group to tell them about the institution of consecrated seculars founded by Saint Angela Merici, now a secular institute of pontifical right, spread to several continents: the Company of Saint Ursula.

In 2007, on the occasion of the bicentennial of Angela Merici's canonization, their bishop, the Very Rev. Simon, was invited to our international meeting in Rome; he had asked the Federation to study how to receive these consecrated Burundian women.

From then on, the Council of the Federation began to think about these new sisters they consulted with the Holy See and set a course.

It was necessary to learn how they were living their consecration in the world, to present our Constitutions, to have the Constitutions translated into Kirundi, to carry out formation.... So other sisters of the Federation also went to Burundi in the next few years.

This year it was my turn, with Mariarosa Duchi, to accompany the President to Burundi.

What can I say?

Burundi is very lovely: there is so much green that it doesn't seem like Africa at all, well cultivated.... The people are very poor and life is difficult on account of the destitution, the results of war, and the difficult socio-political situation.

The population is very religious; the churches overflow with enthusiastic and devout people.

And our sisters?

There are already many: 37 have been admitted to the Company; another 27 have requested admission.

We met them, we did some formation work about the Constitutions. They worked seriously all together and in groups; they spoke about the work they had

done; they posed relevant questions to us. They are very committed.

They are very happy about their insertion within the larger family of the Federation, which they call the "Universal Company."

God willing, the first ones admitted will make their first consecration in 2012. What a grace, what a gift for them, for the Church and for the



Burundian people, and also for all of us who rejoice at this unexpected



new blossoming.

I admire the Burundian daughters of Saint Angela and their priest friends:

- Father Modesto, our companion and top-notch translator... without him we could have done nothing.
- Father Giuseppe, the Assi-
- stant appointed for them by the bishop: a father and a brother, attentive and thorough, who has known and accompanied them for some years.
- Father John Bosco of the Foyer of Charity, for years an expert guide, available to attend to the Bene Angela in their spiritual exercises and to comment on the Constitutions.

The Bene Angela have asked us to accompany them, to return there for their formation and deepening in the charism. The Federation counts on pursuing the road we have undertaken; we recommend to all the sisters that we pray for this new and numerous group and do whatever may be necessary for their good and joy.

Bishop Simon too is glad about this course of affairs that leads to the Bene Angela who desire it and commit to it being incorporated into our secular institute of pontifical right,

To them and to ourselves we repeat the invitation of Saint Angela, which is also an



encouragement to carry on:

"Persevere, then, faithfully and joyfully in the work you have begun.". (T 11,22)

Kate

# **SOUTH BRAZIL - visiting the Sisters**

Saint Angela has given us our marvellous charism while from Nicole Jeandot we received our formation and an awareness of her learned experience and total dedication to the reign of God and The Company.

During the past years, Nicole's effort to visit Rio Grande do Sul every two months for the spiritual retreats and sessions of Merician formation have strengthened and given a sense of continuity to the foundations of our Company. It is very true that we are few in number but perseverance, hope, faith and joy help us to be faithful to Jesus Christ and our testimonies urge and help

other women to say yes in answer to the Lord's call like we did.

Putting all my trust in Divine Providence and in the help of Saint Angela I met our Sisters in San Paolo and Rio de Janeiro. We shared our experiences and invoked the Holy Spirit to enlighten us and help

u s find

new paths for our daily spiritual journey.

Thanks to the Lord, Julia and Nivalda who live







in Guarulhos, are well and the two meetings with the Sisters who have asked to join the Company have helped to strengthen the group.

At Suzano, I received from our teacher Nicole, sound advice and direction, I was also present for her 86th birthday.

At Penedo, I met Luisa, Maria Elena and their relatives; some of whom were very old, and in need of constant care and prayers.

During our meeting we realised how important it is to help one another, to find moments of silence and time for meditation on the reading of the Gospels, to re-

main faithful to the Community to which we belong, because the Holy Spirit has given us the strength to remain faithful to our vocation.

I thank Fr. Geraldo (NH), Fr. Otacílio (Guarulhos) and Fr. Jivaldo (Penedo) who



sustained us with their prayers, their caring attitude and advice. Let us continue on our journey and pray that God Father and Mother will send us new vocations.

I promise to remember you in my prayers and I send my warmest regards to all.

Úrsula Inês Schmitz

# The Company of Canada



Members of the Company of Canada at the 2011annual meeting in Montreal

The Company of Canada is international, including members in different countries and continents.

During the annual meeting in August 2011 in Montreal there was the joy of celebrating with these sisters: Rosa Chung observed the 25th anniversary of her consecration; Gertrude made her consecration for life, and Louz began the period of trial in initial formation.

The Company also assists a group in the United States through Mary-Cabrini and in the Philippines through Elsie.

We thank the Lord and pray for each sister of this worldwide Company, as we remember their directress Thérèse Bolduc and their Canadian foundress, our very dear Jacqueline Morin, indefatigable formation guide and friend to so many of us.

C.D.

#### Cincinnati

Karen S. made her first consecration (for two years) on October 21, 2011, the



feast of St. Ursula. She belongs to the Company of Canada, Group of the USA. The consecration took place during the Eucharist at Bellarmine Chapel of Xavier University in Cincinnati

M. Cabrini

# Our President's visit in Madagascar

It was a very happy occasion for our group to welcome our President Maria Razza and our councillor Paola Citta to Madagascar! Moreover, we were overjoyed that we got to know them personally.

It was an intensive period of formation about our Constitutions, which brought us together in thought and in prayer.

During the visit, Clémentine also made her first consecration and Rollande



confirmed hers. We are very grateful to the Lord and to the Federation for the many "blessings" we received during their visit. We also thank the Company of Como and all the Sisters who, in one way or another, were very close to us. We could feel their "sisterly" love and care as we were encouraged and urged to carry on with our secular consecration according to the wishes of Our Mother Saint Angela.

We heartily thank you dear President and Paola for sharing the Malagasy way of life with us and for



guiding us towards sanctity through secularity. Through you we could really experience what Saint Angela meant when she said: "For without doubt you will see marvellous things, if you direct everything to the praise and glory of His Majesty and the good of souls." (Counsels prologue 18). With gratitude, affection and prayers.

Voahangy

### What great love ... what great joy...

We, the Sisters of the **Madagascar** group, were very happy when the President of The Federation, Maria Razza and the councillor Paola Città visited us between the 29<sup>th</sup> August and the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

We visited the Archbishop of Fianarantsoa, Monsignor Fulgence Rabemahafaly, on Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> August. He asked us about the beginning of The Company in Madagascar, was very appreciative of our work and encouraged us to keep up the good work we were doing.

When we met on our own, we first introduced ourselves to each other and



shared our experiences, spoke about our families, our work, and what made us join The Company; it was a very interesting experience because we got to know each other better and we could speak freely about our vocation.

During the sessions of forma-

tion we dealt with the first four chapters of The Constitutions and our consecration. Fr. Attilio was present during our meetings.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September was a very important day for our group. Clementine made her first consecration while I, the undersigned, renewed my consecration in The Company of Saint Angela.



Fr. Attilio presided at mass and 5 other priests concelebrated.

Jeannette and Annick and other members of the liturgical group "Ankalazaony Tompo" acted as animators during mass.

As is usually done, the President accepted our consecration and handed us the writings of Saint Angela and The Constitutions of The Company.



I felt during the visit of the President Maria Razza and Paola Città. This was a proof of how The Federation follows closely the group of

It was a very beautiful ceremony and the dances rendered it more solemn.

After the ceremony we had lunch together as a sign of friendship and fraternity.

I will never forget the sisterly joy



#### Madagascar.

May the Lord be praised, adored and glorified and may Mother Saint Angela be always with us.

Rollande

#### ERITREA 2011

I am writing to you to tell you about the graces, we, the group of Asmara have been blessed with during the year:

- Two Sisters, Alganesh-Habtezion and Sinar-Fikak, made their first consecration on the 29th January 2011 during the Mass that was concelebrated by our Assistant Fr. Siyum Kifleghiorghis.
- Two other Sisters were accepted by the Council of The Federation and have started the period of initial trial with our group.
- Another Sister,
  Teka Negasi, made
  her consecration for
  life on the 3rd July
  2011 during the
  Mass celebrated by
  Aron-Gebretinsae,
  the priest who helps
  us and follows our
  progress.



We heartily thank our Lord with joy for all the graces that were given to us freely and generously.

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you, for the help you give us.
With affection, your Sisters in Christ and Saint Angela.



Minnia Ammar

## SINGAPORE

## Icon of St Angela Merici by Fabio Nones

In the world of art, many people would have been acquainted with the name of Fabio Nones.



My own acquaintance of him was through his lovely icons, particularly the one on St Angela Merici.

Later I read about him in an interview with Zenit and when I sought for more, I was rewarded with more of his meaningful works of art.

The high point was when the President of the Federation in the Company of St Ursula commissioned the same icon of St Angela and brought it to Singapore for us.

She delightfully pointed out the words to me. They were written in English: *JESUS CHRIST* 

*ONLY TREASURE*. Lately, I have been gazing more and more into the face of our Foundress, longing to follow in her footsteps.

This icon accompanies us here as an important sign that God is with us and that our Mother Foundress St Angela prays with us. In our meetings, we go

to the foot of the Cross, St Angela's favourite place, and there we ask always for the grace to live out our vows faithfully.

Christ alone is our sole Treasure.

Where our heart is, that is where our Lord is.

Josephine

## Women's Event! Singapore – October 2011

The 90 women who gathered on the Sunday afternoon of 30 October 2011 in the Church of the Holy Spirit were abuzz, with the first ever 'Women's Event' led by their parish priest Fr Andrew Wong and the Secular Ursulines. The women came in all shapes and sizes and of varying ages 20+ to 70+. They came with their stories, their hopes and fears.



Tucked away in the Upper Room, we spent an afternoon of four hours together, reflecting on our life. The sharing session in an atmosphere of prayer was well received, and many realized that they were not alone. More than that, they understood that God was with them.

For most of the participants, it was a time of thanksgiving and rest, and

almost everyone expressed a desire to have another time of gathering next year. Indeed, the women went away, convinced that God was with them and that no trials and tribulations could deter them from living more fully.

Our Mother Angela came alive as we shared her story and ours, inspiring everyone to take that step to be that 'ray of hope', that listening heart to those in need. One of the ladies hearing about St Angela and the Secular Ursulines

for the first time was particularly captivated by this quotation from St Angela: "if you see one faint-hearted and timid and inclined to despondency, comfort her, encourage her... lift her heart with every consolation". (Rc 2,8)

We pray that these efforts will be blessed with a greater awareness among the laity of this vocation of secular consecrated. For us, we are convinced that God has a plan for the



Ebba Fernandez and Josephine Liow

Company to take root in Singapore and in God's time, we pray that the fruit will begin to show. All glory, praise and honour to God forever and ever!





## ITALY Lodi: The Bishop thanks The Company



In a quiet inner courtyard in Castelfidardo Street in Lodi, one finds the small Company of The Daughters of Saint Angela, known as the "Ursulines". 92 year old Giuseppina Natali and 82 year old Carla Ferioli are the only two consecrated lay women still living in Saint Angela house.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011, arm in arm in order to support each other, Giusy and Carla, welcomed Bishop Mons. Giuseppe Merisi to their house while he was on a pastoral visit in their parish.



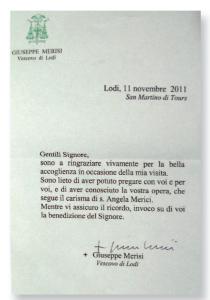
They were accompanied by Maria Rosa Razza, the International President of The Federation of The Company of Saint Ursula Secular Institute of Saint Angela as approved by the pontifical rights.

The Saint Angela house in

Lodi offers hospitality to about ten temporary teachers, most of whom come from the southern part of Italy.

In the chapel of Saint Angela house, Fr. Mario Marielli, the





Ecclesiastical Assistant of The Company of Lodi, concelebrated mass which was presided by Mons. Merisi. The Sisters and the associates of The Company were also present. The Bishop thanked The Company for the services rendered to the city of Lodi...

Extract from the weekly diocesan review of Lodi "Il Cittadino"

## **Puglia**

The 17th October was a day to remember!

A small delegation made up of two Sisters from The Company of Padua and The President visited our Sisters in Puglia, three in Barletta and two in Gioia del Colle!

It was a very fruitful day with Sisters who clearly retain the promise of giving their life to "The One and



Common Lover"; a way of life which is a continuous "living testimony" of their promise.

Since we are all members of the same family who have Saint Angela as a Mother, we soon integrated with the group and found ourselves praying together, comforting and encouraging each





other!

We heartily thank those who welcomed and accompanied us!

Maria Razza

## Canicattì... almost 100 years of life

In preparation for the centennial of the birth of the Company of Canicattì in the Archdiocese of Agrigento (March 8, 1913-2013) the Daughters of St. Angela rejoiced and had the pleasure of welcoming the President of the Federation, Maria Rosa Razza, in their house on November 28 and 29, 2011.

In the course of her stay, Maria Rosa met with priests, addressing them on the topic, "The contemporary quality of the Merician charism", while with families and young people from the areas of Canicattì and Campobello di Licata she developed the topic "Angela, a woman for our day".

With her simple, affectionate style, the President not only filled up hearts with happiness, but she also sharpened the listeners' desire to know better and to imitate the virtue of the courageous Brescian saint.

During the conferences that she led, all of us-the elderly, the young, and friends of the Company-were encouraged to remember our Madre Saint Angela in her motherly humility and faith.

In these encounters, we felt enriched by the warmth, availability, confidence and trust that we received from her witness in the name of Saint Angela.

These were marvelous days, when we gave ourselves the time to experience with keener enthusiasm the historic and happy anniversary of our Company's foundation, preparing ourselves to welcome into our midst, in April, the relic of our holy Madre.

While we thank the Lord for the numerous gifts received in these days, "uni-

*ted together*" we beseech our foundress to grant the Company numerous and holy vocations.

Maria and Liliana



## For 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



or ARCHIVIO

## **Assembly of the Federation**



# Together service to the Kingdon in secularity

Rome, 21-26 July 2012

