

IN THE SAME CHARISM

with responsibility



n. 1 - 2014

**COMPANY OF SAINT URSULA
SECULAR INSTITUTE OF SAINT ANGELA MERICI
FEDERATION**

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TO THE READERS

Be happy... rejoice... be consoled... (Saint Angela)

A new year... a new and joyful life...

This is the invitation that we receive from Pope Francis in “The Joy of the Gospel.”

On this topic, our ecclesiastical assistant, Bishop Adriano, offers us a beautiful spiritual reflection on these pages. Let us also be guided by this invitation to joy, an exquisitely Merician invitation.

Let us start from an encounter with Jesus...

The Pope invites us to search constantly for this encounter: “I invite all Christians, everywhere, **at this very moment**, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day” (JG 3).

Let us return to some Merician thoughts:

Encounter with Jesus Christ is our great asset: “He wants only what is for your good and joy” (Rule, Ch. 10:18).

We need to reach continually toward Jesus Christ: “*Our spiritual journey is expressed in a continuous stretching toward Christ*” (Constitutions 4.1).

Let us welcome Christ and serve him: “We will joyously welcome Christ and will serve him lovingly and gently” (Constitutions 22.3).

Let us be one with the joy of all Creation: The Pope tells us that all creation participates in this joy of salvation: “Sing out, heavens, and rejoice, earth, break forth into song, you mountains, for the LORD comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted” (Is 49:13).

And Saint Angela prays like this: “...*your holy name—may it be blessed beyond the ocean’s grains of sand, beyond the drops of the waters, beyond the multitude of stars*” (Rule Ch. 5:26).

“This is the joy which we experience daily, amid the little things of life...” the Pope reminds us in n. 4 of the Exhortation. And again in n. 18: *“We can take up, amid our daily efforts, the biblical exhortation: ‘Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say: Rejoice’ (Phil 4:4)!”*
“Be happy” (Rule, Ch. 9:11), Saint Angela tells us.

The style of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen...

“There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter” (JG 6).

The style suggested by Saint Angela is a joyful style, accompanied by faith, hope, and charity: *“Our every pain and sadness will turn into joy and gladness, and thorny and rocky roads we will find flower-strewn for us, paved with finest gold”* (Rule, Prologue 27).

“Rejoice, be of good will. ... Be consoled, do not doubt...” (Last Legacy 14, 17).

“How much they have to exult and rejoice, for in heaven a new crown of glory and joy is prepared for all of them, one by one” (Fifth Counsel 25).

Vocational hope...

“Wherever there is life, fervor and a desire to bring Christ to others, genuine vocations will arise” (JG 107). *“In the Company we will respond freely and with a joyful spirit to the call...”*
our Constitutions remind us (3.2.).

We have only to embrace the Merician charism with joy and gratitude and to live it joyfully and fervently.

So, persevere faithfully and joyfully in the work you have begun. And take care, take care I say, not to lose your fervor, for every promise that I make to you will be fulfilled for you beyond measure. (Last Legacy 22-24)

Caterina Dalmasso

A THOUGHT FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONSECRATED SECULARITY

In different passages of her writings, Saint Angela expresses her reverent love and her loving attention to the voice of “Holy Mother Church”; her warning is authoritative: *“Obey...what Holy Mother Church commands, because Truth says: ... “who listens to you, listens to me...” (Rule, Ch. VIII, 8).*

In a speech delivered to an assembly of secular institutes in Spain, the Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life, Cardinal João Braz de Aviz spoke to them, and to all of us, powerful words that can and should be digested as valuable pointers for our life and for the life of our Companies.

He started with three key words: encounter, salvation, and hope, and parsed each one as they apply to members of secular institutes.

I invite you to read this speech and to reflect on it in this time when all our Companies and Groups are called to explore deeply the theme of consecrated secularity.

The international meeting of last July 2013 has already made contributions to continuing our exploration of this foundational dimension of our vocation, and so will the next meeting in 2014.

The Cardinal Prefect’s speech gifts us with further incentives that we don’t want to let drop.

“The specific character of your vocation leads you to be invisible.... The images that recall this particular form of consecration are salt, which dissolves and gives flavor, and yeast, which spreads and ferments the dough.... Your vocation places you among everyone else, that is to say, with no exterior signs.... The specific quality of consecrated secularity is based on the incarnation of Christ, [which makes one] capable of

living in the world, without losing one's difference and otherness.... Therefore, you are brothers and sisters, rather than parents and teachers" ("Like salt that gives flavor" from "Witnesses" nn. 11, 13).

In these words we hear an echo of our Constitutions: *"Our life will be one of commitment to being witnesses of charity, faith and hope in the heart of the world"* (Constitutions 4.2).

A "particular recommendation" is very interesting. The Prefect of the Congregation for Consecrated life knows well that many secular institutes have had, and can still have and manage their own works.

To those who experience this particular situation, he says, *"Never forget that your vocation and the possibility of giving God's love to the world, before passing through that activity, passes through the normal dailiness of your lives. The more you know how to live the existential, ordinary situations of other women and other men, the more you will know how to be faithful to your call."*

In these expressions too we hear the echo of our Constitutions, which tell us that *"their presence will become a significant testimony...if the secular life-style is maintained"* (Constitutions 22.6).

"I see the contribution of secular institutes as fundamental even in reference to the proclamation [of salvation].... God saves, does not kill, does not condemn, only loves!" It is appropriate to allow others *"to glimpse through our lives the beauty of our God, who is always quick to welcome us unreservedly.... In the measure in which your formation fosters this path, you will be witnesses (not teachers) of mercy and you will be able to build communion."*

Saint Angela was an "expert" in communion; everywhere she went, in the places and among the families where she lived, she sought to bring peace and concord and wanted her daughters to work for unity and communion.

“My last word to you, by which I implore you even with my blood, is that you live in harmony, united together, all of one heart and one will. Be bound to one another by the bond of charity... (Last Counsel 1-2).

“Hope is a gift from God that is communicated through our actions, our words, our very selves; it is not an easy optimism, but a concrete attitude of trust and abandonment, like that of those –little ones and poor people—who put all their attention on God.”

We welcome the Cardinal Prefect’s invitation and that of our Constitutions: *“In our family and in our profession, in the civil and ecclesial communities, and in our every activity and endeavor we will keep alive our hope for heaven, where Jesus lives at the right of the Father” (Constitutions 22.3).*

And let us repeat with Saint Angela: *“My Lord, my only life and hope.”*

Maria Razza

Attention!

MEETING OF THE FEDERATION

FORMATION

A WALK IN FAITH: NEVER FINISHED

Roma July 27-31, 2014

**Information and reservations: Rosa Bernasconi
tel. 031 986480; 328 6632995
email: rosabernasconi@alice.it**

THOUGHTS FROM THE ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION



A LESSON ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL LIFE FROM THE APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION OF POPE FRANCIS, “THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL”

Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation “*Evangelii Gaudium*,” “The Joy of the Gospel,” has just recently come out. I would like to draw your attention to two aspects of this weighty document that are typical of Merician spirituality: the joy that is born from encountering Christ (1-10) and the necessity of cultivating an interpersonal encounter with Jesus’ love (264-267).

1. Joy is born from encountering Christ (1-13).

The beginning of the exhortation “The Joy of the Gospel” (1) is the key for reading, to which Pope Francis wants to relate the Gospel message: *“The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church’s journey in years to come.”*

Arising from the joy of the Christian is the encounter with Jesus, being saved and liberated by him, being with Jesus Christ. The joy that is born from the encounter with Jesus

Christ “marks” the new evangelization in the years to come. Therefore, the encounter with Christ is at the center of everything. We cannot help thinking about the Prologue to Saint Angela’s Rule. There we breathe an atmosphere of joy and happiness that comes from having been chosen to be spouses of Christ and from having accepted him in this way, that is, as companion or partner with whom to share and to whom to give all one’s life in the present while awaiting the time of belonging to him completely in heaven.

The Pope invites (3) *“all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day.”* This is the fidelity of one consecrated to Christ: daily renewing that personal encounter with Christ, allowing him to encounter her, seeking him unfailingly each day.

Among the texts of the Old Testament cited by the Pope, I like to recall (4) that of the prophet Zephaniah: *“The Lord, your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives you the victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing, as on a day of festival”* (Zeph 3:17). Christ is presented as the bridegroom who cries out with joy over his bride and who renews her with his love. This text recalls the spousal spirituality that Saint Angela speaks of. From this relationship with him comes the strength to face even sufferings and discouragements of the present time in the certainty that he will know how to transform these tribulations into joy.

So in fact, in section 5 the Pope continues: *“Our Christian joy drinks of the wellspring of his brimming heart. He promises his disciples: ‘You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy’ (Jn 16:20). He then goes on to say: ‘But I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you’ (Jn 16:22).”* It seems as though it could be a

reference to the 5th Counsel, where Saint Angela writes, “Although at times they will have troubles or anxieties, nevertheless this will soon pass away and be turned into gladness and joy. And then, the suffering of this world is nothing in comparison with the blessings which are in Paradise.” In section 7, Pope Francis quotes Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical *God is Love*, reminding us again that: “*Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.*” According to Saint Angela, this results from the encounter with “our Lover” (Last Legacy) or “our love” and “only treasure” (5th Counsel). Let us take these words of the Pope, so close to those of Saint Angela, as an occasion for confirming the joy of consecration to Christ, even as a prospective missionary and evangelizer.

In fact, I find what we read in section 8 deeply beautiful and motivational: “*Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being. Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?*”

The words of Paul VI, which Pope Francis quotes in section 10, are reasonable and fitting for those who are called to live their own consecration to Christ in the world: “*And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ.*”

2. The necessity of cultivating an interpersonal encounter with Jesus' love (264-267)

In these sections of the exhortation, the Pope returns to thoughts about encountering Christ and his love, as the source of evangelizing actions. The new evangelization is not launched from a list of activities, but from introducing the beloved to others. *“The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved, to point him out, to make him known?”* (264). If the desire to make him known and loved were lacking, we would have to call into question our love for him. On this the Pope writes, *“If we do not feel an intense desire to share this love, we need to pray insistently that he will once more touch our hearts. We need to implore his grace daily, asking him to open our cold hearts and shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence.”*

What a beautiful “recipe” the Pope suggests to warm up our cold hearts and to shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence: *“How good it is to stand before a crucifix, or on our knees before the Blessed Sacrament, and simply to be in his presence! How much good it does us when he once more touches our lives and impels us to share his new life! ... The best incentive for sharing the Gospel comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages and reading it with the heart. But if this is to come about, we need to recover a contemplative spirit which can help us to realize ever anew that we have been entrusted with a treasure which makes us more human and helps us to lead a new life. There is nothing more precious which we can give to others.”*

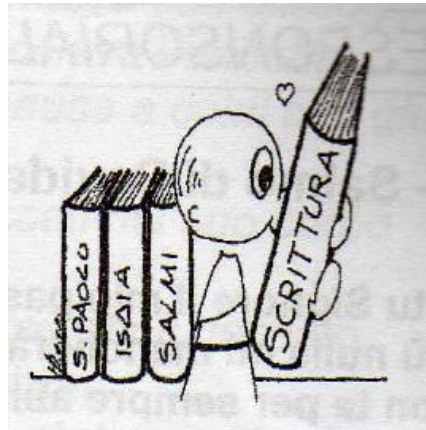
We cannot help hearing the echo of Saint Angela, who writes that “through prayer one beseeches from God the grace

of the spiritual life” (Rule Ch. V) and furthermore, “gather at the feet of Jesus Christ, and there, all of you, with all your daughters, offer most fervent prayers” (Last Legacy).

I conclude with some words from sections 266-267, where the Pope makes us understand the impulse behind a Christian’s missionary enthusiasm: *“It is impossible to persevere in a fervent evangelization unless we are convinced from personal experience that it is not the same thing to have known Jesus as not to have known him, not the same thing to walk with him as to walk blindly, not the same thing to hear his word as not to know it, and not the same thing to contemplate him, to worship him, to find our peace in him, as not to. It is not the same thing to try to build the world with his Gospel as to try to do so by our own lights....*

“A true missionary, who never ceases to be a disciple, knows that Jesus walks with him, speaks to him, breathes with him, works with him. He senses Jesus alive with him in the midst of the missionary enterprise. Unless we see him present at the heart of our missionary commitment, our enthusiasm soon wanes and we are no longer sure of what it is that we are handing on; we lack vigor and passion.... In union with Jesus, we seek what he seeks and we love what he loves.”

These words of Pope Francis push us toward a “consecration and mission” that are ever more alive and true.



Ecclesiastical Assistant, + Bishop Adriano Tessarollo

Most Rev. Archbishop Aldo Giordano Papal Nuncio in Venezuela



We have known Archbishop Aldo Giordano and have welcomed him as our much appreciated guest and presenter at the Federation's Assembly in 2006 and again at our international meeting in 2008, on the 50th anniversary of the Federation.

We have appreciated his preparation and enjoyed his friendship and his profound and intense presentations; we have accompanied him in his great responsibilities and we continue to accompany him in his new and very delicate mission as Papal Nuncio in Venezuela.

We do not want to forget him and we do not want him to forget us.



*In joy and in trust
in the Lord,
united
in good wishes and prayers
with dear Bishop Aldo...*

ABOUT THE RULE OF ST. ANGELA MERICI

Some points for reflection....



Chapter VII ABOUT CONFESSION

"Our awareness of the inadequacy of our response to the gift of God and our infidelity to His grace will urge us to ask of our 'most loving Lord' His mercy and the time and way for repenting. We will frequently and regularly, as far as possible, approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation" (Constitutions 13.4).

The Christian who has sinned after Baptism becomes reconciled to God through reconciliation with the Church.

Contrition, the confession of one's sins, and the penitent's acceptance of a penance and of reparation, join with the priest's action: absolution given in the name of Christ and of the Church (Adult Catechism).

Regularity and necessity...

¹*"Again you are called upon to make a practice of confession, a necessary medicine for the wounds of our souls."*

Saint Angela continues the chapters on the spiritual life and she does it in a way which is rather congenial...**calling upon us.**

Confession, Mass, prayer, and fasting constitute the central chapters of the Rule of St. Angela, almost a continuation of those at the beginning which present the

uniqueness of this vocation, and almost an anticipation of the final chapters, which emphasize its specific aspects.

Regarding confession, St. Angela does not set a regular schedule; she leaves to each one, according to time and circumstances, the freedom of setting her own frequency, she focuses instead on emphasizing its necessity, as *medicine for the wounds of our souls*.

Once more, we find the same St. Angela who, in her prayer, recognizes herself as deserving *hell, [for] so many errors, so much ugliness and blame*, and she asks *the most benign Lord to pardon her many offenses and every fault by his most sacred passion and your precious blood shed for love of us*.

Every chapter of The Rule must be read in continuity, searching for the Madre's thinking and how she addresses it to us, her daughters.

A Necessary Medicine

Jesus, the physician of bodies and of souls, wanted His Church to continue his work of healing and salvation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Vatican Council II teaches us: *"Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from the mercy of God for the offence committed against Him and are at the same time reconciled with the Church, which they have wounded by their sins"* (Lumen Gentium 11).

"The new life received in Christian initiation has not abolished the frailty and weakness of human nature, nor the inclination to sin" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1426).

"Sin is before all else an offense against God, a rupture of communion with him. At the same time it damages communion with the Church" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1440).

The sacrament requires our freedom; Pope John Paul II, recalling that Confession is extremely beneficial for the

spiritual life, explains that God does not impose his forgiveness on those who refuse to accept it; God waits.

The Catechism for Adults states: *“Life is a path of conversion, and the Church is a people made up of penitents called to renew themselves incessantly under the exacting and merciful judgment of the Word of God. To the baptized who have fallen back into slavery to sin, the Lord offers a new possibility of salvation through the sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation, almost a second baptism”* (702).

Preparing for confession with a daily examination of conscience nourishes conversion of the heart toward the merciful love of the Father; Pope Paul VI pointed out that confessing frequently is a privileged source of sanctity, peace and joy.

Periodically renewed, Confession has always accompanied the Church in its ascent towards sanctity.

Faith teaches us that Jesus wanted the sacraments to be the ordinary effective means through which his powerful redemption is transmitted and operates.

Ecclesial aspects...

Confession to a priest...

²*“Since never will anyone be absolved of sin, if he does not first confess aloud his failings to the priest, as Scripture says: ... ‘first say your sins, so that you may be absolved.’”*

St. Angela, with simple words, recalls the Word of God and reminds us that to be forgiven it is necessary to confess one’s sins to the priest.

The sacrament is called *Confession*, *“since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament”* (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1424).

Confession to the priest constitutes an essential part of Penance. The Council of Trent (held soon after St. Angela’s time) specified: *“It is necessary that penitents enumerate in*

their confession all the mortal sins that they are aware of after a diligent examination of conscience.”

God alone forgives....

“The Son of man has authority to forgive sins on earth” (Mk 2:10). “Your sins are forgiven”. (Lk 7:48).

In virtue of his divine authority, Jesus Christ gives such power to human beings so that they may exercise it in his name and entrusts the power to absolve sins to the apostolic ministry: *“God has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor 5:18).*

“Indeed bishops and priests, by virtue of the sacrament of Holy Orders, have the power to forgive all sins “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1461).

The Church is vested with the power to forgive sins...

³ “And Truth says to St. Peter: I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will also be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loosen on earth will also be loosened in Heaven, ⁴ which clearly shows that a sin cannot be taken away except through the priest and through confession.”

The Church says to confess to a priest, and thus St. Angela reminds us, referring to the Word of God, *“I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Mt 16:19); and again, “Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained” (Jn 20, 22-23).*

“The words bind and loose mean: whomever you exclude from your communion, will be excluded from communion with God; whomever you receive anew into your communion, God will welcome back into his. Reconciliation

with the Church is inseparable from reconciliation with God” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1445).

The sacrament...

⁵ “Because in what way will the priest be able to loosen the sin, if he does not know it? ⁶ And how will he be able to know what has been committed if it is not revealed by one's own lips? In that case, the hidden sin would stay within one's breast.”

The sin which is hidden in one's conscience and is manifested to the confessor reminds us of how St. Angela expressed herself in the meditations in previous chapters: *“Alas! How sorrowful I am that while entering the recesses of my heart, from shame I do not dare raise my eyes heavenward”* and again, *“I beg you to deign to receive this my most vile and unclean heart.”*

Knowing that we are sinners, manifesting it, waiting for the gift of reconciliation is what St. Angela and the Church recommend to us.

“Interior repentance is expressed exteriorly in confession and in a concrete commitment to penance” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 707).

In front of the priest, we will express with humility, trust and sincerity all the sins; we recognize the mercy of the Lord, his love that overcomes fear and discomfort.

All the sins...

“Individual and integral confession of grave sins followed by absolution remains the only ordinary means of reconciliation with God and with the Church” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1497).

“Without being strictly necessary, confession of everyday faults (venial sins) is nevertheless strongly recommended by the Church. Indeed the regular confession of our venial sins helps us form our conscience, fight against evil

tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1458).

Necessary things...

“The sacrament of Penance is a whole consisting in three actions of the penitent and the priest's absolution. The penitent's acts are repentance, confession or disclosure of sins to the priest, and the intention to make reparation and do works of reparation” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1491).

Before the priest as if before God...

⁷“Therefore, each one should want to present herself before the priest, as if before God, the eternal judge, ⁸and there, sorrowing, ⁹totally sincere, and in truth of conscience, she should confess her sin ¹⁰and ask forgiveness for it, ¹¹and she should always with fear and reverence stay before the confessor till she has received absolution.”

This demands faith, sincerity, truth, fear of the Lord and reverence; it is an encounter with God, the judge and merciful Father.

The priest...

“When he celebrates the sacrament of Penance, the priest is fulfilling the ministry of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost sheep, of the Good Samaritan who binds up wounds, of the Father who awaits the prodigal son and welcomes him on his return, and of the just and impartial judge whose judgment is both just and merciful” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1465).

Sorrow...

Among the acts of the penitent, the first is sorrow; it must be inspired by faith and originates from the love of charity toward God.

“The movement of return to God, called conversion and repentance, entails sorrow for and abhorrence of sins committed, and the firm purpose of sinning no more in the future. Conversion touches the past and the future and is nourished by hope in God's mercy” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1490).

“The sinner, moved by the Holy Spirit, rediscovers the holy and merciful face of the Father, examines himself, is aware of his own sins, feels sorry for them, detests them, decides not to commit them anymore; commits himself to change his own life radically and redirects it according to the Gospel” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 705).

Absolution...

“God, the Father of mercies, through the death and the resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Formula of absolution).

In this formula we find the essential elements of the Sacrament of Penance, Trinitarian and ecclesial:

“The Father of mercies is the source of all forgiveness. He effects the reconciliation of sinners through the Passover of his Son and the gift of his Spirit, through the prayer and ministry of the Church” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1449.)

“The Father welcomes the Son who returns home, Christ takes on his shoulders the lost sheep, the Spirit sanctifies once more the temple of His presence” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 708).

The spiritual father...

¹²*“About this, let it be made known if a place or a certain church has been designated, where a common spiritual*

father has been chosen, one who is prudent and of mature age, to whom each one may want to confess at least once a month.

¹³*And then, on each first Friday of the month to gather at this church, and there all together receive communion from this father previously mentioned.”*

In the chapter about Confession St. Angela also includes other aspects which lead to a communitarian requirement, that of a Company, aspects which, over time, have become obsolete and have been modified. However, in their spirit they still have something to teach us:

- the common spiritual father who knows the daughters and the Company;
- a particular church where the sisters meet and are united;
- the first Friday of the month to receive communion together, from this same spiritual father.

One's own parish community...

¹⁴*“In addition to this, we call upon each one to confess and receive communion at her own parish on solemn feast days.”*

The foundress's advice to return to one's own parish community, at least on the occasions of community feasts, is beautiful. It is necessary to give witness there of fidelity to the sacramental and liturgical life.

St. Angela does not neglect anything in her writings and reminds her daughters about the necessity of faith together with giving evidence of it: *“Tell them that, wherever they are, they should give good example”* (5th Counsel 13).

Seeking Mercy...

*My Lord,
light up the darkness of my heart,
give me grace to die
rather than offend you at all today.
Grant that, entering the recesses of my heart,
I may recognize my errors, my sins.*

*O most kind Lord,
deign to pardon me so many offenses
and each of my faults present and past.
I ask you for pardon also for my relatives
and friends, and for the entire world.*

*My Lord, my only life and hope,
I beg pardon day and night,
walking, standing, working, thinking...
grant me your mercy and time for penitence.*

*Before your brilliant face
I present this vile and unclean heart of mine.
Burn clean its every affection and passion
in the blazing furnace of your divine love.
I offer all at the feet of your divine Majesty.
And I pray that you deign to receive it, although I am
unworthy.*

Amen.

Kate

A Company According to God's Heart

I dream of a Company of women who seek God, who know their way;



Women who can work well together as travelling companions to all those who seek God,

Women who can be loyal, faithful, discrete friends and who can appreciate the sun, the flowers, the sky, children, brothers and sisters, friendship, sharing, solidarity, sisterhood... all the gifts life offers, tiny and great.

Women who know how to express their feelings, who can share joy, sorrow and discussions: women who can draw out from deep in their hearts both the lovely and the ugly and who can turn it all toward God.

Women who can show respect and courage in saying "I love you" and expect nothing in return.

Women who are in love with the beauty of God! Able to be surprised and to let God's newness break into their lives, without conditions or preconceptions, but with the desire to face life, to live it as an adventure, and to accept it as a gift from God.

Women who are aware that the Treasure they carry in their hearts must be rediscovered every day so that they may be able to accept, guard, love and care for life.....

Women according to God's heart!

Gianna

Seeking to Belong to the Company Because...

- Because I want to be salt, light, yeast in the world.
- Because my soul thirsts for the living God.
- Because I want Jesus to make my heart like his.
- Because every day I hear God call me anew.
- Because I have decided to love the Lord a little more and I want to follow him in my life.
- Because the Holy Spirit has made me understand that Jesus awaits my response of love.
- Because for these years I have been happy on the path of the Company of St. Ursula, Secular Institute of St. Angela Merici.
- Because I feel inside me the burning bush that must be consumed by the Lord wherever I am.
- Because I want to understand more fully my own identity as daughter, spouse, sister, mother.
- Because I want to entrust myself totally to God as a child in the arms of her mother.
- Because I want to fix my eyes on my God who is watching me, and to love God who is loving me.
- Because I prefer to follow Jesus who never betrays me.
- Because now I understand the life of St. Angela Merici a little more.
- Because I want to live in obedience, chastity, and poverty together with so many sisters in the global Company.
- Because I want to serve God in the Company freely and with a joyful spirit.
- Because I want to do all for the Reign of God, living in the world with faith, hope, and charity.

(Drawn from some questions about consecration)

THE COMPANIES TODAY: PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Points from the presentation
by Mary-Cabrini Durkin
of the Company of St. Ursula
of Canada,
Group of the United States
At the Conference on the
Girelli Sisters
Brescia, November 23, 2013

- **Openness...** Companies that either collaborate or have contact with other Companies, close or far away, affirm that their Company's life is enhanced. This openness can be cultivated through communication among individuals or groups or through the Federation's annual meeting. Some established Companies promote new Groups in other parts of the world.
- **Trying to be connected...** What if each Company were to think about and adopt a way of connecting with others suited to its own situation? Great good would come of it.
- **Sister Companies...** Our shared values and interests could reach across national, even continental boundaries. What if a Company were to seek a different Company as a partner in communication about shared values, projects, or activities?
- **Overcoming linguistic barriers...** It is also necessary to think about this challenge. The Federation's website and that of the International Center of Merician Studies and the periodical *IN THE SAME CHARISM...* utilize three languages: English, French, and Italian. What if Companies were to identify bilingual or multilingual resources among

themselves or among their associates and create an avenue to wider communication?

- **Intergenerational dialogue...** Openness can manifest itself in intergenerational dialogue that truly respects the gifts that each generation offers. Can elders offer wisdom without being dogmatic? Can younger women offer fresh ideas while revering the spiritual legacy of their older sisters? This kind of dialogue calls for continuing conversion, for stripping away pride and status.

I offer these ideas and questions simply as an invitation to creative thinking. We are the daughters of one of history's most creative founders. Let us all, in our concrete circumstances, launch initiatives of creative thinking.



- **Speaking of promoting vocations...** Let us ask ourselves:

- Why do we hope for new members?
- For our own validation?
- For help in managing responsibilities?
- Or to help other women realize their own calling for the sake of God's Reign?"

Our mission is to make God's love present as a dynamic energy in the Church and the world. Everywhere we are called to make present the universal and transcending love that became human in Jesus Christ, *the Lover of us all*.

FAITH

Since childhood, the word “faith” has attracted my attention. As a student of the Ursulines, many times I heard St. Angela’s words “Have faith.”

The apostles ask Jesus, “Increase our faith” (Lk 17:6). And Jesus responds, ““If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to [this] mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”

This is marvelous! However, it still leaves me far from a full understanding of what faith means.

We spend a heap of energy on things that are not worth the pain: profession, money, sports, entertainment, etc. It all has a price!

Naturally, faith is a grace that God has given us. He has given it to us the way a gardener can turn over his most beautiful plant to us. We must take care of it!

The plant of faith can be ruined by worthless soil of my doubts, by lack of the sunshine of God’s Word, by lack of being watered by prayer.

Yes, faith takes labor. We say that a woman who is about to give birth to her baby is “in labor.”

Belief is similar; it involves growing the seed of life that God lavished on me on the day of my Baptism.

In his Letter to Timothy, St. Paul expresses it like this: “I exhort you to awaken in yourself the gift of God that you have received.”

Following Christ means to go out gradually from nights darkened by our lack of faith; it means to wake up on Easter morning and every day, more and more aware that we are children of the most high God.

M. Nicole Jandot

ABOUT RESERVE - AGAIN

When we lament because we are not well enough known and our secular charism is not correctly understood, I feel that reserve is blamed as the cause. It seems to me that we should not be so surprised about this lack of understanding, because anything that is not obvious and typical is generally not understood immediately. So perhaps it is only necessary to explain clearly the specific nature of our marvelous vocation with patience and perseverance.

But I have heard a little confusion, even in the Companies themselves, over the concept of religious and secular consecrated persons. Then perhaps, first of all, we must be concerned that we, principally, understand and fully live the secular charism: we, who are called to serve the Lord precisely in this state of life.

Therefore I think that first it is necessary to pray to the Holy Spirit to enlighten us, so that we may be able to give witness and carry this light in our lives, and even with words if necessary. Then pray again that the Church and her ministers may be enlightened, so as to understand better and better and may be better able to guide and direct people whom the Lord calls.

But above all, let us entrust ourselves to GOD, because after all it is he who calls, guides, and directs where he thinks best and in the way that he deems best.

I say this because in my case, it was only an “accident” that took me to Saint Angela. I had no guide, knew nothing about secular institutes; but thanks to the prayers of the sisters of my Company, and through their example, bit by bit I heard in my heart that I was called precisely there and eventually I understood the charism and the meaning of personal reserve.

Let us pray trustingly to the Holy Spirit who helps us to do our part, because he surely does his part.

Luisa of Modena

FROM THE COMPANIES AND GROUPS

1923-2013: A ninety-year-old celebrates her birthday



The Lord has been very kind to me: I celebrate my 90th birthday with a clear mind and a great love for the life He has given me. How did I live this life? Was I of service to the Church, to the Company?

I find many positive points, but there are also a few negative ones; I am sure I could have done better. Now I must make amends; I must pray very hard and make sacrifices so that the Lord will grant new vocations to our Institute.

Unfortunately the Church is going through difficult times; there are fewer vocations. It is not easy to say “Yes” and commit oneself for a lifetime; we go through life aimlessly, fumbling forward. We, consecrated women, must bear witness to our joy in the choice of our life, even if we had to give up certain things. Jesus shares our burden and helps us to reach our goal filling our hearts with happiness because we have overcome our trials. Christ is alive and He was crucified in order to redeem us. Let us love Him and bear witness of His death and resurrection.

Now I am nearing my end, but there are so many persons I am indebted to for helping me grow in my faith: my parents, my confessor and the ladies at the oratory, who have been called to eternal rest and endless joy.

Please, Lord, allow me the grace to meet You so that, together, we may praise Your name forever. Praise and glory to Jesus!

Rina Porro, Milan



Poland and Slovakia

The Companies of Poland and Slovakia are close not only geographically but also in language and culture. Meetings between the two Companies are a great celebration for us.

The Company of Poland always prepares for these meetings with great attention and joy.



The charism of Saint Angela is explored in depth. (Ursula prepares the presentations.) Maria Dravecka, councilor of the Federation, keeps us informed about the Institute around the world. Together we pray for new vocations.

Maria Dravecka

August 2013 Days of Retreat in Eritrea

While the President and Vice-president were in Burundi and Ethiopia, we in Eritrea were also able to gather for our annual retreat.

So, following the invitation of our mother foundress to come together with our dear sisters, we met for four days with all the members of the Group of the Company in Eritrea, belonging to three different dioceses, in a comfortable site in Asmara in the pensione of the Comboni Sisters. We listened to meditations presented by the priest; we shared our experiences and our consecrated life in the world. We let ourselves be guided by Saint Angela's Testament, the Eighth Legacy, happy in our vocation and in belonging to the Company.



Minnia

Planting a Seed in Kenya

A new group of the Company is beginning to germinate in Kenya. Perpetua Nyakundi is making her initial journey under the authority of the



General Council of the Federation. In September 2012, she was accepted into the time of “initial trial.” Her formation includes our regular conferences through the instrumentality of Skype. I visited Perpetua in Nairobi in November 2013.



Perpetua and I collaborated in leading a day of information and reflection about the Company for interested women in Nairobi. Seven women attended, and several wish to proceed in serious vocational discernment.

With one voice, they thank the Federation for opening this doorway to consecrated life in the world, for which they have been searching.

Let us pray for this new seed, that it may grow and flower under the warm influence of St. Angela, to the glory of God. May it nourish Kenyan women and promote Christ’s mission in their society!

Mary-Cabrini Durkin



Mary-Cabrini spoke about the Company during a sub-session. In another sub-session, Liliane introduced Jean Frisk, a Schoenstatt Sister, who spoke about secular institutes in general. E

Sister Sue Scharfenberger, OSU, and Sister Catherine Bertrand, SSND, spoke on the Convocation's theme, *"Angela's radical vision: Expanding the circle."*

Mary-Cabrini Durkin

Annual Meeting in Indonesia, Malang, July 4-8, 2013

United together to serve his divine Majesty (Rule, Prologue, 4)



Our annual meeting in 2013 , as a few years ago, has become an international experience with the presence of Josephine Liow and Ebba Fernandez from Singapore, Hélène de Beauregard from Thailand, and Monica Vaughan from Australia. Our handbook was printed in two languages: English and Indonesian.

Also the presentation was made in two languages, since many of our sisters do not master enough English. But on the whole all the Sisters could communicate fairly well with one another helped by sign language, but above all by love language. The meeting was held in a Retreat House run by the Sisters of Mercy, a simple but adequate spiritual center.

The Conferences were presented in power point with pictures. The sources used were: the writings of St. Angela, the Constitutions, the documents of the Church (Vita Consecrata) , the messages of Pope Francis, the prayers of Fr. Adonis Llamas Narcelles. We also used bibliodrama and biblical dances.

On July 7, in a simple but very meaningful and joyful Eucharistic celebration, Lydia Kidarsa renewed her consecration for another three years.

On the last day we went to Sengkaling Garden, a beautiful place, for a half-day recreation.

Our being together was marked by great joy. Our Mother Angela must be very pleased seeing her wish come true: *“Be bound to one another by the bond of charity, esteeming each other, helping each other, bearing with each other in Jesus Christ”* (Last Counsel, 2).

Sr. Emmanuel Gunanto, OSU

Such Great Joy...

“The whole programme with the allocation of time for all events was good. There was a balance of Church documents, Constitutions, the discourses of Pope Francis. Enough time to be with sharing groups to enable more bonding and time for personal sharing. Good



balance between ' work ' and prayer, and also the time to take breaks.



The warmth of the sisters in the Indonesian Company was felt, and they were generous in accepting us, so it seemed there was no difference in our coming from different countries. Guidance given to the Indonesian sisters for many years appears in the attitude of respect that they show for one

another. They appear to be obedient, have the spirit of prayer and are polite and welcoming to guests.

Good, healthy food. Room amenities are simple but adequate. We ask to be invited every year, and if possible, we will certainly come, because we learn a lot and the sessions are very useful. "

No wonder that there is so much joy, because Amatore, the Lover of us all, the source of Joy, is in our midst together with Mother Mary and Mother Angela.

See you next year in Jakarta!

Josephine Liow of Singapore

HE LIFTED UP THE LOWLY (Lk 1:52)
Burundi, August 21, 2013
Foyer of Charity in Giheta



Two groups of the Daughters of Saint Angela prepared for their festive celebration in a peaceful, quiet place where one can meditate, pray and offer oneself to God with joy, seriousness and moderation, qualities which describe their character.

The first group of 25 who, after a two year period of initial trial, requested to be admitted to consecration in the international Company in the presence of Directresses Maria and Kate, who had come from Italy.

The second group of 22 submitted their written request to form part of the international Company.

Principles which reflect simplicity and poverty:

- ✚ Many came on foot to the centre of spirituality, 13 kilometres away from Gitega. Many would return the same way to their homes in the hills.
- ✚ They have no uniforms, but are humbly wearing different clothes.
- ✚ They did not invite their families, not even their parents or siblings. Only five persons were invited: two priests, two nuns, and a benefactor invited by the directress.



- ✚ They have no diplomas. The eldest left school after finishing the primary stages; the others are just learning the alphabet with courses called "Yaga Mukama," which means "speak Lord," until—if they can—they have learned enough to be able to read and write.
- ✚ They signed the holy binding documents at the altar after their profession with a trembling and shaky hand. Yet they read the two-minute- long document of profession without difficulty.
- ✚ The choir consisted of the new group asking to form part of the universal Company.



Principles of joy and honor:

- It seemed that Archbishop Mons. Simone Ntamwana, who was willing to preside, would not be able to attend. However, he arrived at 9:30 a.m. instead of at 11. What a joyful surprise it was!
- The two priests who were invited to the ceremony acted as acolytes.
- The persons hosting the celebration were also present and were moved by the simple ceremony.
- The choir made up of the newly admitted members was clear and expressive, and at the end of the final song, they were dancing with their arms raised up high.
- The Archbishop clapped his hands at the end of each of the 25 professions uttering: "Urakoze!" meaning "Heartfelt thanks."
- The ceremony was 50 minutes long, but Nataliya, the 70-year-old directress of Burundi, knelt all the time in order to

hold the microphone for her daughters. The archbishop wanted the professions to be made individually, not in groups of seven as had been planned before, even if it took longer.

- Another touching moment was when Maria Rosa, the President, embraced each and every one of them at the end of the ceremony. This was a sign of real friendship.
- The Gospel of the day was the parable of the laborers of the eleventh hour who were paid the same amount s those who had started early in the morning, a very fitting reading for the occasion.
- The newly consecrated lay women also contributed towards the hosting house during the offering.
- After Communion, Jeannine, one of those who had just made their profession, wearing the cloak of a mountain chief and holding a spear in her hand, smiled radiantly and praised the Lord for working great wonders through each and every one of them in the history of the Company. This earned her a sound applause at the end.
- After the ceremony, the hosts, many of whom are consecrated lay persons, prepared a lunch which was served in the hall beneath the church. It was a lavish meal as though in honor of the most important congregation of the country.
- Simple yet truthful speeches brought the feast to an end, and we warmly wished each other goodbye.

Saint Angela Merici, Saint Guido Maria Conforti, founder of the Congregation of Saint Saverius, the late founder of the Daughters of Saint Angela in Burundi, and Father Peter Nkudwa were surely present for the feast.

Father Modesto Todeschi, S.X.



The Company Is also Found in Nigeria
Thanks to the Company of Padua ...



Angela made her consecration for life a few years ago; in October 2013 two other sisters, (Agnes and Bernadette) were admitted to the Company of Padua, which will continue to follow and care for them.

On the left is Father Ingino, Angela's cousin, who follows their progress in Nigeria.

Treviso, October 19, 2013

The sisters of the Company with their directress Carla, the Assistant Father Ado, together with the President of the Federation, on the occasion of the inauguration of the new house "Carolina Polacco," the first residence of the Company of Treviso.



**From South Brazil...
in remembrance
of Julia Maria da Solidade,
former directress**



Julia Maria da Solidade's life was an example of faith.

She dedicated her life to the service of God. When she was sixteen years old, she became a catechist in her parish and later became a Eucharistic minister. She cared for the sick and the elderly and for her mother until she passed away.

She had no doubt about her vocation from the moment she was introduced to the Secular Institute of Saint Angela. She earnestly waited throughout the period of formation to consecrate herself totally to God; and this is exactly what she did. Since then, she totally dedicated her life to the Institute. Every year, she participated in the spiritual exercises. She visited the sisters living in the North and in New Hamburg in the South.

Her motto was the words of the Gospel: ***Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.***

Always smiling, she never let her sorrows show.

Now she has left us the legacy of her last vocational work, a small community of women who will continue to spread in charism of Saint Angela Merici.

She made her last trip to Brescia, joyfully visiting the Sanctuary of Saint Angela. Now this daughter of Saint Angela is in heaven, and we may ask her to help us in our difficult moments.

She led a peaceful life and had a peaceful death; she went to meet Jesus whom she loved dearly. Julia went to heaven before she could celebrate her 18th anniversary of consecration.

Nivalda Neta

A Beautiful Witness of Faith

Julia has left a beautiful witness of faith. She gave herself completely to Jesus and was very committed in the parish community.

She was a faithful follower of Saint Angela Merici. In this changing world which attempts to give meaning to life, she bore witness to Christ with actions expressing hope.

She was faithful to the teaching of Saint Angela and lived her acceptance of the invitation: "Let them set their hopes on high and not on earth. Let them have Jesus Christ for their only treasure..." (5th Counsel, 42-43).

Her favorite verse from the Bible was "For where your treasure is there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

Physical death does not dampen the voice; her voice continues to resound in our hearts.

Fr. Otacilio, during the funeral

I got to know Julia many years ago during our meetings with the Company of Brazil in Sao Paulo, together with the tireless Nicole. We became friends later when Julia started participating in the international meetings and assemblies in Italy. How happy she was! I still have a letter or two in which one can feel how joyful she was to form part of the Company and to be able to come to Italy to pray at Saint Angela's tomb and meet the sisters.

I was impressed by the calm way in which she came to terms with pain and accepted her illness. She often told Ursula (the present directress of the Company) that she offered her severe pain for our Secular Institute and for this, too, we express our heartfelt thanks.

Now Julia rests in peace, with her/our Spouse and Saint Angela. From Heaven she will help us to be faithful as she was.

Maria Rocca



Regional Meeting in Sicily *Consecrated Laity*

On October 27, 2013, the Daughters of Saint Angela Merici of the nine dioceses of Sicily met at the Episcopal Seminary in Caltanissetta for their regional meeting.

These meetings always fill our hearts with joy and hope.

On this occasion, Kate Dalmasso, vice- president of the Federation, was also present.

She spoke about *“Laity Consecrated in the Merician Charism.”* Listening to her, it seemed as though we were hearing the voice of our *“Madre,”* who repeatedly told her beloved daughters, *“Gather at the feet of Jesus Christ and there offer most fervent prayers.”*

Another important point in the presentation was the importance of living in the world as Saint Angela did, giving testimony by being bright sparks in the darkness of the world... by being heavenly yet human, by bringing comfort and advice in the streets of the world.

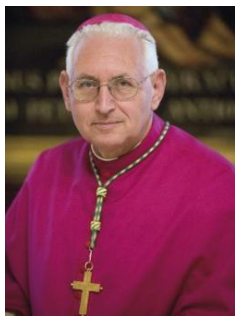
The day, which was a gift from God, ended with the holy Mass celebrated by Mons. Mario Russotto.

Lunch was an occasion of sisterly love among the members of the Company.

Valeria and Liliana

SYRACUSE 1939-2014

75th Anniversary of the Foundation



We are preparing to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Company being initiated in our diocese. This means that we must do our utmost to fervently renew the pledges we made at the beginning our spiritual journey with rigor, dedication and enthusiasm.

Long ago in 1939, Ms. Francesca Greco, who was later appointed superior, was entrusted with the care of the first group of sisters; these were Carmela di Natale, Celestina di Silvestro, Ida Costa, and Francesca Talio. The ceremony of admission to the novitiate took place in the private chapel of Archbishop Ettore Baranzini on October 29, 1939, the feast of Christ the King.

In 1940 Bishop Baranzini nominated Reverend Salvatore Gozzo to be Ecclesiastical Assistant of the Company, a post he kept till 1997, when he was succeeded by Reverend Alfio Scapellato, pastor in Lentini.

On October 31, 2013, our beloved Archbishop Salvatore Pappalardo made a pastoral visit to our house. He was accompanied by Deacon Marco Ramondetta and Father Mario Marino, pastor of our parish of Santa Lucia al Sepolcro. The Archbishop encouraged us to faithfully and generously lead our life as lay consecrated persons in the world. He also encouraged us to invoke Lucia Mangano to grant us the miracle of new vocations in the Company.

Let us be of one accord in thought and in prayer that the Lord may grant us the grace to grow in his love and faithfully proceed on our spiritual journey.

Elena, Directress of the Company of Syracuse



INCOMING MAIL

June 29, 2014 The Company's 25th Anniversary in Indonesia

The Indonesian secular Ursuline sisters ask all the sisters in the world to join them in prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord and Saint Angela, on the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Company in Indonesia.

They will celebrate this important anniversary in their different regions, offering prayers and fasting and asking for perseverance and more vocations.

They will hold a general meeting in Jakarta to celebrate this anniversary together on June 29, 2014.

May Elisa Tarolli and the other sisters who already form part of the *new crown of glory and joy in heaven* obtain for all of us *new fervor* to be steadfast and resolute.

(From the web site of The Company of Indonesia)



BURUNDI - The Parish of NDAVA Illness and unexpected recovery

Four years ago, I was told that I was suffering from a tumor for which there was no cure. I had been treated at the normal clinic and I had thought that all would be well, but in reality things

became worse. Instead of getting better, my health was deteriorating. Seeing this, the Directress of the Company decided to send me to the main hospital in MUTOYI (30 kilometers from Gitega). After various tests, it was discovered that I had a serious tumor in the stomach which bloated my abdomen. The pain was so severe that I could not even sleep at night.

I was operated on in the hospital of Mutoyi, which I came to call: “Mother of my health”. The tumor had damaged various parts of my body, and a festering womb lining was removed from my right side. After spending three months in hospital, I was discharged, but instead of getting better I became worse.

Once again I was in great pain, even worse than before, but I never gave up hope. Only one thing was important, I felt that the time to meet the Lord was near. I told my friends about this and asked them to pray for me so that I would be able to endure my sufferings.

When I went back to Mutoyi for my check-up, I was told that I had cancer in my intestines which could not be operated on; the only thing to do was to go back home and await death. The doctor was extremely gentle and has a great respect for the Daughters of Saint Angela; for this reason he had refrained from telling me the truth before. This set me thinking and meditating, dear friends! I realized that it was not at all easy to face death, but I tried to be brave. When I got home the pain and suffering increased, and I spent two years in bed.

My relatives were of great help and support and I was never alone while I waited for the end to come; they each took it in turns to be with me so that I was never on my own. May God bless and protect them! They prayed so hard for me and, with gratitude, I prayed for each and every one of them in return.

One of the leaders of our Company brought me some holy water from Lourdes and after using it for some time, I realized that I was less in pain so much so that I could also move. Before I could neither turn around, nor sit and least of all leave my bed. Gradually I started taking a few steps..... and as time went by, up to the present day I have made infinite progress. The swelling has gone down, the mechanism which devoured my bones... has stopped working. The hound which was devouring my body had left me. I have regained my sensations and can feel the heat and the cold again; I can go for walks and have gone back to work.

Who of all the saints could have interceded for me if not Saint Angela Merici? And she was always by my side. Thank you, Saint Angela.

May God, the Father of love, Father of all things visible and invisible be praised!

A letter from Josephine Tuyisabe (which means "Let us pray to Him.")



A Visit to Reggio Emilia

What a wonderful thing it is to think of each other as dear Sisters, especially those who do not have sisters in their Company who live close to them!

What a great pleasure it was for Anna of Reggio Emilia to welcome Ileana and Maria Rosa from the Company of Piacenza!



NOTICE

A new book about the Servant of God Bianca Piccolomini:

THE JOY OF KNOWING THAT YOU ARE GOD'S SECRET

An Itinerary of Spiritual Life with Bianca Piccolomini

edited by Adriana Romaldo

2013, Edition Cantagalli, Siena



...A collection of talks from the *Assemblies* which Mother Bianca Piccolomini held for the members of her Company.

Deep and valuable meditations offered to her daughters, meditations which reflect her profound knowledge and experience of the interior spiritual life....

Its pages reflect tangible know-ledge and experiences which affirm the reality that spiritual life, human life, and the theological and moral virtues are not separate but are closely linked.

I believe that whoever reads this book by Mother Bianca will have the opportunity to examine his or her spiritual life and will be encouraged to continue and progress in his or her spiritual life.

They are really beautiful and positive pages from a real teacher of spirituality.

*From the presentation by Bishop Adriano Tessarollo,
Assistant to the Council of the Federation*