

IN THE SAME CHARISM

with responsibility



n. 2 - 2014

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

www.istitutosecolareangelamerici.org

www.angelamerici.it

[Email: fed.comp@libero.it](mailto:fed.comp@libero.it)

CONTENTS

To the Readers	p. 4
A Thought from the President	p. 6
The Message of Pope Francis	p. 8
A Thought from the Ecclesiastical Assistant	p. 11
The Charism Envisioned... the Stairway	p. 14
Saint Marie of the Incarnation Guyart	p. 16

FROM THE COMPANIES AND GROUPS

➤ Democratic Republic of Congo	p. 17
➤ Barletta Celebrates 100 Years	p. 21
➤ Burundi – March 2014	p. 23
➤ Ethiopia – March 2014	p. 27
➤ Renewal of Consecration	p. 29
➤ Days of Spirituality for the Leaders	p. 33
➤ Initial Formation Meeting	p. 34
➤ Poland – May 2014	p. 39
➤ Slovakia – May 2014	p. 40
➤ Geneviève Fourquet – 99 Years	p. 42
➤ Prayer to Saint Angela	p. 43

<i>INCOMING MAIL</i>	p. 44
-----------------------------	-------

<i>INTERNATIONAL MEETING</i>	p. 48
-------------------------------------	-------

TO THE READERS

That virtue of pilgrims ... joy! (Pope Francis)

In his talk to the secular institutes that you will find in this journal (p. 8), the Pope provides us a good message: *“Never still, always on the move. Together and sent out, even when you are alone, because your consecration makes you a living spark of the Church. Always on the road with the virtue that is of pilgrims: joy!”*

How good it is to think about life as a journey, how good to fill life up with virtue and, especially, with a *virtue of pilgrims... joy!*

That virtue of pilgrims ... joy

Let us listen again to Saint Angela's way of speaking:

- *“Be happy, and always full of charity and faith and hope in God”* (Rule, Chapter 9, 11).
- *“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).
- *“...Talking over spiritual matters, rejoice together, and together encourage one another...”* (Eighth Legacy, 4-5).

Let us also pick up once more some passages from our Constitutions:

- ★ *With joy and gratitude we welcome the charism...* (Constitutions 2.3).
- ★ *We will respond freely and with a joyful spirit to the call...* (Constitutions 3.2).
- ★ *Meetings of the Company... to communicate to each other the joy of being together* (Constitutions 15).
- ★ *In our daily life we will express to ourselves and to the world the happiness and gratitude of one who knows she is loved, and we will witness to the joy of the gift of ourselves to God* (Constitutions 20.2).
- ★ *We will joyously welcome Christ and will serve him lovingly and gently in each human being...* (Constitutions 22.3).

That virtue of pilgrims ... joy!

Life is a pilgrimage. No one should stay stuck in her place.... Each one is always called to a pilgrimage in joy. A pilgrimage requires leaving our comfortable situation, walking toward others, toward a goal, along a human and spiritual route as one can, according to her age and situation. *Whoever*

*stops is lost... an old proverb thunders. In the spiritual life whoever stops turns back... the saints tell. Pope Francis repeats: **Never still, always on the move.***

That virtue of pilgrims ... joy!

On the road of life we must go forward **together and sent out, even when you are alone.** Pilgrimage can be made only together with others.... sharing the goal, the route, the fatigue, but especially the joy. Our pilgrimage is made in “company” **with attentive and longing hearts.**

That virtue of pilgrims ... joy!

The joy of our vocation, of our consecration makes us **a living spark of the Church.**

We should be like the first virgins of the Company, as Cozzano reminds us: “**...like so many sparks amid the darkness of the world. The reverend Mother Angela was like a sun that gave light to the others. She was like a fire, a conflagration of love, that set them alight.**”

That virtue of pilgrims ... joy!

The kind of joy that comes from sharing among sisters in the Company offers **the support to overcome the trials of our earthly pilgrimage** (Constitutions 4.4).

Trials are certainly not lacking. They are acknowledged, shared, and confronted precisely in the openness and encounter of companionship... thus joy is multiplied again and always, and **actually, we will cross through this momentary life with consolation.**

That virtue of pilgrims ... joy!

That virtue of pilgrims makes us capable of pilgrimage as a company and in a company toward a sanctuary that is always open... the sanctuary of the heart sought in the lives of sisters, Companies, and Groups around the world, the sanctuary inhabited by **the Lover of us all.**

So the various experiences contained in this issue of *IN THE SAME CHARISM...* **with responsibility** will foster our pilgrimage and will invite us again to continue our pilgrimage and to **persevere faithfully and joyfully in the work we have begun.**

Caterina Dalmasso



A THOUGHT FROM THE PRESIDENT

“... NEVER STOPPING, ALWAYS ON THE ROAD!”

What powerful feelings!

I had the joy on May 10 of participating in the Holy Father’s audience with the leaders of secular institutes meeting in Rome for the regular assembly.

A smiling Pope Francis admitted with great candor that he had two audiences at nearly the same time and that therefore his time was limited.

But if this could appear a little awkward, it turned out to demonstrate an overabundance of “grace,” because, rather than the discourse prepared in advance, he gave us the gift of an off-the-cuff talk, and “saving the time” intended for reading the prepared talk, he offered us the opportunity to greet him one by one, gazing into his eyes and allowing ourselves to be gazed upon by him!

We certainly will have the opportunity to recapture and reflect on how much the Pope gave us, reflecting on and probing it, following the distinguished recommendations of his teaching. Nonetheless I want to emphasize some passages that to me seem fundamental.

“And don’t forget: Be revolutionary!” (off-the-cuff talk May 10, 2014).

How could we not immediately think of the “revolution” initiated by Saint Angela?

If our holy Madre had given in to fears, to difficulties, some surely foreseen and some imagined, how could she have responded to God’s call?

How could she have overcome her hesitations and resolved to found the Company without a healthy desire for “revolution”?

“Revolution” is the fruit of the hope that *“we must seek from the Lord, always: the hope that never disappoints”* (off-the-cuff talk May 10, 2014).

We too need courage to live through changes with faith, so as not to line up practices and customs that can accumulate like a crust that obscures the charism rather than making it shine.

Another passage lingered within me and made me think of St. Angela.

The Pope said, *“Live every day as a person who dwells in the world and, at the same time, preserve contemplation, this contemplative dimension directed toward the Lord, while also facing the world; contemplate reality as one contemplates the beauties of the world...”*

We too *“...seek to realize in our life that marvelous synthesis of action and contemplation that was our Madre’s and that of our first sisters: ‘being in the world, sharing in the active life, they enjoy the contemplative life, and in an admirable way, join action to contemplation...’”* (Cozzano; Constitutions 4.1).

We want to be “seedlings of virginity” sprouting from *“...a small life, a small deed; a normal life, but growing, a seed that grows”* (off-the-cuff talk May 10, 2014).

“Never stopping, always on the road. Together ...” (off-the-cuff talk May 10, 2014).

I would like to emphasize this “together” because we must above all else experience “closeness and tenderness” among ourselves!

It would be very strange to render ourselves “... so close to the other as to touch his wounds,” if this “other” were not immediately recognizable in our sister in the Company or in a family member or someone nearby every day.

We thank the Holy Father Francis and welcome his words.

Maria Razza



THE MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR SECULAR INSTITUTES

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I welcome you on the occasion of your Assembly and greet you by saying: I know and I appreciate your vocation! It is one of the newer forms of consecrated life recognized and approved by the Church, and perhaps one that is not yet fully understood. Do not be discouraged: you are part of that poor and outward reaching Church that dreams!

By vocation you are laity and priests like others in the midst of others, you lead an ordinary life, without outward signs, without the support of a community life, without the visibility of an organized apostolate or specific works. Your only wealth is the all-encompassing experience of love of God and for this you are able to know and share life's trials in their many forms, maturing them with the light and power of the Gospel

You are a sign of the Church in dialogue spoken of by Paul VI in the Encyclical *Ecclesiam suam*, " Since the world cannot be saved from the outside, we must first of all identify ourselves with those to whom we would bring the Christian message-like the Word of God who Himself became a man. Next we must forego all privilege and the use of unintelligible language, and adopt the way of life of ordinary people in all that is human and honorable. Indeed, we must adopt the way of life of the most humble people, if we wish to be listened to and understood. Then, before speaking, we must take great care to listen not only to what men say, but more especially to what they have it in their hearts to say. Only then will we understand them and respect them, and even, as far as possible, agree with them. Furthermore, if we want to be men's pastors, fathers and teachers, we must also behave as their brothers. Dialogue thrives on friendship, and most especially on service.

All this we must remember and strive to put into practice on the example and precept of Christ" (n.87).

The theme of your Assembly, "At the heart of human events: the challenges of a complex society", points to the scope of your mission and your prophecy. You are in the world but not of the world, carrying

within you the essentials of the Christian message: the Father's love that saves. You are in the heart of the world with the heart of God.

Your vocation makes you interested in every individual and his or her deepest issues that often remain unspoken or masked. By virtue of the love of God that you have encountered and known, you are capable of closeness and tenderness. So you can be so close as to touch others, their wounds and expectations, their questions and needs, with a tenderness that is an expression of care that erases all distance. Like the Samaritan who walked by and saw and had compassion. This is the movement to which you have committed your vocation: to journey alongside each person and be close to every person you meet; because your being in the world is not simply a sociological condition, but it is a theological reality that calls you to be aware, to care for, recognize, see and touch the flesh of your brethren.

If this does not happen if you become distracted, or worse still, do not know this contemporary world but know and visit only the world that you are more comfortable with or more drawn to, then conversion is urgently needed! Yours is an outward reaching vocation by nature, not only because it brings you to others, but also because it asks you to live where every man lives.

Italy is the country with the largest number of secular institutes and members. You are a yeast that can produce good bread for many, the Bread of which there is so much hunger: someone to listen to people's needs, desires, disappointments, hopes. Like those who have preceded you in your vocation, you can restore hope to young people, help the elderly, open roads to the future, and spread love in every place and in every situation. If this does not happen, if your ordinary life lacks witness and prophecy, then, I repeat to you, there is an urgent need for conversion!

Never lose the momentum of walking the streets of the world, aware that walking, even with an uncertain step or limping, is always better than standing still, locked within your questions or securities. The missionary passion, the joy of Christ that urges you to share with others the beauty of faith, reduces the risk of becoming stuck in individualism.

The line of thought that proposes man as creator of himself, guided only by his own choices and desires, often vested in the seemingly beautiful garment of freedom and respect, threatens to undermine the foundations of consecrated life, especially of lay people.

There is an urgent need to re-evaluate your sense of belonging to your vocational community which, precisely because it is founded on community life, finds its strengths in its charisma. For this reason, if each of you is a precious opportunity for others to meet with God, it is about rediscovering the responsibility of being prophecy as a community, to seek together, with humility and patience, a word of sense that can be a gift for the country and for the Church, and to bear witness to it with simplicity. You are like antennas ready to seize the seeds of innovation prompted by the Holy Spirit, and you can help the ecclesial community to take on this gaze of goodness and find new and bold ways to reach all peoples.

Poor among the poor, but with a burning heart. Never still, always on the move. Together [in community] and sent out [into the world], even when you are alone, because your consecration makes you a living spark of the Church. Always on the road with the virtue that is of pilgrims: joy!

Thank you, dear friends, for what you are. May the Lord bless you and Mary keep you. And pray for me!

Rome May 10, 2014

*Talk prepared by the Holy Father for the
Assembly of Secular Institutes*



THOUGHTS FROM THE ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION



MARY, MOTHER OF EVANGELIZATION, MARY, STAR OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

From “The Joy of the Gospel”
by Pope Francis
(nn. 283-288)

At the conclusion of the Apostolic Exhortation JG, the Pope takes a look at the way in which Mary, whom he calls “Mother of Evangelization” and “Star of the New Evangelization,” followed Jesus and experienced his relationship with his disciples. It is a beautiful “lay” image of Mary, who, from within her “secular” situation, lived at first as Jesus’ mother, then as a disciple following him, and finally as an apostle together with the other apostles.

I take up some of the Pope’s statements:

1. “Mary was able to turn a cave for animals into a home for Jesus, with poor swaddling clothes and a mountain of tenderness.”

I think of so many poor houses which have only the essentials, and so often lack even that (we reflect on our own homes and churches), but in which you find welcome, simplicity, warmth, joy! (Notice in Luke 2 the atmosphere of warmth and joy describing the arrival in the manger.) Pre-evangelization and evangelization often depend on the style of encounter, which is the most effective item and tool at our disposal.

2. Mary *“is the friend who is ever concerned that wine not be lacking in our lives” (John 2:1-11).*

The wine is a symbol that the feast continues (if there's no wine, the feast is over). To be disciples and apostles like Mary means to have attentive eyes and sensitive hearts to pay attention to what others experience. It also means to have faith in the Lord, knowing to call upon him, to intercede. That is, we must be involved with the other, with our faith and prayer, turning to Jesus and welcoming his word.



3. Mary *“is the woman whose heart was pierced by a sword and who understands all our pain” (Luke 2).*

The declaration that “your soul too a sword shall pierce” is a declaration that she too will participate in the mission of her Son, the mission for which Jesus faced his Passion and cross. And she carried it out, all the way to the thrust of the lance, recorded by John to tell us that Jesus gave all of himself, and from that “all” (blood and water flowing from his heart) came the gift of the Spirit signified by the sacraments. So too Mary would be involved in this gift, agreeing to participate in her Son's suffering. We cannot participate in the mission of the Son without agreeing to be involved and participate in his cross.

4. *“On the cross, when Jesus endured in his own flesh the dramatic encounter of the sin of the world and God's mercy, he could feel at his feet the consoling presence of his mother and his friend.”*

With John, Mary could stand at the foot of the cross, could be present and share that suffering with Jesus. Mary did not flee! For us this means being able to “stand at the feet” (that is, present and involved) of the poor “christs” who suffer, who struggle, who experience confusion, solitude, delusion, abandonment, illness, and sufferings of every kind! Faith tells us that we are close to the cross of Jesus Christ. It is this being present that so often becomes fruitful and

effective evangelization (the act with which we bring a brother or sister to meet the Lord!).

5. *“At that crucial moment, before fully accomplishing the work which his Father had entrusted to him, Jesus said to Mary: ‘Woman, here is your son’ (John 19:26-27).... These words of Jesus...manifest the mystery of a special saving mission.”*

This is the law of “participation” in Christ’s saving mission; of participation in his compassion and love for the human race (Matthew 9:36) that he came to save.

6. Finally the Pope also refers to the years of the life in Nazareth, the years from the beginning of the Gospel: *“It is not difficult to see in that beginning a particular heaviness of heart, linked with a sort of night of faith...a kind of ‘veil’ through which one has to draw near to the Invisible One and to live in intimacy with the mystery. And this is the way that Mary, for many years, lived in intimacy with the mystery of her Son, and went forward in her pilgrimage of faith.”*

Let us realize that we are also united with Mary when we experience our “pilgrimage of faith” being marked by moments or periods of darkness! Let us adore the Mystery and continue on the road awaiting the Light. This is the solid foundation of the authentic Marian devotion/imitation by the Christian people who feel her to be like a mother who accompanies us, who travels with us, struggles with us, suffers with us in our sufferings, assuring us of God’s love and nearness by her intercession.

In this being together there emerges an image of Mary “consecrated in the duties of daily life” that she too has experienced as a disciple of Jesus and participant in his mission, in company with other disciples and apostles.

+ Bishop Adriano Tessarollo,
Ecclesiastical Assistant



The Charism Envisioned... the Stairway

Saint Angela's vision... what was it about? Perhaps a dream, an intuition, a reality, a human experience, a supernatural experience, a vocational and institutional mandate?



A vision of whom and what?... A vision that carries a message, that gives a glimpse of a proposal?

When we think about Saint Angela's vision it is natural to turn to Jacob's dream *"Then he had a dream: a stairway rested on the ground, with its top reaching to the heavens"* (Gn 28:10-22).

In the vision of the stairway heaven and earth are reconnected...

Yes, heaven and earth are far apart, but not separate; yes, they are different, but they are intertwined. There is a double movement: from earth to heaven, from heaven to earth. Discovering God means entering into this double movement: not only *to climb from earth to heaven*, but also *to descend from heaven onto the earth*.

That's how Saint Angela's stairway is: on it some descend and some climb, but there is only one Company, and *in heaven a new crown of glory and joy is prepared for all of them, one by one*.

In the vision at Brudazzo, as it is presented to us, I am struck by the figure of Saint Angela... kneeling on the bare earth, her gaze fixed on the stairway: It is the mystical union of earth with heaven. Angela understands her mission and that of her daughters: *a marvelous synthesis of action and contemplation*.

Among the group, more angels and virgins seem to be climbing than descending, someone in the distance yet arriving... and someone doesn't know whether to descend, stay where she is, or return.

Even from a psychological point of view, standing on a stairway implies a provisional condition, a transition. No one stands still on a stairway; one either climbs or descends. We could look for our own

spot on the stairway.... This makes me think about the Company *already in heavenly glory* and also about Saint Angela, alive among us today, who does not hesitate to remind us: *Tell them that they should long to see me not on earth, but in heaven, where our love is. Let them set their hopes on high and not on earth* (Fifth Counsel 41-42).

The vision of the stairway carries an announcement...

On these heavenly stairs.... earth and heaven are not very far apart, and God's angels visit us, messengers of an announcement from God: there is a message just for you; there is a message to be transformed into a plan of life for you and for others! God is taking care of you and is alive within your dreams, is alive in your fears, is alive in your tears and your hopes. Heaven is not far away, because God is here, living on earth; you are his home, the sacred place where he is present... always look on high, get sight of the message and then go in peace... the Lord is with you.

Pondering Saint Angela and her vision.... we reflect on our foundress – as heavenly as she was human, as Cozzano reminds us: *“both so heavenly in spirit, walking always with God, and also as consistent as possible, in her conversation, with ordinary respectable customs....”*

With this image of the stairway, so dear to me for its symbolism, let us continue the journey, knowing well that Saint Angela's charism is kept alive by *the Lover of us all*: *“Hold this for certain: that this Rule has been planted directly by his holy hand, and he will never abandon this Company as long as the world lasts.... Believe it, do not doubt, have firm faith that it will be so”* (Eleventh Legacy).

Our dream, our vision, our trust... will not disappoint...

Blessed are we who will take very good care of it and..... in the meantime, do what has to be done....

and thorny and rocky roads we will find flower-strewn for us, paved with finest gold.

**Let us wish one another
a good vision and good blooming!**

Kate



Saint Marie of the Incarnation Guyart

Ursuline Marie Guyart was canonized on April 3. She was a saint in the secular world and in religious life.

Marie centered herself on God as a happy wife, mother, and young widow. She managed her late husband's business, then her brother-in-law's, in Tours, France, while mystical experiences drew her into God.

After becoming an Ursuline nun, she served as novice mistress, then led the first women religious to North America to teach native and French girls in Quebec. She wrote her spiritual autobiography at her son Claude's request. Her feast is April 30.

A member of the Company of Canada, Liliane, recalls: "I was introduced to Marie of the Incarnation at a very young age. The three of us little girls, sitting on the floor at my mother's feet, listened as she read Marie's story to us. Soon my brother was born and named Claude after Marie's son. Later, as I could read for myself other accounts of Marie's mystical experiences, her love for the Blessed Trinity greatly inspired me with a devotion to the Blessed Trinity. In school we prayed constantly for Marie's canonization. What a gift to be alive to see it happen!"



At the age of seven, Marie heard Jesus ask her: "Do you want to be mine?" "Yes!" she answered.

Let us pray...

***Saint Marie of the Incarnation,
daughter, wife, mother, widow, mystic, sister,
businesswoman, nun, missionary, teacher, writer,
foundress, builder, bridge between cultures...***

Pray for us

FROM THE COMPANIES AND GROUPS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



The Flower Opens

The spiritual retreat began on August 24, 2013. We were 26 people: 14 from Lubumbashi, 1 from Kisan-gani, 4 from Kinshasa, 5 from Mbuji-Mayi, and 2 from France. We stayed in a tranquil place, the novitiate of the Spiritan Fathers,

where hospitality was offered to us free of charge. During the five days of the retreat, the preacher spoke to us about commitment and fidelity. In easy, clear language, Father pointed out to us some possible guidelines for living our consecration. He was very helpful to each of us in identifying what we needed to do to remain faithful to Christ. We spent these five days of retreat in deep silence, well paced according to the daily schedule. On the fifth day, five aspirants, Marie-Pierre, Bernadette, Odette, Mathilde, and Elisabeth, took their “first step,” happy to have been accepted. Afterwards, during the two days of meetings, still in the novitiate of the Spiritans, we reflected together in subgroups in which we all participated with the desire to share and to learn.

August 30 was a day of festivity and joy on account of the consecrations. The celebration took place in the Church of Christ the Savior. We were surrounded by our friends in consecrated life, by the faithful of the parish, and by members of our sisters’ families. I assure you that the church vibrated, the countryside echoed, the choir intoned the opening song ... you should have been there and heard the applause and “ululations”! Abbot Zéphirin Nyembo, delegate of the bishop, presided at the celebration, surrounded by many priests. At the beginning of the Mass, Charlotte made a fine presentation about the life

of Saint Angela Merici and the choice of secular consecration. The crowd followed with interest. During the homily, the abbot strongly stressed our commitment and fidelity. After the homily Geneviève Chambris, directress of the French Company, called forth the candidates for first consecration: Godélieve, Scholastique, and Micheline; for renewal: Josephine and Françoise; for consecration for life: Albertine and Agathe. They were led out from within the congregation, accompanied by their parents, amid applause. Songs and dances broke out spontaneously... Each parent presented his/her own daughter to the Lord. The sisters who made the temporary consecration received a cross, the Constitutions, and Saint Angela Merici's Rule of life; those consecrated for life received a wedding ring. At the end of the Mass, Bernadette thanked all those present and invited them to the feast in a large room. Everyone was happy.

On the 31st our reflection on autonomy proceeded. Bernadette explained to us at length how the vocation of Saint Angela was born in the DRC. Departures took place on September 1 and 2. Every one of us left strengthened by the hope of the others. The sharing of life made us stronger: meetings and sisterly exchanges enriched us. Yes, God has placed so many qualities in each one of us ... encountering one another, we discovered them!

Genuinely heartfelt thanks to the French Company for all the sacrifices that it makes for us, and thanks to our Federation that has our foundation at heart and helps us so that, bit by bit, the flower opens in Congo. Thanks for the effort made to bring all together, from the four corners of the country ... This year was truly special: we are happy that we could become familiar with one another ... Thanks for the expenses sustained for our trips, the time together, the feasts, the meetings ... Thanks to the family of Marie-Bernadette, who took care of the cooking, and to Aunt Jeanne B., who tactfully served in so many ways. Thanks to the priest-preacher, who donated so much of his time to us. Thanks to all. May God be always with you! Thanks again to the Federation that has provided for and organized encounters and meetings to solidify our spiritual life. Farewell. Thanks.

Régina Mutombo Lusamba

National Meeting at Lubumbashi



All the Daughters of Saint Angela of the Democratic Republic of Congo had the joy of being together, for the first time, at LUBUMBASHI for the annual retreat and for a formation meeting led by Geneviève and Jeanne. Great was the joy of the sisters of Lubumbashi in welcoming the different delegations: Kinshasa, Mbuji Mayi, Kinsangani and France!

Everything started on Saturday, August 24. Father Jean Louis, our helper, welcomed us in the Spiritan novitiate, the setting chosen for the meeting. The theme of the retreat was commitment and fidelity: *“To commit oneself and hand oneself over totally to an Other, the One who has called us and Whom we desire, and by the power of the Spirit to realize a desire reflected on with maturity,”* the priest reminded us in his introduction. Other subthemes enriched our meditation and prayer: commitment according to the Gospel, how to be faithful to one’s vocation, mission ...

Thursday, August 28, after a time of sharing, was the day for a celebration in the chapel of the Spiritan novices. After the singing of Vespers and a time of adoration, five of our companions committed themselves formally to live the evangelical life in the light of Saint Angela Merici (first step): Marie-Pierre, Odette, Mathilde, Bernadette, and Elisabeth. Songs of thanksgiving closed the evening.

On Saturday, August 31, ISSAM had the joy of celebrating the commitment of two sisters in the Company of Saint Ursula. The ceremony took place in the Church of Christ the Savior, the parish of two sisters (Célestine and Pascaline). The church was nearly taken by storm by the families and friends who had come to be very specially

close to our five companions, three of whom made temporary vows while two pronounced their consecration for life.

This beautiful Eucharistic liturgy was concelebrated by the archbishop's delegate, Abbot Zéphirin; by Father Jean Louis, our assistant; by his Spiritan brethren; and by Father Déogratias (SDB), first cousin of our sister Agathe.

Abbot Zéphirin, in his homily on the parable of the ten talents, exhorted us to call upon all our potential and qualities to respond joyously to the call of our Lover.

After the homily, Geneviève Chambris, the directress of the French Company, called forth the candidates: Micheline, Scholastique, and Godélieve, who were presented before the altar of the Lord to respond to the call to holiness through secular consecration. Agathe and Albertine were joyfully accompanied by their families, dancing as they presented them to the Lord. They pronounced their consecration for life. We thank God for this marvel and ask him for the grace of perseverance in fidelity.

At the end of the ceremony, Marie-Bernadette said some words of thanks to the Lord for such a singular gift granted to little ones, which we are. She also thanked the Company's leaders and the assistant for his particular attention. Thanks were also paid to the relatives and friends who had come to honor the Daughters of Saint Angela. A festive lunch was served in the parish hall after Mass.

Liève



BARLETTA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF THE COMPANY'S HISTORY

On Sunday, January 26, 2014, at the First Vespers of the feast of Saint Angela Merici, foundress of the Company of St. Ursula, in the parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the centennial of the foundation of the Company of St. Ursula – Daughters of Saint Angela Merici was commemorated. Bishop Sabino Lattanzio, the Company's assistant, presided at the solemn Eucharistic celebration.

By a happy coincidence, the local leader of this Company, Angela Cavaliere, celebrated her 25th anniversary of consecration, renewing her sacred bonds of chastity, poverty, and obedience.

The Company of St. Ursula, founded in Brescia in 1535 by Saint Angela Merici, flourished in the territory of Bari till the beginning of the 20th century thanks to Rosina Caraffini of Cremona, who, through various vicissitudes, arrived at Bitonto with her family. Here she found the local bishop, Pasquali Berardi, very welcoming and agreeable to the founding of the Company in his diocese.

On June 21, 1906, in the Church of St. Dominic in Bitonto, with the bishop and a good part of the city's clergy present, the Company was erected canonically. From Bitonto the daughters of St. Angela branched out into other bordering centers.

On April 25, 1914, at the Cathedral of Saint Mary Major in Barletta, under the direction of the archpriest Gabriele Rutigliano, the Company of St. Ursula of Barletta was erected by the decree of Archbishop Francesco Paolo Carrano. Since the Company had not previously existed at Barletta, the first ten daughters of St. Angela were put under the wise guidance of Signora Francesca Monerisi, sister of the prelates Ignazio and Nicola, because she had already been an Ursuline for a long time "although enclosed" ...

Years of highs and lows... difficulties and starting over....

Through providential pathways, in 1984 a “little remainder” of the Company got into contact with the Company of Siena, re-igniting the hope for a fresh start. In 1986 the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the refounding of the Company of Barletta, promoted by the young priest Father Sabino Amedeo Lattanzio, gave it a new impulse. The Daughters of St. Angela aroused great enthusiasm, coming to Barletta for this occasion from various Companies of Italy, after having participated in a course of spiritual exercises at Cassano Murge. Making the occasion even more solemn was the presence of Bishop Gianni Cielo, former assistant of the Federation of Daughters of St. Angela; of Bishop Adriano Tessarollo of Vicenza, assistant to the Federation; and of Lina Moser of Trent, then the President of the Federation.

On November 27, 1986, Archbishop Giuseppe Crata named Father Sabino Lattanzio the new assistant of the Company, and the Daughters of St. Angela of Barletta chose Angela Colomba Torre (died March 10, 2006) as their leader.

A day of particular grace and emotion was January 25, 1987, which saw the entrance of six new candidates into the Company at the parish of St. Benedict, in the presence of Archbishop Carata; the assistant Father Lattanzio; the President of the Federation, Lina Moser; the leader of Barletta, Colombina Torre; and Lidia Gabbrini of the Company of Siena, who had contributed so much to our rebirth.

Unfortunately the little local Merician family has greatly diminished because of the lack of vocations.

May the Master of the harvest be pleased – if this is in his mysterious designs –to restore life to this “*little plant*” for the spread of his Kingdom.



*From a talk by Bishop Sabino Amedeo Lattanzio
Assistant to the Company*

BURUNDI – March 2014

«NKUNDWA»

A rather mysterious title. I would like to explain: It is a word in “Kirundi,” the language of Burundi. The verb from which it is derived is “gukunda,” which means “to love.” To be loved is expressed by “gukundwa.” So “**NKUNDWA**” means “**I am loved.**”

It was the name of a baby destined to become a priest. His baptismal name was Pietro. He died at the age of 80 years, ill from diabetes to the point where the lower extremity of his leg had to be amputated to remove gangrene.



This is the story of a diocesan priest who began the group of “daughters of St. Angela” in Burundi. His name came up at different times in the last gathering for the renewal of

consecration at the Mass in March 2014. How happy he would be, we said, to be here with us and to see the journey that has unfolded in these years! **But what was the beginning?**



From the time when he was a young priest, summarizing the story of **St. Angela Merici** at Mass on January 27 made him understand that this saint was **consecrated to the Lord while remaining in the world**. She was consecrated in the midst of the people, not in a convent.... Some young women who had no possibility of becoming sisters on account of insufficient schooling – just a bit of essential literacy – or not having

been able to get beyond elementary schooling, sought to imitate this saint. Father Pietro Nkundwa met with them from time to time and organized a course of spiritual exercises. Father Pietro received criticism and pressure not to carry through, precisely because he was taking illiterate women who were certainly not able to do much and who were destined for failure. **The critics called them “Bene Nkundwa” = Daughters of Nkundwa,** a name charged with a sense of pity mixed with a tone of irony. Through that play on words with the priest’s name, they became **“Daughters of the beloved.”**



Before he died, Father Pietro had asked Archbishop Simone Ntamwana of Gitega in Burundi to take an interest in these “consecrated secular” girls. The bishop asked them to create statues and constitutions. Father Pietro, already gravely handicapped, had tried to write out some norms in a notebook, but without completing the difficult task that had been requested.



At this point, by pure chance I learned of this difficulty and went to reassure Father Pietro by telling him that I had cousins in Italy who are Daughters of St. Angela and that I knew about their Company and that they would have their Constitutions in different languages, being spread in different countries of the world. This having been done, we learned that there were indeed Constitutions, and Father Pietro died a bit reassured.



This was the timid and humble beginning of an opening to the international Company that they didn't realize existed, which they had never heard of. **This was the beginning of that "bridge"** (as they themselves

describe it) that in the last eight years has progressively been consolidated and has brought joy and honor to these girls who had previously been forgotten and marginalized, as though they did not count.



To be accepted officially at the international level, according to canon law, they have had to begin a formation program to be progressively incorporated in the Institute.

The first group, actually 33, has already been through the various required stages and, please God, in three years they will be able to make their consecration for life, to become an autonomous Company in the international Federation of pontifical right. The other groups are following. In total there are more than 100.

Reclaiming the name of their promoter, Fr. Pietro "Nkundwa," we can rightly affirm that now they are not only Daughters of "beloved" but Daughters of St. Angela and spouses of *the one Lover Jesus Christ*.

Moreover, I would like for these few lines to express in their name sincere thanks for the affectionate care of their international leaders. At the same time, to express also our praise and amazement for Christ, who has exalted the lowly with Mary, even in Burundi, although a small country, almost unknown, in the vastness of Africa.

Fr. Modesto Todeschi
Xaverian Missionary in Burundi, our translator and helper

**And... the whole Federation expresses its own
gratitude to Father Modesto, as well as to Bishop
Simon,
to Father Giuseppe, and
to Father Giovanni Bosco,
attentive, brotherly, and fatherly helpers.
*Blessed are those who will truly take care of the
Company...***

**May this blessing from the foundress,
Saint Angela Merici,
be encouraging to them and a sign of her
intercession with the *Lover of us all***



Ethiopia – March 2014



While returning from Burundi, the President and I stopped in Addis Ababa to meet our Group of consecrated seculars.

As always, we were welcomed in the motherhouse of the Ursulines of Gandino, with affection and great openness, as daughters of the same

Mother Angela. We spent truly beautiful days in meeting and intense formation.

In Ethiopia we experienced more than ever the truth of Saint Angela's words: *"...together like this, they might also meet each other as loving sisters, and thus, talking over spiritual matters, rejoice together, and together encourage one another, which will be no small help to them"* (Eighth Legacy 3-6).

We made good use of the days to meet one another, to pray together, to explain, to restate, to confirm, to visit our sisters where they live and work... to rejoice and celebrate together. All of this was to increase the formation in our vocation, in our charism, in our

spirituality, to realize ever more fully our belonging to the Company...

We also had the joy of the first consecration of three sisters: Masa, Asnakech, Martina. In a



simple celebration of the Word the three young women made their consecration into the hands of the President, accompanied by contact persons Maddalena and Hanna



and by the sisters of the little Group of Ethiopia. The emotion, the joy, the songs and the intense prayer... have in the smallness and in the simplicity of their presence. Thanks be to the Lord who lifts up the lowly and the pure of heart.



We were gladdened by the good organization of Hanna, by the beautiful spirituality of Maddalena, by the enthusiasm of the younger members. We reminded ourselves and them of fidelity to meetings, study, formation in spirituality and in our charism in order to continue the journey responsibly and with renewed fervor.

A month later, the President's delegate Maddalena accepted the first consecration of another candidate – Tiblelse – who had not been able to be present on the days of our visit in Ethiopia.

Thinking back to the Group of Ethiopia, to the other little Groups or individuals scattered around the world, I feel all the limitations resulting from distance, from language, from lack of visits, from organizational difficulties... however, I experience that the power of *united together* sustains us, brings us close, makes us feel like a family in the communion of saints. And so I propose a reflection about them and each one of us, sisters and Companies:



- *Do I do everything possible for the Company's meetings?*
- *Do I use old and modern means to be in relationship?*
- *Am I creative, do I write, keep in contact, study, love, and pray?*
- *Do I realize that I am a daughter, sister, spouse, mother, in my Company and in the worldwide Company?*

Kate

Brescia – May 2, 2014

Renewal of Consecration by Pauline and Pascaline



All with the help of the Holy Spirit...

On the morning of May 2, in the Sanctuary of St. Angela in Brescia, Pascaline and I renewed our consecration, into the hands of the President of the Federation, Maria Razza. Bishop Adriano Tessarollo presided at the Mass and Father Giampaolo, assistant to the Company of Trent, concelebrated. Also present was the Vice-president Kate, the councilors

of the Federation, directresses from different diocesan Companies and various formation directors who were in Brescia for some days of spirituality. Our Burundian friends and our Bene sister Bernadette were there and also a group of sisters from the Company of Trent and three sisters of the Company of Padova.

For me it was a very important day that I will never forget.

In Bishop Adriano Tessarollo's homily, I meditated especially on the words: *Preserve among yourselves a fervent charity, because charity covers a multitude of sins.*

What does that mean? With love, one should not always be watching the other person's wrong-doing. It is necessary to be able to pardon without measure without counting the number of pardons, not rendering evil for evil.



A second thought is this: *Let each one who has received a gift place it at the service of others, like good administrators of the multiform grace of God.*

What does that mean? It makes me understand that my life can be a tool for others, to serve the Company. I should give my contribution, the bit of capacity that I have, combined with the abilities of the others in order to serve God in the sisters.



I noted this Gospel teaching: *to be the servants of all.*

What does that mean? To imitate Jesus, who was our servant. To imitate the patience of children. Not to desire to be greater than the others, but to accept God's will.

All these words entered my heart.

I pronounced the formula of consecration with a tranquil heart because all that I do, I do with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The joy of this day continued after Mass when our photo was taken in front of St. Angela. The President and the other friends presented gifts. I cannot thank them enough. May the Lord bless them!

Afterward, I was very happy to be together with the others. At lunch I was with our friends who had come from far away, from different dioceses. This too was a sign of sisterly love.

I want to ask you to continue praying for me to advance in my vocation.

I would like to thank the sisters who were present and also those who were absent, but united to us in prayer. The Lord bless you!

Pauline



You Know that I Love You...

I requested to renew my consecration for three years.

The President of the Federation, in the name of God and of the Church, accepted it. This is why I now wish to offer thanks with all my heart.

I have now reached the second stage of consecrated life in the Company. With all my heart I thank the Lord, who has chosen me. I am not worthy of it, but I trust in his mercy.

I also thank:

- my parents, who consecrated me in the family of the children of God in Baptism,
- the Church, which received me as a daughter in Baptism,
- my spiritual father, who assisted me in my vocation,
- my parish, which helped me to participate in a vocational group,
- my group of the Bene Angela in Burundi, who knew how to listen to me and teach me all about the consecrated secular life,
- every sister who has helped prepare me for this moment and has taught me to speak and read Italian and to use the computer; the priests who have been available for confession every time that I felt the need for this sacrament.
- Thanks so much to our directress Valeria for so many things that she has done for me every time I had a need.
- Thanks to Ada, the leader at the house of St. Giuseppe, for being truly like a mamma to me. I cannot count the things she has done because they are so many. They are all written in heaven.
- Thanks so much to the President of the Federation and her Council who, in the name of the Church, have permitted me to renew my consecration.
- Thanks to Bishop Adriano Tessarollo, who celebrated the Mass for that day and in the homily offered us his teaching, which we should live all our lives.
- Thanks to each participant in the celebration, including those who could not come to Brescia but who I know were with me in prayer.



- The Company of Trent, which helped me get to Brescia and enlivened the celebration with song, and each one who was present to me in different ways.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who gave me a bit of time in Brescia to pray and meditate with the help of the Holy Spirit. I also thank Mirella, who was with us in the presence of Saint Angela to meditate on a few words of Saint Angela.

- Thanks so much to Maria Rocca, who on Sunday, May 4, suggested reciting the rosary in meditation with St. Angela Merici and helped us pray and recall all the world.

- Thanks to the Federation that had organized the days of spirituality for the leaders and invited me to participate.

- Thanks also for the time that was planned for us to be still in the period of initial trial and formation.

- Thanks to the President who invited me to her house after the days in Brescia.



I ask everyone always to continue praying for me that I may be able to continue my journey where the Lord wishes, in my own land, among the people and the Church of Burundi, always to do God's will, to continue the journey where Jesus and Saint Angela will lead me.

Thank you for everything,

Pascaline

Brescia – May 2-4, 2014 Days of Spirituality for the Leaders

A Spiritual Journey of Holiness...

For the first time I had the opportunity to take part in an assembly on spirituality organized for directresses, vice-directresses, councilors, and those responsible for initial formation. In Brescia we spent three days of sisterly love and sharing ideas.

Among the various themes, Kate Dalmasso suggested a spiritual reading of the fifth chapter of the Constitutions: “*UNITED TOGETHER: THE COMPANY.*”

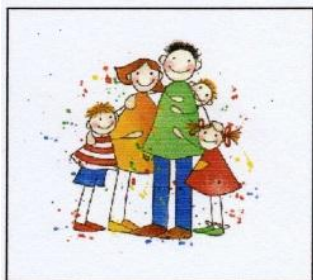
Once again our Mother Angela, through Kate’s words, encouraged her daughters to be united because this is an incontrovertible sign that Christ is in our midst. “*Because the more you are united, the more Jesus Christ will be in your midst,*” as we find written in the 10th Legacy of our Mother’s Testament.

During the presentations we discussed how we could be of service to others: each one of us is invited to answer her call with commitment and availability, keeping in mind that she is only a frail instrument in God’s hands, humbly needing his word and guidance.

In their earnest wish to serve God and others, the leaders must create an atmosphere of trust and unity, in order to promote a way of life for the Company which is faithful to its charism.

On the fourth day, when the sisters in the period of initial formation were also present, the presentation was made by the President of the Federation, Maria Rosa Razza. She stressed the importance of joy, hope and trust in God. In our normal daily life we experience the contemplative dimension, a sign to others of God’s consolation. At the end of our life we will be judged on love.

Our meetings ended with the meditated rosary, reflecting on the locations of Saint Angela’s life.



I take the opportunity to thank the sisters for the beautiful sisterly, joyful instances we shared together. The words of Psalm 133 echo in my mind and heart: “*How good and how pleasant it is for brothers [sisters] to live harmoniously together!*” I thank you heartily!

Giuseppina

Brescia, May 4, 2014 – Initial Formation Meeting... and more...

On Sunday, May 4, we repeated the custom of a meeting for sisters in the Company who are responsible for those who are in the time of initial trial or temporary incorporation.

There were twelve of the latter present for the meeting and they were overjoyed at the thought of being in Brescia, the city which welcomed and still honors Saint Angela. Some of them even agreed to relate their impressions, for which we are thankful.



By now, I am experienced enough to be able to affirm that, if this experience was beneficial to them, it is perhaps even more beneficial to us who must be creative in our preparation for the meetings to avoid being repetitive. After listening to the President's interesting report and exchanging ideas "as dear sisters," we had lunch and said the rosary together; then, those who could, attended Mass in the Sanctuary. We made our way home after embracing each other with joy in our hearts and after exchanging Saint Angela's kiss of peace.

Maria R.

Meeting Each Other, Being United, Being Together

To be able to take part in the meeting for initial formation, the three of us left very early from Turin and arrived in Brescia on a beautiful sunny morning! At the station, we had a pleasant surprise; we met Maria from Padua, Marina, and Antonietta and, together, we made our way to the Casa Sant'Angela.

I had been waiting for this meeting for a very long time; I longed to see the sisters again, looked forward to our encounters and waited eagerly for the day that would prove to be full of emotions and reciprocal sisterly love!

What struck me most in the President's speech were the word "Rejoice" and the references made to the letter addressed to the Institutes of Consecrated Life, which invites consecrated lay people to

proceed together on a spiritual journey toward the year 2015, a year the Church will be dedicating to consecrated life.

Joy is always a fruit of the Holy Spirit, present even in the trials of our lives. The Gospel invites us to joy. There is no holiness in being sad! Joy is the beauty of consecrated life. Although trials and difficulties are part of our lives, we must not allow ourselves to be discouraged but must trust that change is possible. Wherever we are living, when faced with conflicting situations, we must stay “within” the situations that seem contradictory to us, nor must we lose hope, and we must love one another in spite of everything else.

Our Mother Saint Angela emphasizes that, for our own good, we must meet and be united. She also urges us not to fail to attend meetings as long as we can. *“The thorny and rocky roads we will find flower strewn for us and paved with finest gold.”*

Let each and every one of us, listening attentively, apply the words of Pope Francis to our daily experiences and compare them to what our Mother Saint Angela tells us in The Rule.



I strongly believe that this will give us the courage and strength which will rekindle the hope that seems to fade away because of our daily struggles in life.

Mariella

Reflections on Joy ...

Joy, based on hope, helps us to shape our life on that of Christ. It is only earnest, diligent, sincere, and daily prayer that gives us “joy” and urges us “to go forward willingly.” This kind of prayer gives us inner peace and the strength to struggle.

Knowing that Jesus Christ agreed to do the will of the Father to the point of dying on the cross to accomplish the plan of salvation out of love for us.... I believe that there is no other path for us than to embrace the Cross that will lead us to our resurrection.

This is not easy, but we *“willingly go forward”* for his sake.

I also add that we must be poor in spirit; accept what the Gospel tells us: that we are useless servants; because to work for Christ means that we must decrease so that he may increase.

Vicky (or Victorine)



My First Time in Brescia.....

Accompanied by Mariella and Maria, I am on my first visit to Brescia.

Kneeling in front of the body of Saint Angela, the Mother foundress, was a strong, indescribable spiritual experience for me, I felt as though she were waiting for me to give me a warm welcome (as if she herself had come to meet me at the train station).

Looking intently at her, I was struck by the position of her head; while all the saints I had seen faced the ceiling, her face was turned to the side as if waiting for or eager to talk to someone. I could feel the caring and vigilant attitude of a mother toward her children and, being Saint Angela, she is also the bridge between the divine and human dimensions.

I listened with great interest to the subject taken up by the President Maria R. Razza ... *Rejoice, be of good will....* Saint Angela's exhortation (Last Legacy 14).

I would like to review briefly a few passages which struck me most:

***Joy** is not simply an accessory but a need and the foundation of human life. No great efforts or bombastic words are needed, because our way of life, our each and daily action, our concern and good will, are all expressions of joy. This, however, can only be achieved if we trust fully in God because we are certain of his love and salvation.*

***"Being of good will"** helps us to attain joy and strengthens our will, that is, a will that is nourished by encounter, being together, forming part of one big family, attention, and listening. Such a will sustains, comforts, and helps one "in times of need."*

This is certainly not easy, nothing can be achieved without effort, but it is not impossible, and the lives of the saints are proof of this.

The good quality of rapport reflects the health of the relationships, and if the results are positive, then they are also joyful.... Today we need to rediscover our lost values in order to regain our identity. We need to encounter Jesus Christ again and to unmask evil

falsely hidden under the image of goodness. Above all, if we lose joy and the happiness of being in each others' company, we miss the primary and most credible good news that can be told to those around us.

Love and compassion. *It is only love that has the power to renew each situation and make change possible.*

We must always keep in mind that Love gives the Daughter the consolation and companionship that Jesus left us so that we may not feel lonely but comforted, encouraged, and full of hope. This hope will always help us to find a solution even in our worst trials and tribulations... and our greatest help comes from meeting with our sisters, especially when discussing and sharing spiritual topics and ideas.

Prayer. *Only through prayer can we ask God to give us the "grace of a spiritual life." Jesus himself set us the example, because he prayed to the Father and because only in a communion of love with the Father and the Holy Spirit did his humanity find the strength to do the Father's will.*

Thanks to these reflections, my day in Brescia was very fulfilling, the topics were enriching, and lunch with the sisters was a cheerful and serene occasion. All this was followed by a meditated rosary with Saint Angela Merici and a visit to Casa Sant'Angela and to the museum. Finally, and most appropriately, we ended the day with Mass in her church.

Maria Stella



I Have Seen the Rainbow...

Rejoice and be of good will... these words from Saint Angela's Testament were the focal point of the last day of the meeting – A Spiritual Journey of Holiness – suddenly my Sunday became ablaze with lights and colors, and in the meeting hall I could see a

rainbow!

The rainbow accompanied me right through the day. I met the sisters who are in their initial "period of formation," and I could see their beautiful eyes full of expectations and feel the emotion in their

voices as they embraced me and called out: “How great..... You’re here too, Paola!”

Suddenly I could feel Saint Angela’s presence and hear her softly breathing as she stood leaning against the wall, her rosary in hand. When I stood in front of her glass coffin, she seemed so small and frail to me, yet so great and knowledgeable.

Then, kneeling down in front of her and looking at her with tearful eyes, I remained transfixed for a long while; then I happily stood up and left my rainbow at her feet!

Paola B.

Accept Everything out of Love

... is the phrase which “struck” me most, and I immediately recalled the words of Jesus when he said that we are (or should be) “salt and light.” Who knows if it is perhaps this predisposition to give daily “flavor” and “light” to our days and to our living ... living for love as Jesus taught us to do..... even if it “hurts”.....

Susanna

Happy and of Good Will

The meeting of Sunday, May 4, in Brescia was a wonderful occasion to meet the sisters in the period of formation from the various Companies.

It was a wonderful day, because we were close to Saint Angela in the places where she lived. I liked most of all reciting the rosary in the same room where she had lived with her first daughters. I feel it is necessary for us to return to her, to follow her example, imitate her life, and abide by her words in order to revitalize our vocation.

I am thankful to our President, Maria Rosa, for her reflection on the theme “*Rejoice*” from the Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and on “*Rejoicego forward willingly,*” words from Saint Angela’s Testament, because they strengthen in us the joy of our consecration.

Antonietta G.



Poland – May 20-22, 2014



In Ustrori we spent some very lovely days together with the President Maria Razza, the Vice-president Kate Dalmasso, with our dear, dear friend and translator Maria Dravecką, a councilor of the Federation and the directress of the Company of Slovakia.

There were intense moments... not only full of joy and sisterly friendship, but also of instruction and formation on how to live the very beautiful charism of Saint Angela Merici, according to the Constitutions of the Company. For all of this, thanks be to God!

The sisters of Poland



And we thank you, dearest sisters, for your welcome and affection, for your seriousness and serenity in faithfully carrying forward your commitment and responsibility.

May the Black Madonna of Czestochowa, whom we visited with your directress Ada, wrap you in her motherly tenderness and obtain for you the most beautiful gifts for each one in particular and for all the Polish Company.

It was wonderful to be together and to discuss spiritual matters together. We are still united.



Maria Rosa and Kate

Slovakia – May 22-26, 2014



I am deeply grateful to God for the undeserved gift of a vocation in this Secular Institute of Saint Angela Merici.

The spirituality of St. Angela fills me and enfolds me, and I feel alive in the Company like a fish in its water.

In the meeting with the President and the Vice-president and in our Company of Slovakia, I have found valuable answers to the questions that daily life presents to me as a consecrated secular; my heart has overflowed with joy.

Our joint gatherings, enriched by the presence of each one of us in the diversity of the languages, the character, and the originality of the members, have

recovered the unity willed by the Lord and recommended by Saint Angela.

All this encourages me to probe more and more deeply the life and the charism of Saint Angela on the enduring route of the following of Christ.

This meeting with Maria Rosa and Kate was an opening to the universe of Groups and Companies of the whole Federation spread around the world.



We felt and tasted love, unity, harmony, and the wise and illuminating presence of St. Angela. Now we are asked to pass these good gifts in our world, in our life situations and relationships.



end.... with our Spouse, *the Lover of us all.*

Anna and Agatka

✱ **H**earfelt thanks to the sisters of Slovakia for a festive time together, with “one heart and one soul”.

- ✱ *Thanks for making it possible once more to experience the beauty of our worldwide Company...*
- ✱ *Thanks because together we are consoled and encouraged to go out again with a great and yearning heart...*
- ✱ *Thanks to Anna who welcomed us and lovingly gave us hospitality in her own home...*
- ✱ *Thanks to Maria, tireless councilor of the Federation and directress of the Company of Slovakia for her patient and serene accompaniment.*
- ✱ *Thanks to each and all... The strength and the true comfort of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*



Maria Rosa and Kate

Company of France

Geneviève Fourquet – 99 Years – Testimony



I would like to express all my joy at belonging to a secular institute and being fully consecrated and fully missionary.

The Secular Institute of Saint Angela Merici completely matches my vocation.

After years of commitment in my work as a professor of philosophy,

completely dedicated to young people and to their intellectual, human, and spiritual formation, it was time for retirement... My apostolate changed and became a source of great joy:

- The joy of being able to receive young Africans in my small apartment to help them with homework in the daytime and in the evenings.
- The joy of having a kitchen where I could put a folding bed to welcome foreigners who had been sleeping on the street: a Liberian, a Saharian, a Vietnamese teenager, all recommended to me by a trustworthy person.
- The joy of exchanging little services with fellow-tenants in the same apartment building, which made it possible for me to strike up sincere friendships.

When I moved into a retirement home, I thought that I would be able to dedicate myself entirely to prayer and studying the Gospels, but I have not found time for that... “Man proposes and God disposes....”

My door is always open to listen and fill up the times of solitude. I am rarely alone.... Much of my time I still commit to cutting out newspaper articles to share with those who do not have time to read the whole paper. For a young acquaintance I choose articles on science and technology, for others, informative articles about the Church and the spiritual life.

I seek to be faithful to the Lord's calls manifested in all these encounters, and I seek to bring comfort and joy and to be a witness of the hope that lives in me and of God's mercy. I feel honored to belong to a Church "in a uniform of service."

I would like to add that the visits of the sisters of the Company are always a great joy to me.

Geneviève Fourquet

N.B. I dictated this text to Geneviève Chambris, since I am no longer able to write on account of a tremor in my hands.



PRAYER TO SAINT ANGELA

Saint Angela, pray for us
and for our families to have a lively charity.
Teach us to let ourselves be filled by God's love
and give it to our brothers and sisters. Amen.

Saint Angela, you have taught us
that every grace we ask of God
will be granted if we are united in heart.

Together with you we seek
to build that unity among ourselves,
and we thank God, trusting that,
through your intercession,
He will hear us. Amen.

Glorious Saint Angela Merici,
whose blest name resounds around the world,
we praise the Father and the Spirit
for your holiness which, in Christ,
lights up our lives
and brings joy to the whole Church. Amen.



INCOMING MAIL

From Barrafranca, Italy Feast of Saint Angela 2014

The feast of St. Angela was celebrated in Barrafranca, diocesan center of the Company of Piazza Armerina.

The triduum was preached by Father Giuseppe Rugolo, a young priest of the diocese, and a fan of St. Angela.

On the feast day the vice-assistant of the Company, Father Lillo Busceme, concelebrated with him.



From the Company of Crema, Italia

On May 31, the Company of Crema celebrated the consecration of



Christine. We thank the Lord for this gift and pray that He may bless and guard this response to Love!

From the Company of Modena, Italy

Modena, June 7, 2014: regional meeting and celebration of renewal of consecration for Rita of Parma.

The President Maria Rosa and the assistant to the Council of the Federation, Bishop Adriano Tessarollo, were present and enhanced the relationship.

From Madagascar

We always receive *In the same charism...* with joy and great interest. A big thank-you to the whole team that prepares it.

A big thank-you to the Federation that unites us, teaches us, always helps us to grow in our vocation through this “precious bond.” All of us are grateful for this marvelous work for our formation.

Warm greetings and a big hug. Always united in Saint Angela and in prayer,

Voahangy

From Eritrea



We receive with joy the circulars from the President and the little journal *In the same charism...* Both are rich, keep us informed on the life of our Federation, and contain valuable teachings for our formation as consecrated seculars. For us they are the most important means of information and formation.

Accept my deep gratitude and sincerest greetings. Yours in Christ and Saint Angela.

Minnia Ammar

From Adria: A Little Company with a Big Heart...

Here's what we read in "The Week," the weekly publication of the Diocese of Adria-Rovigo:

**«Adria "Angelines":
"In the same charism with
responsibility"»**

For some time the secular institute of the Angelines has had an elegant and distinguished review. The first issue of 2014 has just come out.

The booklet is rich in content and information. Among all of these, I point out the reflection of the ecclesiastical assistant, Bishop Adriano Tessarollo, who presents "A Lesson about the Spiritual Life" from The Joy of the Gospel. Among the news items is the Federation's meeting, which will take place from July 27 to 31 in Rome on the theme "Formation: A journey of faith, never finished."

Father Gianni Azzi

From Trent... a Bene Angela

Dearest sisters,

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... It is he who has sent the Holy Spirit to inspire some people to invite me to come here to Italy to learn the language so as to be able to facilitate communication, but also to be better formed in the life of the Company and in its charism.

I am grateful to the Council of the Federation for having taken the necessary steps to bring it about.

I am grateful to the Company of Trent that has been willing and has known how to welcome us.

In Trent I feel at home; I am with my sisters, who also mother me.

Each one of them has done as much as possible and more to teach me, take care of me, give me the necessary clothing, correct my errors,



make me understand what was needed, remind me of what I forgot. They listened when I needed that, offered their time when it was necessary, pardoned me when I made a mistake, fulfilled my every need.... I do not know how I can thank them properly. God bless you!

In the future too, when I will no longer be with you, I ask your prayers, that I may be able to practice what I have learned, to help our sisters in Burundi to advance in understanding our life and our vocation. I want to remain always in God's will to follow faithfully the One who called me to follow him. I am well aware that I am weak, and alone I cannot walk as I would wish. But with the help of your prayers, I trust that I will experience God's Providence in whatever I will encounter and in all that faces the *Bene Angela*.

I thank you infinitely, each and all, for the love that you have shown me. I ask the Madonna to hold you in her hands. May Saint Angela and all the saints always accompany you, until you arrive in the life that God the Father has prepared for you. May you be blessed!

Pascaline



From Torino – Regional Meeting March 30, 2014

Festivity, joy, and consolation marked the meeting of the Companies of Cuneo and Torino at their annual regional meeting.

The presence of our dear President Maria Rosa was most appreciated.

Formation...
a journey
of faith,
never finished



INTERNATIONAL MEETING



Casa tra noi –
Rome
July 27 – 31, 2014



Speakers:

Bishop Adriano Tassarollo

**Ecclesiastical Assistant to the
Council of the Federation**

Father Flavio Lorenzo Marchesini

**Priest of the Diocese of Vicenza,
Licentiate in Psychology at the Gregorian University,
Seminary Professor, Fidei-donum in Brazil 2000-2013**