

IN THE SAME CHARISM...

with responsibility



n. 2 - 2020

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

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TO THE READERS

We will cross through this momentary life with consolation... (R Prologue,26)

In this global pandemic I thought about this Merician phrase... quite concerned about the brevity of my life and of those who were unexpectedly leaving this world.

About myself, but especially about those directly or indirectly affected by this tragedy, often lacking consolation, at least human consolation...

We will cross through... we will not fly over time, years, and situations; we must accept them and experience them with all the intensity and responsibility that is required of us. We are not privileged; we are asked to ***cross through***, without building here a home for eternity. To ***cross through, living well and doing good***, even in this difficult period and after coronavirus.

This momentary life... Life is a gift; in our time age has been prolonged... however, earthly life is very short. It has a limit: "*The years of our life are seventy, eighty for those who are strong, but almost all of them are fatigue, pain; they pass quickly and we disappear*" (Psalm 89).

As Saint Angela warns us, we are passing through; our dwelling place is in heaven, in the glory of God. Yet already our steps are steps of eternity, because *life is changed, not taken away*. Too many have died in this pandemic; too many lives have prematurely left us, often without comfort and with the great sorrow of relatives not being able to accompany them. But the Lord reassures: *I will always be with you*.

With consolation... says Saint Angela. I want to believe that the Lord is certainly close to everyone, and certainly all those who have left us have enjoyed this presence, this consolation.

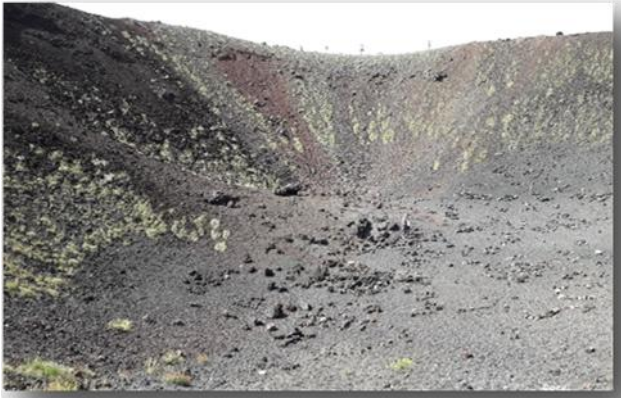
Our life for the Lord, in the Company, has been and will always be a consolation. With the reflections of this magazine, referring in large part to our experience of difficulties, I would like to encourage everyone to be able to exercise a ministry of consolation for everyone and in every part of the world. Consolation comes from the Lord, who saves. We all need it so much in our journey and in our recovery.

(Caterina Dalmasso)



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION

*Teach us to count our days aright,
that we may gain wisdom of heart (Psalm 90).*



“.... this miserable and treacherous world, where there is never either rest or any true contentment, but only empty dreams, or bitter hardships, and every kind of misery and wretchedness..... 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. Also, let them hold this as most certain: that they will never be abandoned in their needs. God will provide for them wonderfully” (5th Counsel).

Dear sister,

These are days, weeks, months, when our world, our cities, our regions, have been unexpectedly transformed into a “desert,” into places of solitude, into spaces for hiding ourselves, defending ourselves, isolating ourselves.... Fear, uncertainty, anxiety, and worry steal space and time from serenity, relationships, and encounter.

Threatened by an invisible virus, we find our daily lives turned upside down.... We miss the encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist; we miss the Mass, the parish community, ordinary work.... The daily news gets more and more dramatic: contagion, illness, deaths....



Our social media are full of texts, images, and news that are sometimes useful, sometimes destabilizing, sometimes consoling because they bear messages of faith and mutual support, but are sometimes catastrophic or merely sensationalized.

It destabilizes us not to be able to plan the future, not even the immediate future.... We have only today; we do not know what tomorrow will be like, or whether we will have a tomorrow... only today, a long today, a long time and a big space. We have the desert outside and the desert inside ourselves.

We have time and space to look around us: *“a world made of empty dreams, bitter hardships, troubles and anxieties, a miserable and treacherous world....”* We have time and space to look within ourselves: *“night of the senses and of the spirit.”*



Well then, let's go to seek help.... and from whom if not from our Madre Angela! Let's sit next to her and listen to her: *“Remain in prayer with as much strength of spirit as possible”* (Chapter IV On Fasting). *“Be solicitous about prayer,*

mental as well as vocal, which is coupled with fasting.... Pray always with spirit and mind on account of the constant need for God's help....”

- ✚ Pray together with me: *“My Lord, light up the darkness of my heart. I am forced, day and night, walking, standing, working, thinking, to cry out and shout to Heaven and to beg for mercy.*
- ✚ *Deign to forgive my sins and those of the entire world. I beg this of you through your most sacred passion and your precious blood shed for love of us.*
- ✚ *My heart is wrenched. My Lord, burn my every affection and passion in the blazing furnace of your divine love.*
- ✚ *Receive everything of mine, interior as well as exterior, all of which I offer before the feet of your divine Majesty. Amen”* (Chapter V On Prayer).



In this dark and insidious time, St. Angela is beside you and each of us and sustains us with her motherly tenderness and repeats to us:

- ✚ *“I have this undaunted and firm faith and hope in the infinite divine goodness, that not only will we easily overcome all dangers and adversities, but we will conquer them, and with great glory and jubilation.”*
- ✚ And *“He wants only what is for your good and joy”* (Chapter X On Poverty).

✚ *“Have hope and firm faith in God, for he will help you in everything.... For understand that now I am more alive than I was when I lived on earth, and I see better and hold more dear and pleasing the good things which I see you constantly doing, and now, even more, I want and am able to help you and do you good in every way* (Prologue to the Counsels).

In this desert we are accompanied by a presence, a word, a mother's hand. St. Angela is close to us, and she weeps with us, prays with us, and consoles us so that our consolation may not diminish. Consolation is our gift and our mission. Let us offer consolation and

comfort by means of prayer, by a word, by our silence, by offering to the Father this huge amount of sorrow, death, solitude, uncertainty, anxiety, fear, and suffering. St. Angela, Spouse and Mother, friendly and sympathetic woman, teach us the art of consolation. We are in extreme need, so that we may soothe the mortal wounds inflicted on the heart of the world in this pandemic!

Dearest sister, united around the Madre, let us pray for one another, and as St. Angela asks us *“even with my blood,”* may harmony be the bond that unites us around Jesus Christ, and *“Jesus Christ will be in our midst”* (Last Counsel).

Let us entrust to the arms of our Madre Angela the sisters who have left us on account of the epidemic, and let us ask the Company of Heaven to sustain us in fidelity and love.

The medicine we have to take today is *“stop, stop.”* Not to wait passively for it all to pass, but to “contemplate” the world and to see in this travail not discomfort, not a sepulcher for waiting it out, but a womb where the Risen One is generating life.

We believe that this life that slips through our hands is not sand but a fertile seed, if we are unshakeable in faith and hope. Our light is Jesus, died and risen, who goes before us into “Galilee.” Let us keep open the eyes of Faith, because he, the Living One, enters into our “locked rooms” and bowls us over with the wind of his Spirit. Let us welcome his breath and live as people of resurrection. Alleluia!

Along with the whole Council of the Federation, I greet you with the blessing of St. Angela and embrace you,

Valeria Broll, president

S. Orsola Terme, March 23, 2020

**A THOUGHT FROM THE ECCLESIASISTICAL
ASSISTANT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION
His Excellence, Bishop Adriano Tessarollo**



Most Fervent Prayers...

*“And always let your principal recourse be to gather
at the feet of Jesus Christ, and there, all of you, with
all your daughters, to offer most fervent prayers”* (Last
Legacy 3-4).

Dear ‘Angelines,’

I write these lines today, Holy Saturday, April 11, 2020. It's now about two months since we started to feel the effects of the 'coronavirus,' which at first we thought we weren't so much concerned about. But soon the outbreaks broke out in Northern Italy and then spread all over the world. This was followed by social distancing arrangements, hospital blockages, insufficient intensive care rooms, lack of respirators, daily death counts.

Soon, for the protection of our health, we were precluded from participating in weekday and Sunday liturgies in our churches.

To date, just under 20,000 people have died in Italy, and more than 100,000 in the world, in Italy also more than 100 priests, and more than 120 doctors and health workers. And it seems to us that this is not ending immediately.

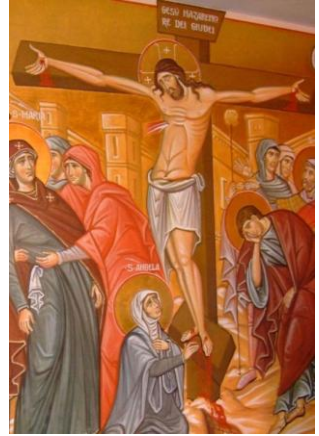
My thoughts went to the prayer that a leper addressed to Jesus. Saint Luke reports:

“Now there was a man full of leprosy in one of the towns where he was; and when he saw Jesus, he fell prostrate, pleaded with him, and said, ‘Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean.’ Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, ‘I do will it. Be made clean.’ And the leprosy left him immediately” (Lk 5:12-13). That leper was forced into isolation so as not to spread the contagion, but he had the



courage to go as far as he could to make his invocation heard.

My thoughts then went to the exhortation and encouragement that St. Angela addresses to the 'Matrons' to *"gather at the feet of Jesus Christ, and there, all of you, with all your daughters, to offer most fervent prayers"* to ask for the necessary help in case of having *"to make new rules or do something differently."*



The present situation, however, requires adaptations that are particular to the Companies and their members, as well as to all. I believe then that her exhortation may also apply to this situation. What she says immediately afterward is beautiful: *"For in this way, without doubt, Jesus Christ will be in your midst."*

In confident and constant prayer, let us make the leper's invocation to Jesus our own without getting tired if the request must be addressed to him for a long time: *"If you want to, you can make us clean!"* that is, free us from this contagion that causes so much suffering and death. The leper seized the opportunity of Jesus passing by, but Saint Angela reminds us that *"without doubt Jesus Christ will be in your midst"*. So let us not tire of going to his feet and offering *very fervent prayers*.

And if we have any doubt about the effectiveness of our prayer, let us go a little further in Luke's Gospel, to chapter eleven, where the evangelist collects some of Jesus' teaching on prayer. After teaching the disciples the words of the prayer that we

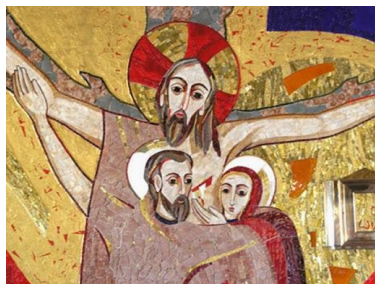


call the 'Our Father,' Jesus reinforces the disciples' confidence in the prayer addressed to the Father with the following words: *"And he said*

to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence. And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the holy Spirit to those who ask him?" (Lk 11:5-13).*

Trust in prayer is linked to our trust in the Father's goodness and mercy. So let us pray for ourselves at Christ's feet, but let us broaden the horizons of prayer to the world, as the Company is worldwide.

We are close to those who live the experience of this and other illnesses, to those who have lost their jobs and experience poverty in this situation. We entrust to the Lord those who have lost their lives or are losing them, expressing closeness to the people we know. And in the territories where the Companies live, perhaps we can also think about inventing some simple gesture of sisterhood and solidarity with the distressed neighbors we know.



I wish you good or moderately good health, I wish you Happy Easter, but by the time this issue is published, perhaps even Pentecost will have already passed.

Before us is the month of May, a time to entrust ourselves to her to whom Jesus on the cross entrusted us as our Mother. A prayer for all, invoking the Lord's blessing upon you.

+ Adriano Tessarollo
April 11, 2020

A WORLDWIDE IDENTITY: KNOWING THE CULTURES OF OTHERS GLIMPSES OF “BRAZILIAN CULTURE”

Part 1

worldwide

We live in a country of continental proportions: with its 8,511,000 square kilometers, it occupies a very large area of South America. With a population of about 210 million inhabitants, Brazil has a cultural diversity as immense is its geography. Therefore, it is a challenge to report so many characteristics of this Land of Santa Cruz (name first given by the Portuguese colonizers in the year 1,500).



To speak of Brazil is also to remember a people of multiple races, many cultures and different folklore. Cultural expressions are characterized in many ways: clothing, dancing, music, foods.... Certainly the carnival is the festival that most



expresses Brazilian culture, because each region celebrates it in its own way: costumes and dances manifest the respective regions.

A Bit of Brazil's History The Indians.

When the Portuguese settlers landed on this land in 1500, they found many peoples, who had lived here for centuries: the Indians. They lived in different tribes and were semi-nomadic; they lived on hunting, fishing, gathering and itinerant and diversified agriculture.

With the passage of time, these populations were decimated by the colonizers, either directly by murder or indirectly by the parasites and diseases that the Europeans brought with them. In the interior of the Amazon, a few decades ago, some tribes that had not yet had contact with people of civilization were discovered. However, several other tribes suffered from the invasion of woodcutters and garimpeiros (illegal gold miners) who, in addition to plundering their natural assets, also caused their deaths.



European and Asian colonization.

Immigration to Brazil began in 1530 with the arrival of Portuguese settlers, who came here to start planting sugar cane. Throughout the colonial and monarchical period, Portuguese immigration was the most significant. In the first decades of the 19th century, immigrants from other countries, especially from Europe, began to arrive in Brazil. At the beginning of the 1820s

the Swiss settled in the region of Nova Fribourg, Rio de Janeiro; the Germans began to arrive in 1824 in the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina. The Italians arrived in 1874 and settled in Sao Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul. Agriculture was also the main work of these other immigrants.

As early as 1908 many Japanese came from Asia in search of better opportunities. The vast majority of this Japanese community remained in the state of São Paulo.

In addition to European and Japanese immigrants, workers came from Spain, China, South Korea, Poland, Ukraine, France, Lebanon, Israel, Bolivia and Paraguay.

The Africans. They did not come as immigrants or in search of a better opportunity; they were brought as slaves by the Portuguese to work initially in the sugar cane plantations and then in the mines. This shameful period in our history happened from the 16th century to the end of the 19th. Today Brazil is strongly marked by African cuisine, the experience of faith (candomblé, umbanda) and African folklore. The

northeast of Brazil is the region with the highest concentration of Afro-descendant traditions...

Nature

The Brazilian territory is home to a variety of plant crops resulting from many factors, the main ones being: the geographical location with a high temperature and a vast continental area, which also provides a diversity of climate zones. To understand the diversity of flora and fauna, the natural aspects are divided into 'biomas' which are as follows:



Amazon Rainforest: formed by a plant-cover of equatorial origin; the Amazon rainforest and the largest on the planet in the tropical area.

Atlantic Forest: it corresponds to a tropical vegetation-cover with tall, dense trees.

Caatinga: vegetation characteristic of the semi-arid climate that occurs in the interior of the northeastern region.

Cerrado: vegetation generally composed of plants with twisted trunks and thick leaves.

Pantanal: in this area it is possible to identify a series of plant coverings.

Fields or Pampas: which corresponds to a type of vegetation that has creeping plants composed of grasses and shrubs.

Social Relations

With so many different ethnic groups and vast regions, it is not surprising that people's lifestyles are different from north to south. However, in general, the Brazilian people are very welcoming and open to other cultures. It is a nation of people who have no difficulty in making friends.

Solidarity is a strong characteristic. In disasters there is a lot of help among the people.

In our parishes there are countless people engaged in social and community work, making the churches not only a place to live the faith, but also a place of sharing.

Brazilians' family relationships are very close, very affectionate and proud when they talk about their families. They like to have parties that bring everyone together at home, especially spending Sundays with the family. However, in this moment of globalization, the style of the family has also changed a great deal in Brazil, because different types of family formation coexist in our society.

Today there are families of separated parents, families led by women, by men without their partner, by homosexuals and families formed by couples who have united their children from a previous union. But there is also the family still formed by father, mother and children who, contrary to what some media say, are not obsolete. Many young couples desire and seek this style of family.

Another characteristic of family relationships is the diminishing number of children and the couples without an official religious or civil union.

To be continued in the next issue...



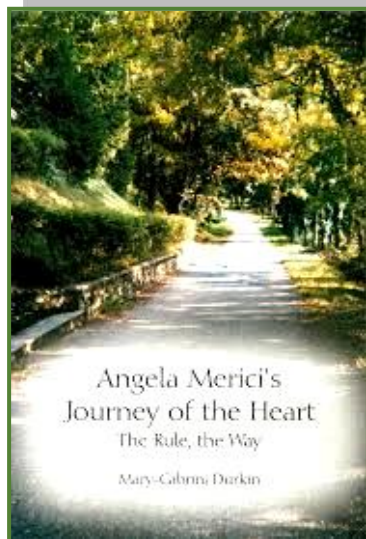
P. Vilson Trevisol and the Brazilian Company

Angela Merici's Journey of the Heart

Introduction Exploring the Rule

The Rule of the Company of Saint Ursula treats matters of equal importance to people who are five centuries apart. Angela Merici's vast spiritual family drinks from the same fountain, but in very different eras and cultures.

Angela urged us to think of her as present, even in the twenty-first century: *Also, tell them that now I am more alive than I was when they saw me in the flesh, and that now I see them and know them better. And can and want to help them more. And that I am continually among them...* (Fifth Counsel:35-38).



Historical Context

Angela's story and an understanding of the Church, society, and women's life in sixteenth-century Italy are necessary for comprehending her full message.

How did a particular detail relate to Angela's historical moment? Something may seem meaningless in our era but had great significance in hers. Knowing that, we can apply her message to our day.

Spiraling Toward the Heart

Angela Merici began her Rule with a Prologue in the form of a letter. She wanted to speak directly to her daughters, from her heart.

In the Prologue she set out the whole meaning of Ursuline life, from the point of God's invitation, through years of joy and suffering and of mundane activities, to a glorious conclusion in heaven.

With artistic unity, the entire Rule follows that pattern, from entrance to death and heavenly glory. Each chapter develops a particular aspect of this life, in stages along the way.

Chapters I to III help to bring new members into the Company, showing practical ways for integrating their commitment into daily life.

Each of these first three chapters also supports one of the core Gospel values (the evangelical counsels) that are developed later.

For example, **Chapter I** stresses the new member's freedom as being essential in her choice to become an Ursuline. That freedom is the basis of her capacity for *obedience*.

Chapter II, on clothing, supports the spirit of joyful *poverty*.

Chapter III is about interactions with others that demonstrate the single-heartedness of her celibate calling.

In **Chapters IV to VII**, Angela recommended spiritual practices to nourish the women in their vocation. Each of these practices also nourishes a particular element of the Gospel core.

Fasting helps us to be emptied of all gods but God, and to feast on the good things God gives. That is *true poverty of spirit*.

Prayer and the Mass deepen the relationship with Christ at the heart of an Ursuline's heart, what Angela called *sacred virginity*.

Confession helps us clarify our own truth, the better to hear and obey the Holy Spirit. That is Angela's *holy obedience*.

A spiral shapes this arrangement of chapters. They wind in toward the Gospel center in Chapters VIII to X, which treat obedience, virginity and poverty respectively, at the heart of the Rule.

Angela called the last chapter "About Governance." Another name might have been "community." It is really about how this spiritual family translates into action the relationships that support each Ursuline in living her call. It describes the ever-practical Madre's creative organizational structure to make it all work.

In the process, Angela had created a countercultural network to empower the oppressed. Like the Prologue, this chapter ends after death, in heaven.

The Rule as a whole and each chapter within it have this single purpose: to support the members of the Company in living their vocation.

Guidebook for a journey

Angela liked to call Ursuline life and this Rule *via*, a “path” or “road.” The Prologue is a snapshot of the route. The whole Rule is a guidebook for the journey.

Both the Prologue and the body of the Rule begin with answering God’s call, and both end in heaven.

Far from being dry or legislative, the Rule’s vocabulary is vivid and picturesque. We can almost see Angela’s images and feel her emotions as she responds to the beauty of nature or the ugliness of evil.

This image-filled style is not surprising if we remember that the Rule is really a guidebook. Of course Angela describes the scenery along the way! Sometimes it seems like an actual landscape beside the *thorny and rocky roads which we will find flower-strewn for us, paved with finest gold* (Prologue:27). Her lively tone encourages us forward.

Often her words echo personal experience. When the army of Charles V was approaching Brescia in 1529, she may well have felt that *armed against us are water, air, and earth with all of hell* (Prologue:20).

Years of working in vineyards had taught Angela the energy that we need to *lop off vices and errors* (Chapter IV:2), just as she would lop a diseased branch from a healthy vine.

Lords in the spectacular parades winding through the streets at carnival time gave her a picture of how the devil swaggers around, *lord[ing] it over the world* (Chapter IV:10).

As these lines show, Angela was a poet, not a theorist. She proceeded by images and



experiences, not by concepts.

She gazed upon the earth and its people and took them into her heart. Her poetic language allows us to visualize the world as she saw it.

How beautiful our world is, in Angela's imagery! In the shouting crowd celebrating a victory, she heard the people we love, cheering us on, *where from all those in Heaven and on earth great glory and triumph will arise* (Prologue:31).

She evoked the lovely sight of a procession, *going two by two in charity and each one with a candle in her hand* (Chapter XI:32). The traveler who had stood on the Adriatic shore and had sailed the Mediterranean Sea, sensed the vastness of God, whose name she *blessed beyond the ocean's grains of sand, beyond the drops of the waters, beyond the multitude of stars* (Chapter V:26).

Ursuline life is a journey of the heart. No wonder that its guidebook glows!

Mary-Cabrini Durkin
Company of Canada, Group of the USA

Saint Angela, Biblical Woman

A Comparison with the Book of Proverbs

I have had “fun” discovering how fully the writings of St. Angela harmonize with Holy Scripture, and I have discovered what a biblical woman she is, particularly with a thought from the Book of Proverbs, which I found “by chance” and which I would very much like to experience concretely in my daily life:



Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely; in all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes, fear the LORD and turn away from evil; this will mean health for your flesh and vigor for your bones (Prov. 3:5-8).

I'll try to make a few juxtapositions:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart

Have hope and firm faith in God, for he will help you in everything (Counsels Pr. 15). They should place their hope and love in God alone (Counsels 5, 22). Let them have Jesus Christ for their only treasure (Counsels 5:43).

And do not rely on your intelligence

I beg you to accept my free will, all of my own will, which of itself, because it is infected by sin, does not know how to discern good from evil (Rule 5:38-39).

Recognize it in all your steps

In these perilous and pestilential times, you will find no other recourse than to take refuge at the feet of Jesus Christ (Counsels 7:27).

And he will smooth your paths

... and thorny and rocky roads we will find flower-strewn for us, paved with finest gold, because the angels of eternal life will be with us insofar as we will partake of the angelic life (Rule Pr.: 27-28).

Don't think you're wise

My Lord light up the darkness of my heart... (Rule 5:16) ... without doubt, Jesus Christ will be in your midst, and as a true and good master, he will enlighten and teach you what you have to do (T. 11:5).

Fear the Lord and stay away from evil

... if you see [one who is] presumptuous, and who has a lax conscience and little fear of anything, into this one instill some fear; remind her of the rigor of the justice of God, and how sin is an insidious thing, and how we are in the midst of snares, and how we always have reason to stand in fear... (Counsels 2:9-11).

It will be all health for your body and coolness for your bones.

Although at times they will have troubles or anxieties, nevertheless this will soon pass away and be turned into gladness and joy (Counsels 5,29). Because God has so ordained from all eternity, that those who for his honor are united in doing good enjoy every prosperity.... (Counsels 9:9).

Personal reflection

When we fall ill we trust the doctor, because only the doctor is the expert and knows what we need for healing; and this is what we must do with the Lord, who is much more than the doctor. Only he (as St. Angela says in the Rule), “knows, can and wants to provide.... He wants only what is for your good and joy.”

Our intelligence, which is God's gift, is limited, however. Furthermore, Jesus said: "Without me you can do nothing." So let us not presume about ourselves, but let us trust only in God, because no one else is more than he, much less us.

St. Paul tells us, "Pray unceasingly....," which obviously does not mean that we live only by prayer, but that we "stay" with our mind and heart in constant union with God, experiencing everything with him. When anxieties and worries assail us, thinking about Jesus and Jesus Crucified, reduces everything; we are not crushed, and everything smoothes out.

Our knowledge, too, little or much, is in any case a gift from God. We don't think we are “all set” because we pray and go to Mass: the enemy is always at work so we must always be attentive to the infinite and clever traps. The only thing that counts and must be cultivated is to have a heart that loves, but with the love of God: it is a grace to ask for, which is nothing else but the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Luisa Modena

Days of Spirituality for the Council of the Federation Milan, January 2-4, 2020



As we do every year, the members of the Federation Council had the joy of meeting from January 2 to 4 for two days of spirituality followed by the meeting of the Council.

The two days of spirituality were led by Bishop Adriano, assistant to the

Federation Council.

Time for meditation, sharing and prayer followed his presentations.

On the first day we reflected on conversion and perseverance.

"Conversion," for the Christian, is keeping one's orientation firmly fixed on the Lord; it is obedience to His Word. The need for conversion arises from awareness of the fact that we often travel a road strewn with attitudes that are not really adequate, that do not lead us to the goal we had set for ourselves.

From this awareness, from checking on our personal and spiritual life, from shortfalls in our relationships, in our charity, in our prayer, the desire for conversion can arise in us.

This requires a twofold movement: to withdraw, to abandon, to come out of an inadequate situation and to move on to another that conforms to our call, to our ideals.

The most delicate point of discernment about our **perseverance** in the choice of baptismal life and consecration is to **recognize "the idols"** that dominate us, which we serve instead of serving the Lord.

Serving the Lord, as Joshua says, is difficult because it requires us to continually go out of ourselves and leave our idols, to which we



are so attached that they become part of us and that we do not recognize them as idols. Not recognizing them, we do not combat them.

Conversion is a profound change that involves the whole person; it is not simply the change of an intellectual thought: it is a change of spirit and heart, of our behavior, of our actions.

The first step towards conversion is the awareness that Someone loves us. Prayer then becomes contemplation of God's Love



for us. Listening to the Word of God becomes listening to what God has done for us, especially in Christ the Lord! Creation also becomes a contemplation of his love, as well as our personal history.

So conversion is a response to his initiative, because he was born and

works for us. It is up to us to respond!

The second step is to realize that we have been seduced by idols. Idols do not allow us to see the Other and the others.

True solidarity and communion will always be difficult, if not impossible, if we do not free ourselves from the "idols" that shut us in ourselves and distance us from God and our brothers and sisters.

The second day was dedicated to grasping the thought of Pope Francis about our vocation:

What messages can flow from the spirituality of Secular Institutes? Where is consecrated life going? What is the meaning of its presence in the Church and in a pluralistic society?

"The Word of God" invites us to recognize that we are a people... In order to be authentic evangelizers, it is also necessary to develop a spiritual enjoyment of our closeness to other people's lives, to the point of discovering that it is a source of great joy... The Lord wants to use us to be ever closer to his beloved people....

Jesus himself is the model of this evangelical choice that takes us into the life and into the heart of the people.... Seduced by this model, we want to integrate ourselves deeply into society... to commit ourselves to building a new world, side by side with others.

Sometimes we are tempted to be Christians who keep a prudent distance from the Lord's wounds. Yet Jesus wants us to touch human misery...

Love for people is a spiritual force that allows a total encounter with God... Every time we meet another human being, we put ourselves in a position to discover something new about God... It follows that, if we want to grow in the spiritual life, we cannot stop being missionaries.

The mission in people's hearts is not an either-or choice: either a part of my own life or a mere ornament that I can forget... No, I must understand that I am, as it were, marked by fire by this mission to enlighten, to bless, to re-invigorate, to soothe, to heal, to liberate.

Beyond all appearances, every being is infinitely sacred and deserves our affection and devotion. That is why, if I can help a person to live a better life, that fact already justifies the gift of my life...



Thanks to Bishop Tessarollo for his teachings that have allowed us to deepen our mission in the heart of the world as we follow Jesus, our only treasure.

Thanks to the sisters of Milan who welcomed us warmly and allowed us to experience these days.

Thank you to each one for the sisterhood experienced, the joy shared, the prayer....

Thanks to Saint Angela who proposed this life to us and who accompanies us every day.

Geneviève C.

March 27, 2020
I SAW A MAN



I saw a man
dressed
in white
and
tired
in the
pouring
rain
and the

cold wind;
he climbed
towards the altar,
laden with the pain
of suffering
but also with hope.

I saw a man
elderly,
limping
climbing the many stairs,
and on his shoulders
all the pain of the world.

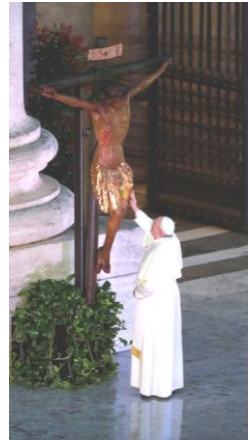
I saw a man
concentrating
silent
quivering
praying for forgiveness
of all the sins
of humanity
and for their Salvation.

I saw a man
One human being
among others,
lifting up all
and praying
for all.

I saw a man
who said
"Nobody is saved alone"
because
we are not alone
if we believe
in God
and in his salvation.

I saw a man
who,
with all the
other people
in the world,
will be saved
because he
believed
and will
believe
forever.

(Giuseppe
Messe –
mesagnesera)





Only Together!

Here are some passages from the homily that Pope Francis preached during the extraordinary time of prayer for the corona virus, on the porch over looking St. Peter's Piazza last March 27.

They express thoughts that can continue to go with us today and in every period of history and of our own lives.

“When evening had come” (MK 4:35)

For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people's gestures; their glances give them away.

We find ourselves afraid and lost.

Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. **We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us.**

Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying **“We are perishing”** (v. 38), so we too have realized **that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this....**

The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities.... In this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about our image, has fallen away, uncovering once more that (blessed) common belonging, of which we cannot be deprived: our belonging as brothers and sisters.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”

Lord, your word this evening strikes us and is meaningful for us, all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste.

We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet.

We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: “Wake up, Lord!”

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”

Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you. ...

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”

Faith begins when we realize we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we founder: we need the Lord, as ancient navigators needed the stars.

Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them.

Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God’s strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies....



We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved.

We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed.

We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his

redeeming love....

Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity.

By his cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”



Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter's rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea.

From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God's blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace.

Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts.

You ask us not to be afraid.

Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do not be afraid” (Mt 28:5).

And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us” (cf. 1 Pet 5:7).



Banishing Now and Forever the Words: *indifference, self-centeredness, division, forgetfulness...*

Following are some passages from Pope Francis's Easter message from April 12.

We, who live in the world with the heart of God, can try to overcome the temptation to indifference, to self-centeredness, to division, to forgetfulness... to pass on *from heart to heart the victory of love over the root of evil.*



Good News

*Today the Church's proclamation echoes throughout the world: "Jesus Christ is risen!" – "He is truly risen!" Like a new flame this Good News springs up in the night: the night of a world already faced with epochal challenges and now oppressed by a pandemic severely testing our whole human family. In this night, the Church's voice rings out: "Christ, my hope, has arisen!" (Easter Sequence). **This is a different "contagion,"** a message transmitted from heart to heart – for every human heart awaits this Good News. It is the contagion of hope: "Christ, my hope, is risen!" This is no magic formula that makes problems vanish. No, the resurrection of Christ is not that. Instead, it is the victory of love over the root of evil, a victory that does not "by-pass" suffering and death, but passes through them, opening a path in the abyss, transforming evil into good: this is the unique hallmark of the power of God.*

***The Risen Lord is also the Crucified One,** not someone else. In His glorious body He bears indelible wounds: wounds that have become windows of hope. Let us turn our gaze to Him that He may heal the wounds of an afflicted humanity....*

No to indifference *This is not a time for indifference, because the whole world is suffering and needs to be united in facing the pandemic.*

May the risen Jesus grant hope to all the poor, to those living on the peripheries, to refugees and the homeless. May these, the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters living in the cities and peripheries of every part of the world, not be abandoned.

*In light of the present circumstances, **may international sanctions be relaxed**, since these make it difficult for countries on which they have been imposed to provide adequate support to their citizens, and may all nations be put in a position to meet the greatest needs of the moment through the reduction, if not the forgiveness, of the debt burdening the balance sheets of the poorest nations.*

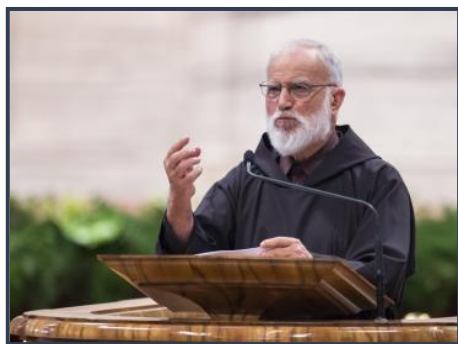
No to self-centeredness. *This is not a time for self-centeredness, because the challenge we are facing is shared by all, without distinguishing between persons. Among the many areas of the world affected by the coronavirus, **I think in a special way of Europe**. After the Second World War, this continent was able to rise again, thanks to a concrete spirit of solidarity that enabled it to overcome the rivalries of the past. It is more urgent than ever, especially in the present circumstances, that these rivalries do not regain force, but that all recognize themselves as part of a single family and support one another. The **European Union** is presently facing an epochal challenge, on which will depend not only its future but that of the whole world. Let us not lose the opportunity to give further proof of solidarity, also by turning to innovative solutions....*

No to division. *This is not a time for division. May Christ our peace enlighten all who have responsibility in conflicts, that they may have the courage to support the appeal for an **immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world**. This is not a time for continuing to manufacture and deal in arms, spending vast amounts of money that ought to be used to care for others and save lives....*

No to forgetfulness *This is not a time for forgetfulness. The crisis we are facing should not make us forget the many other crises that bring suffering to so many people. May the Lord of life be close to all those in Asia and Africa who are experiencing grave humanitarian crises....*

Indifference, self-centeredness, division, and forgetfulness are not words we want to hear at this time. We want to ban these words forever! They seem to prevail when fear and death overwhelm us, that is, when we do not let the Lord Jesus triumph in our hearts and lives. May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of His glorious day, a day that knows no end...

The Delusion of Omnipotence... Let Us Cry Out to God and We Will Rise to a New Life



From the homily of **Father Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap.**, preacher for the pontifical household, delivered during the celebration of the Passion of the Lord presided over by Pope Francis (April 10, 2020)

Here we collect some passages on the sense of sorrow, of God's presence, of his desire for goodness, of the need for prayer ...

Sorrow and suffering are not a punishment

The cross of Christ has changed the meaning of pain and human suffering—of every kind of suffering, physical and moral. It is no longer punishment, a curse. It was redeemed at its root when the Son of God took it upon himself... And not only the pain of those who have faith, but of every human pain. **He died for all human beings:** “And when I am lifted up from the earth,” he said, “I will draw everyone to myself” (Jn 12:32). Everyone, not just some!

The delusion of omnipotence... The pandemic of Coronavirus has abruptly roused us from the greatest danger individuals and humanity have always been susceptible to: the delusion of omnipotence.

It took merely the smallest and most formless element of nature, a virus, to remind us that we are mortal, that military power and technology are not sufficient to save us. As a psalm in the Bible says, *“In his prime, man does not understand. / He is like the beasts—they perish”* (Ps 49:21). How true that is!

God is our ally. God is our ally, not the ally of the virus! He himself says in the Bible, *“I have . . . plans for your welfare and not for woe”* (Jer 29:11). If these scourges were punishments of God, it would not be explained why they strike equally good and bad, and why the poor usually bear the worst consequences of them. Are they more sinners than others?

No! The one who cried one day over Lazarus's death cries today for the scourge that has fallen on humanity.

God participates. God participates in our pain to overcome it. *“Being supremely good,”* wrote St. Augustine, *“God would not allow any evil in his works, unless in his omnipotence and goodness, he is able to bring forth good out of evil.”*

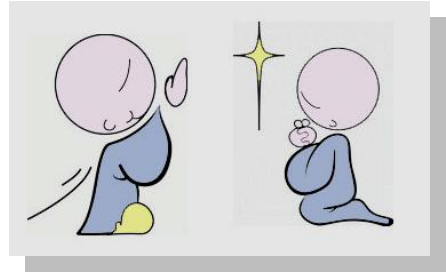
Human freedom takes its course. Did God the Father possibly desire the death of his Son in order to draw good out of it? No, he simply permitted human freedom to take its course, making it serve, however, his own purposes and not those of human beings.

This is also the case for natural disasters like earthquakes and plagues. He does not bring them about. He has given nature a kind of freedom as well, qualitatively different of course than that of human beings, but still a form of freedom—freedom to evolve according to its own laws of development. He did not create a world as a programmed clock whose least little movement could be anticipated. It is what some call “chance” but the Bible calls instead



“the wisdom of God.”

The feeling of solidarity When, in the memory of humanity, have the people of all nations ever felt themselves so united, so equal, so less in conflict than at this moment of pain? ... We have forgotten about building walls. The virus



knows no borders. In an instant it has broken down all the barriers and distinctions of race, nation, religion, wealth, and power. We should not revert to that prior time when this moment has passed. As the Holy Father has exhorted us, we should not waste this opportunity.

Let us not allow so much pain, so many deaths, and so much heroic engagement on the part of health workers to have been in vain. Returning to the way things were is the “recession” we should fear the most.

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again (Is 2:4).

This is the moment to put into practice something of the prophecy of Isaiah whose fulfillment humanity has long been waiting for.

Let us commit ourselves to peace. Let us say “Enough!” to the tragic race toward arms. Say it with all your might, you young people, because it is above all your destiny that is at stake. **Let us devote the unlimited resources committed to weapons to the goals that we now realize are most necessary and urgent: health, hygiene, food, the fight against poverty, stewardship of creation.** Let us leave to the next generation a world poorer in goods and money, if need be, but richer in its humanity.

Cry out to God. The word of God tells us the first thing we should do at times like these is to cry out to God. He himself is the one who puts on people’s lips the words to cry out to him, at times harsh words of lament and almost of accusation: “*Awake! Why do you sleep, O Lord?*”

/ Rise up! Do not reject us forever! . . . Rise up, help us! / Redeem us in your mercy” (Ps 44, 24, 27). “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” (Mk 4:38).

God’s grace and our prayer Does God perhaps like to be petitioned so that he can grant his benefits? Can our prayer perhaps make God change his plans?

No, but there are things that God has decided to grant us as the fruit both of his grace and of our prayer, almost as though sharing with his creatures the credit for the benefit received.

God is the one who prompts us to do it: *“Seek and you will find,”* Jesus said; *“knock and the door will be opened to you”* (Mt 7:7).

... Let us gaze upon the one who was “lifted up” for us on the cross. Let us adore him on behalf of ourselves and of the whole human race. The one who looks on him with faith does not die. And if that person dies, it will be to enter eternal life.

"After three days I will rise," Jesus had foretold (cf. Mt 27:63).



**We too, after these days
that we hope will be short,
shall rise and come out of the
tombs of our homes. Not,
however, to return to the
former life like Lazarus, but to
a new life, like Jesus. A more
fraternal, more human, more
Christian life!**

Stop and Contemplate

*We have not wanted to stop, but we have been forced to...
because of a virus that has infected the world...
but we can learn to want it, to choose it: to stop...
in the silence to listen to ourselves,
to understand ourselves and others and God,
to be able to contemplate the beauty of freely given love...*

"Watch like children and listen like lovers:

that's contemplation, that preserves amazement.
And if we saw the earth, humanity, our home,
our family, every creature
with eyes that caress in silence,
with eyes that illuminate the other, without desire or violence,
without competition or judgment, how many things would change...

Learning to stop...

To look and see, you also have to stop racing. You have to stop,
in this frenzied living that has grabbed us all, in this anxiety...
Speed kills relationships.

We need to gain time for relationships,
for the beauty of contemplating the other's face.

Stop to contemplate!

Contemplating means that you are not the center of the universe;
it means getting in touch with the sky,
it means breathing differently,
living differently, where you feel like a guest,
because we are all guests of the cosmos, we live on cosmic hospitality.

Beauty is a leap towards human fullness.

Beauty humanizes. It is therapeutic.

It expands the soul. It creates harmony in my innermost self."

Ermes Ronchi

*The world is more than a problem to solve.
It is a delightful mystery that we contemplate with joy and praise.*

Pope Francis

Decalogue of Beauty

- + **First**, beauty is a name of God. Saint Francis: “You are beauty.” And in the Bible it is the first way of describing of things.
- + **Second**: beauty is the ecstasy of history, it is the door that opens on our stage, a leap towards human fullness.
- + **Third**: beauty is God's plan for man and for the cosmos. And the spiritual life consists in releasing all the beauty buried in us. Dostoevsky: “Your evil is that you do not know how beautiful you are.” The spiritual life is to liberate the beauty sown in us.
- + **Fourth**, beauty is precious; it is purification of the gaze. “Blessed are the pure in heart” because they will see traces of beauty everywhere.
- + **Fifth**, beauty can also be mortal. Remember John the Baptist killed on account of Salome’s dance, which pleased old Herod? Beauty can be life-giving or death-dealing, prophetic or anti-prophetic. There is a radical ambiguity inherent in beauty, but when it is for love then it is good.
- + **Sixth**, beauty is the necessary luxury. It is necessary for the quality of life, because “man does not live by bread alone”; we also live by contemplating the world’s stones and the perfume of Bethany poured on the feet of Jesus.
- + **Seventh**: beauty is the divine lure, God’s smile within matter. God’s closeness creates beauty, and thus the liturgy is the fullest condensation of art forms.
- + **Eighth**: beauty is God, who loves and creates communion. What attracts you is beauty, and every act of love is beautiful; the one you love is the most beautiful. The first law of beauty is in the act of love.
- + **Ninth**: beauty is the door to knowing. Only wonder grasps something, concepts create idols.
- + **Tenth**, beauty is the strength of the heart, which awakens to desire. It is beauty that persuades the human soul, beauty that is prophecy and promise of a joy without self-interest, finally free.

Let us remember the four verbs: **to pay attention**, **to love** beauty; **to admire** and **appreciate** beauty means to love the soul of things, the flame of all things. Beauty is mercy to be given to everyone, at least in fragments, and then always to be kept above the rubble of the abuse of the world, of this barbaric and magnificent earth.

Ermes Ronchi

Let Us Pray with Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness
all that exists.
Pour out upon us
the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters,
harming no one....



Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.

Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.

Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world
towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail.

You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good.

Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you....

Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.
God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight....

Praise be to you! Amen.

Pope Francis, from *Laudato Si'*

Sharing Christ's Love in the Veterinary Clinic



I am Heather Wacome, a 32-year-old woman in my initial trial with the Company of St. Ursula in the USA, a Group of the Company of Canada.

I live in a suburb of the State of Virginia's capitol city, Richmond. My home is an apartment in the same neighborhood as my parents and



extended family, and I commute out to the rural Middle Peninsula area to the clinic where I work as a veterinary technician (veterinary nurse).

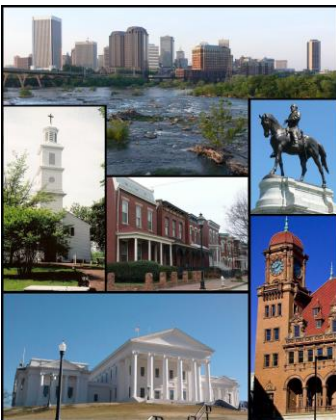


Called to the Company

My journey to the Company of St. Ursula was a winding one.

I first felt a call to consecrate myself to Christ as a teenager during a short-term mission trip to Honduras. Over the next several years, I contacted different religious orders, but because of my chronic health problems, I was not a good candidate. I also considered Consecrated Virginity.

With the advice of spiritual directors, I discerned this was not the path for me, either, because I would need the support of a spiritual community to live a consecrated vocation. At the advice of my



mentor, I looked into Secular Institutes, and after a few more years of off-and-on contact and visits, I eventually joined the Company in the USA.



Love and Faith in the Clinic

It is primarily through veterinary medicine that I share the love of Christ in my daily life. I try to “be present” to clients and coworkers, listening as they share their concerns about both their pets and their own personal lives. I offer a consoling hug or word if I am able. I also pray for them. If asked, I discuss the teachings of the faith, as many people in my area are culturally Christian but have not been catechized and do not practice their faith. Additionally,

sometimes I find myself having to speak out against unloving attitudes and biases towards those on the margins of our society.

I also have a passion for educating people about “One Health,” which is the concept that human, animal, and environmental health are all interconnected. I teach my clients and coworkers about diseases that can be passed between people and animals, issues like antibiotic resistance, and how the human-animal bond affects human physical and mental health.

Veterinary medicine can be very stressful. At times I have to act as a peacekeeper between coworkers during tense situations, or encourage and cheer them on during long days that are both physically and emotionally draining.

Call to Continuing Conversion

I am not immune to the challenges of my job, and I am constantly reminded of my own need for God as I encounter my own weaknesses and failures to love. I find myself proud, with a petty need for control, and often have to battle the desire to respond to a client’s rudeness or a coworker’s frustration with my own rudeness or

frustration, instead of with understanding and patience. Over and over I must review the lesson that *“You will accomplish more by kind words and a courteous manner than by anger or sharp rebuke, which should never be used except in necessity”* (Counsels, Second Precept 3-4).

With Jesus and Angela

As St. Angela teaches, the remedy for our faults is staying in relationship with God, so I try to punctuate my days with prayer: Liturgy of the Hours; praying over patients, especially before surgeries; saying the rosary or divine mercy chaplet while monitoring anesthesia; and giving thanks for the good things that happen. When I reach the end of my own strength, I beg for Jesus to help me, asking Him to forgive my faults. I also spend time talking about cases and clients with Him in my journal when I get home.



Already in my formation with the Company I have learned so much about St. Angela and Ursuline history and spirituality. I have met wonderful women whom I am grateful to call my sisters in Christ. I anticipate that, as I continue my formation, I will deepen my faith and relationship with Jesus, learn more about St. Angela and Ursuline

history, and continue to develop the loving, sisterly relationships that I need to persevere in this vocation.

St. Angela and St. Ursula, pray for us!

*Heather Wacome
Company of Canada, Group of the USA*

FROM THE COMPANIES AND GROUPS

Company of Brazil Southeast

On December 8, 2019, three daughters of St. Angela of the Rio Grande South group made their consecration during their annual retreat in the Company of Brazil South, at the end of the periods required by the Constitutions.



Two of them made their temporary consecration: Leda Maria Petró, first Consecration for two years; and Marina Sanabria de Oliveira, consecration for three years. Genesi Silveira de Ávila made her consecration for life.



Genesi works as a care-giver for the elderly priests of the Religious Missionary Congregation of the Holy Family.

Leda Maria Petró is single and cares for an autistic boy and has raised five girls, daughters of her deceased sister. She is currently looking after her bedridden father.



The retreat was led by the Jesuit priest Adilson Feiler with Ignatian spiritual exercises and periods of study and meditation on the

Counsels addressed to the colonelle (among the writings of Saint Angela).

They were four days of deep unity and affection among the sisters. The fifth day was crowned by the consecrations, in union with Mary on the feast of her Immaculate Conception, and under the protection of St. Angela.

We give heartfelt thanks to God for the gift of life that unites us in the same charism and makes us faithful to our vocation.

Luisa de Rego Monteiro

Company of Brazil Northeast

“Gladden the heart of our Spouse!!!”



This is what happened from **January 24 to 28, 2020: we made Jesus happy and cheered Mother Angela's heart**, gathering for the annual retreat in Salvador, home of our Company. We were hosted with much affection and joy by our beloved Ursuline

religious sisters in their convent.

The encounter between the two groups of Jequié and Salvador is always very warm, cordial, animated by the embraces and desire of all to meet, to be together, at the feet of the Lord, loving him, praising him, worshipping him, studying him and reflecting.

Hayse Lyra Machado, Directress of the Company, welcomed all the sisters, embracing them with affection and showing herself an example of fidelity, faith and responsibility capable of governing the Company for the love of our Spouse.

To complete our joy and that of the Lord, the Vice-directress of the Company of Brazil South, Maria Gatelli, participated in our retreat

with great pleasure, showing faith, sisterhood, love for the Institute, and communion between the two Companies in Brazil.

And since this is the Lord's desire, we are also in contact with Dalva and Regina, daughters of Saint Angela in northern Brazil, linked to the Company of Brescia.

Father Roberto Oliveira solemnly opened the retreat with the Eucharistic celebration, the highest and most important point. In his homily he proclaimed that the Daughters of Saint Angela have *the mission of proclaiming the Word of the Gospel with their lives*.

As preacher, he presented the main theme: God's love for us, human beings, and our love as human beings for God, in a movement of reciprocity, knowing that God loved us first.

Explaining this theme, he told us, *"The life of a consecrated person must be essentially one of love toward God and toward all people, convinced that this is possible because in the heart of each one God has infused a spark of his infinite love."*

Regarding the Eucharist, Father said, *"Jesus is the true Lamb: perfect, sacrificed, offered, consumed for the salvation of the world. Consecrated women should receive Christ in the Eucharist every day, unless there are great difficulties."*

In the evening all the sisters prostrated themselves before the Blessed Sacrament and in a moment of great intensity experienced once again the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

On the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, the sisters Helenice dos Santos Sales, Maria José Barbosa, Maria Cristina Rocha Borges

(Salvador group) and Maria Helena Mendes Oliveira (Jequié group), renewed their consecration.

And Hildêni Nunes Argolo, of the Diocese of Cruz das Almas, received

the medal of Saint Angela [admission to the Company]. It is the wish of



her Bishop, Dom Antonio Tourinho, that a group of "Angelines" grow and flourish in his Diocese.

Speaking to these women and to all those present, the preacher drew attention to the path of formation and conversion, pointing out that it is a path that continues until death.

On the feast day of Saint Angela we were all together, united by one affection and in the love and joy of the feast: those who have already made a long journey of consecration – Nilzete, Gildete, Herbene, Edésia, Marinalva, Hayse, Rita – and those who are newer on the journey in temporary consecration, but on the way to consecration for life.

The culminating moment of the feast arrived at eleven o'clock with the celebration of the Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Ronaldo Marques Magalhães, who in his homily told us: *"The same mission that God gave to St. Paul God also gave to St. Angela and to all of you: building up the Kingdom of God here on earth."*

The Retreat concluded with a text from the Writings of Saint Angela addressed to the colonelle: ***"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, esteeming each other, helping each other, bearing with each other in Jesus Christ"*** (Last Counsel 1-2).

The sisters of Brazil Northeast

Thanks from the Company of Brazil Northeast to Maria Gatelli

The Lord loves to make our hearts overflow with joy. This is what happened with the participation of our dear sister Maria Gatelli in our retreat.

Her very pleasant presence, a true witness of a woman of faith and love for the Institute, strengthened the bonds with our dear Company of origin, promoted the unity so much desired by Jesus and Saint Angela who recommends us: "Live in harmony, united together, all of one heart and one will" (Last Counsel, 1). Our embrace of gratitude, dear Mary!



INCOMING NEWS

Burundi Is Still Growing...

First Consecrations

On September 1, 2019, 40 young women made their first consecration; on September 16, another made her consecration for life. In August other sisters will make their first consecration, renewal, or consecration for life.



New Admissions

On January 27, the feast of St. Angela, in **Makebuko**, in the parish where Pascaline, the Directress of the

Company was born, two girls received the medal of St. Angela Merici.

In Burundi this year 14 new girls were admitted with the bestowal of the medal. Each new admission takes place in the group of the person's parish. The new member is included in the group during the celebration of the holy Mass. For the group and for these new sisters it is a very joyful celebration.

Consolata Rita Bigirimana (pictured) takes care of four children without parents; they are 13, 9, 6 and 3 years old. The little girl who is here with Consolata Rita is 13 years old.





Service in Burundian Society

Other sisters also raise children who are alone or abandoned; they are adoptive mothers.

In Burundi, the consecrated sisters of the Company are very happy to be of service in the world.

In addition to caring for orphans

and abandoned children, the sisters help lonely elderly people and assist them in their homes.

In our parishes, we provide various services as catechists, leaders of various Catholic movements, and leaders in other helpful roles and tasks.

Our Bishops are very happy to enjoy the presence of the secular Ursulines in their dioceses.

Pascaline

Pictured three years ago, now to make their consecration for life: 2017-2020



*Thanks to the
Lover of us all!*



A greeting from the Group of Eritrea with Azieb, the new leader, replacing Minnia



The Company of Sardinia, Sassari... at Mariuccia's consecration for life

From Germany Father Gregor, P.T., reports that his sister Margarete Queisner of Flensburg has returned to the house of the Lord. She was living with Angela Mann, former Directress of the Company, now the only sister left in Germany. He sends greetings to the whole Institute, in particular to Teresa H., now in Trent.

He also shared remembrances and greetings from Father Hermann Naumann O.S.B., former ecclesiastical assistant of the Company in Germany.



Angela Mann has great trust in God and asks for prayers in this new situation that she accepts. She trusts in the presence of Saint Angela.

The Company of Burundi Is Praying about the Coronavirus

We were together, sisters to one another and daughters of St. Angela of the Company of Burundi, united with all the others not present.

We asked ourselves, and we evaluated together, how and what we could do to help the countries that are in difficulty because of the coronavirus. We have decided to start a special prayer and we will continue to pray for this pandemic to be wiped out throughout the world. We will make a novena with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

We have established 27 groups: the first group started immediately; after 9 days the second group will start... we will continue like this. When the last group has finished, the first group will start again. The last group will finish on November 2, and the first will start again on November 3.

Each one will do the prayer alone, in union with the others in her group.

May the Lord be close to all. May the Lord and Saint Angela welcome our prayers, offered in unity with the world Company.

Publication of *Leadership from the Heart* by Mary-Cabrini Durkin

Leadership as taught in St. Angela's Counsels and Testament

For information on this new publication (in English) or to place an order, email Mary-Cabrini at Ursulines@fuse.net.

