

IN THE SAME CHARISM....

with responsibility



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

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CONTENTS

To the readers	page 4
A thought from The President	page 7
Prayer for The Company	page 9
A thought from the Ecclesiastical Assistant	page 10
From the Rule of Saint Angela Merici	page 16

FROM THE COMPANIES AND THE GROUPS

Indonesia	page 20
Our congratulations to Sister Emma Gunanto	page 22
Democratic Republic of Congo	page 23
Cameroon	page 25
The Friends of Saint Angela in Australia	page 26
The Company of Canada	page 28
Consecration for life	page 29
The Company has started in Mexico	page 30
South Brazil	page 32
Madagascar	page 33
The 475th Anniversary in Madagascar	page 34
Go and visit your dear Sisters	page 36
The Council of The Federation in Chioggia	page 38
Crema... a pleasant surprise from Brazil	page 39

INCOMING MAIL

From Treviso	page 40
From Burundi	page 41
Ethiopia	page 43

Always...	page 44
The real meaning of The Company is	page 45
Pilgrims on a pilgrimage	page 46

TO THE READERS

... and be to all a good odour of virtue . (Counsel 5,14)



In the first issue of the booklet for this year we reminded the readers what Saint Angela had indicated: *wherever they are they should give good example...*

In this issue we are going to concentrate on the verse that follows: ***be to all a good odour of virtue...***

Saint Angela expresses herself in a provocative manner and, while paying great attention to every individual and to everyday life, in reality she addresses the whole world: ***we must be of good example wherever we are ... and be a good odour of virtue...***

Therefore, this refers to all of us and not only to one person, everywhere and not in some remote place... a good odour that reaches every part and is pleasant to all...

An odour... In the Gospel we have read many times about the visit Jesus paid to His friends in Bethany: *“Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure spikenard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment”*. (John 12,3) For her friend Jesus she bought a perfume of pure nard, delicate and very expensive, with a pleasant fragrance which spread out from Jesus to fill the whole house.

The odour is the fragrance of gratitude, it symbolises the triumph of love, friendship and fraternity and for this reason it is a gesture of total, original, exhaustive gratuity.

In order to do good one cannot be stingy and hard fisted, but extremely generous... When doing good and for the pure joy of meeting someone, one can be extravagant... because the Gospel wants us

to enjoy to the full and Saint Angela wants us to be *happy!*

The odour... “*Give off a sweet smell like incense, flower like the lily, spread your fragrance abroad ...*” (Sir 39, 14)

This is not poetic. The life of every individual, the lives of the groups and The Companies are full of stones and thorns, but Saint Angela has promised us pleasant surprises even in this world: “*...we will find the ways which are full of stones and thorns changed into blossoms and paved with gold*”. (Rule prologue 27)

An odour... We cannot hang on to the fragrance, nor capture its smell, we cannot determine its presence, but it wraps itself around us, fills us and passes through us. We cannot hold of the odour but it passes through our body and hits us deeply, it wins us over, changes us, regenerates us and opens us new beautiful horizons for us.

An odour of virtue...

Saint Angela’s fragrance is particular, ***an odour of virtue...***

Virtue is a habitual and strong disposition to do good... (C.C.C. 1883)

Jesus is the anointed one par excellence; with Him, virtue is of the highest grade: “*Jesus went about doing good and curing all.... ...*” (Acts 10, 38)

The fragrance of goodness, of the good news, comes only from Jesus Christ. That, which came forth from His words, His gestures, and His works; the fragrance of your perfume is intoxicating, your very name spreads aroma.

Christ is the anointed One until His death: His fragrance precedes us, wraps around us, greets us, awaits us, invades us and opens wide our heart to infinite love, the resurrection.

The fragrance of goodness... “*Let your mind be filled with everything that is true, everything that is honourable, everything that is*

upright and pure, everything that we love and admire, with whatever is good and praise worthy” (Ph 4,8).

“... Ensuring that your daughters are adorned with every virtue and all regal and refined manners”. (Fourth Legacy, 1-2).

Let us bring to mind the Merician virtues which are both human and Christian virtues: *love, faith, hope, unity, harmony, obedience, prudence, faithfulness, trust, diligence, kindness, vigilance, shrewdness, awareness, care, humility, tolerance, esteem, comfort, enlivening, strength, joy, happiness, temperance, honesty, affability, affection, gentleness, sweetness, and charm...*

The fragrance of goodness... *“But thanks be to God who always gives us in Christ a part in His triumphal procession and through us is spreading every where the fragrance of the knowledge of Himself. To God we are the fragrance of Christ both among those who are being saved and those who are on the way to destruction... (2 Cor 2, 14-15)*



Thanks be to God, because the good odour of Christ is being spread thanks to the Daughters of Saint Angela.

When we read this booklet we are all committed to be of a good example, and to learn from the good examples of our Sisters scattered in all parts of the world. Let us enjoy the sweet fragrance of this odour and spread it abundantly with everyone and everywhere.

Caterina Dalmasso

A THOUGHT FROM THE PRESIDENT

“ON GOVERNMENT”

"To govern this company it is arranged that..." are the words of St. Angela introducing the chapter "on government".

The Holy Mother is firm and clear: "it is arranged" ...she doesn't recommend or suggest...

To govern the Company is a serious commitment, a challenging task...to be taken only if aware, according to everyone's capacity and doing one's utmost there.

Going forward in the chapter, St. Angela gives very specific instructions about the tasks to be accomplished by those who are called to this service.

The Constitutions, which translate for us in legislation the words of St. Angela, firstly recall the responsibility of the Assembly, convened to elect the government.

"The Assembly, deliberative organism of the Company, also represents a great moment of communion".

For all the Companies! The most numerous and the ones that have a reduced number of members...

Gathering together to discuss the Company, take the necessary decisions...it's responding to the Constitutions and therefore to St. Angela's desire.

"Each of us will consider herself a participant and co-responsible for the life of the Company. She will commit herself to an active collaboration according to her own abilities and competence. She will be ready to assume those tasks that the good of the Company requires..."

It's not good to see people pull back, which considered themselves "unfit" ...which use reasons and justifications which are more or

less plausible...

Justifications for some, may open the way for those who, really, are less suited...

Some more courage is needed...and more trust in God who "...will provide for them wonderfully", even in this office to be entrusted to them.

Change brings positive effects, primarily because it helps to renew itself, to question, to find several possible solutions....

"The authority in the Company will be lived by those in charge, according to the style outlined for them by St. Angela Merici, who placed them in charge to be guardians and mothers of "Spouses of the Most High".



The Directress, especially, will take care to be an instrument of unity and communion, of dialogue, animation and guidance..."

So no matter that the Director is an expert administrator or can speak well or carry out other tasks... The ability and competence needed in the guidance of Companies, for the Directress and her Council, are of "human" type: it's important they can love, meet, hold together the Sisters, blunt any difficulties in relationships, encourage and welcome collaborations, enhancing all, creating opportunities for dialogue and fraternity...everything that nurtures a climate of being "family", peaceful and friendly, in respect of each one.

Maria Razza

Prayer for The Company

Blessed and indivisible Trinity

I endlessly thank You for granting me the grace to join the other Sisters in The Company of Saint Ursula.

*I pray now for this Company, for every Sister
and for each and every leader.*

Grant us ability, prudence, honesty and maturity.

*Help us to teach and guide one another
in our spiritual life, and to be diligent Mothers
to each member and to all The Company.*

Saint Angela, Mother and Foundress,

*by the intercession of our sweet and gentle Bridegroom
grant us comfort and help, especially to those who are lonely, old and
sick... We also intercede for The Company,
that is already enjoying the celestial glory,
where each and every Sister is crowned by the gleaming
golden crown of virginity. And now we earnestly pray
that we will never fall from Your favour.
Please continue to embrace us and grant us the kiss of peace.*

***In the name of The Father, and of The Son
And of the Holy Spirit. Amen.***



A THOUGHT FROM THE ECCKESIASTICAL ASSISTENT

POST-SYNODAL APOSTOLIC EXHORATION *VERBUM DOMINI*



The Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini* presents to the Church universal, to the members of other Churches and Christian communities, to believers of non-Christian denominations, as in deed to all people of good will, the results of the Twelfth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on *The Word of God in*

the Life and Mission of the Church, which was held in the Vatican from October 5 to 26, 2008. The Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father Benedict XVI offers a document on the mystery of the Word of God in the life and mission of the Church, using the contribution of the Twelfth Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops.

The document is divided into three parts with an introduction and conclusion.

- INTRODUCTION, which provides useful pointers for readers of the Document.

Pt. 1- THE WORD OF GOD. THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

Pt. 2- THE WORD IN THE CHURCH. THE WORD OF GOD AND THE CHURCH

Pt. 3 –THE WORD IN THE WORLD. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH: TO ANNOUNCE THE WORD OF GOD. THE CONCLUSION synthesizes the fundamental ideas.

The document begins with a biblical quotations that combines Is 40:6-8 and 1 Pt 1:24-25: “*The word of the Lord abides for ever. This word is the Gospel which was preached to you.*”

The title “*Verbum Domini*” emphasizes however the continuity between the Old and New Testaments and fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ. The Gospel of which St. Peter speaks is the Gospel “*of Jesus Christ, Son of God*” (Mk 1:1) that “through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Pt 1:3) has given us new birth “to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading” (1 Pt 1:4). The title of the Apostolic Exhortation, *Verbum Dei*, refers also to the conciliar Constitution, *Dei Verbum*, which concludes with the same quotation: “hope for a new stimulus for the life of the Spirit from a growing reverence for the word of God, which ‘lasts forever’” (Is 40:8; cf. 1 Pt 1:23-25)” (DV 26).

The objectives of *Verbum Domini* are:

- To recover the Word of God as “*handed on in the Church’s living Tradition*” (VD 1). The Bible should not remain a Word about the past, but let its vitality and meaning for today be read more and more as the motive for renewal in the Church, called to become young again thanks to the Word of the Lord that remains forever (VD 124). Renewal presupposes hearing, and hearing presupposes the one who proclaims: there are many individuals and peoples who still await the Word of God in their own language and culture, a fact that creates the urgency of the mission to the nations. Rediscovering the centrality of the divine Word calls for us to continue, with a new thrust, the mission to the nations and “*vigorously to embark upon the new evangelization, especially nations once rich in faith and in vocations are losing their identity under the influence of a secularized culture*” (VD 122). The Word of God should also be made available to immigrants (cf. VD 105).

- To promote the biblical vitality of pastoral activity so that the Word

of God may become “*ever more fully at the heart of every ecclesial activity*” (VD 1) through an adequate biblical formation for people at all levels, strengthening them through this biblical apostolate (VD 75), undertaking a new evangelization, “*in the certainty that God’s word is effective*” (VD 96).

- To bring Christians to maturity as witnesses to the Word, helping the faithful to rediscover “*their personal and communal encounter with Christ, the word of life made visible, and to become his heralds, so that the gift of divine life – communion – can spread ever more fully throughout the world*” (VD 2). “*There is no greater priority than this: to enable the people of our time once more to encounter God, the God who speaks to us and shares his love so that we might have life in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10)*” (VD 2). Let us be guided “*by the Holy Spirit to an ever greater love of the word of God*” (VD 5) that is, definitively, the Person of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word.

The structure of *Verbum Dei* is divided into three parts, each composed of several chapters.

The first part, *Verbum Dei*, emphasizes the fundamental role of God the Father, the source and origin of the Word (cf. VD 20-21). The first chapter, *The God Who Speaks*, stresses God’s will to open and to keep up a dialogue with humanity in the various forms of revelation: God speaks through Creation and has spoken through the prophets. The books of the Old and New Testaments are divinely inspired; the living Tradition of the Church is also his Word; his Word also takes the form of his silence, that was most deeply expressed in the cross of the Lord Jesus (cf. VD 21). This part takes up the relationships between Tradition and Scripture, the theme of the Bible’s inspiration and truth. In the second chapter, *Our Response to the God Who Speaks*, humanity is called to enter into Covenant with God: to the God who

speaks, the human person responds with faith. Prayer is best done in meditation on the words that God has revealed and that are held in the Bible. Sin is defined as not listening to God's Word, and the Virgin Mary offers us the example of collaboration with God's Word and of faith as one's response. Finally, the third chapter is dedicated to the theme of *The Interpretation of Holy Scripture in the Church*. The Church is the original place of the interpretation of the Bible. Another theme treated here is "the Bible and ecumenism" providing contributions for a dialogue among pastors, theologians and exegetes, and also on an outline of theological studies. The saints are definitive and very good interpreters of God's Word.

2) The second part, *The Word in the Church*, defines the Church as "the home of the Word of God" that welcomes the Word made flesh who has pitched his tent among us (cf. Jn 1:14). This part too has three chapters. The first, *The Word of God and the Church*, emphasizes that, thanks to God's Word and to the sacraments, Jesus Christ is contemporary with human beings in the life of the Church. The title of the second chapter, *The Liturgy, Privileged Setting for the Word of God*, emphasizes the vital link between sacred Scripture and the sacraments, in particular the Eucharist, of which the Liturgy of the Word forms the first part. The link between the sacraments and the Word of God opens up a reflection around the sacramentality of the Word. It recalls the importance of the proclamation of the Word and of the homily. Here we find valid suggestions for promoting the spirit of the liturgy, the celebration and the proclamation of the Word of God, silence, Christian liturgical seasons, the privileged place of biblical texts in the liturgy, biblically inspired song, and the ministry of the lector. The third chapter is dedicated to *The Word of God in the Life of the Church*, on the importance of biblical inspiration in pastoral work, the biblical dimension of catechesis, the biblical formation of

Christians, the use of sacred Scripture in large ecclesial gatherings and the Word of God in relationship to vocations. Particular preparation in the Word of God is required of pastors – bishops, priests, deacons, candidates for holy orders – and of those in consecrated life. Also attention to the Word of God is recommended to the lay faithful, especially at home with the family: prayerful reading of sacred Scripture, in particular *lectio divina*. It also proposes reflection on the Word of God and the Holy Land, where the Word of God became incarnate in the text and in the divine Word.

3) The third part, *The Word for the World*, recalls the duty of Christians to announce the Word of God in the world in which they live and work. The four chapters define the mission of the Church in the encounters of God's Word in relationship with the world.

- *The Church's Mission: To Proclaim the Word of God to the World*. The Word of God has communicated divine life to us. His Word involves us not only as its recipients but also as its proclaimers. All the baptized are responsible for announcing the Word of God, because the faith and the Church are born from the Word. The credibility of the proclamation of the Good News depends however, also on the witness of Christian living.

- *The Word of God and Commitment in the World*. Here we find directions to the path for giving life to the world through the Word of God. Christians are called to serve the Word of God in the least of their brothers and sisters and, in this way, to commit themselves within society to reconciliation, justice, and peace among peoples. The Word of God is the source of love in action, creatively alleviating the suffering of the poor, both materially and spiritually.

- *The Word of God and Culture*. The Bible is recognized as the great source of guidance for human culture, still in our own time the ine-

xhaustible source of artistic expression. It is a good sign that the Bible is better known in schools and universities and that the means of social communication are ever more being used to spread it, using all possible current technology. The theme of inculturation of sacred Scripture is also linked to the translation and spread of the Bible, which needs to increase further.

- *The Word of God and Interreligious Dialogue*. There are pointers about dialogue between Christians and Muslims, as also with those who belong to other non-Christian religions, in the public square of religious liberty that involves not only the freedom to profess one's own faith in private and in public, but also freedom of conscience and therefore to choose one's own religion.

In the **Conclusion**, the Holy Father Benedict XVI exhorts all Christians “to become increasingly familiar with the sacred Scriptures” (VD 121). “In our day too, the Holy Spirit constantly calls convinced and persuasive hearers and preachers of the word of the Lord” (VD 122). They are called to be “credible heralds of the word of salvation,” communicating “the source of true joy ... born of the awareness that the Lord Jesus alone has words of everlasting life (cf. Jn 6:68)” (VD 123). “This close relationship between God's word and joy is evident in the Mother of God, Mother of the Word and Mother of joy” (VD 124).

+ Adriano Tessarollo



FROM THE RULE OF SAINT ANGELA MERICI Some points for reflection....

ON FASTING Ch. IV, vv. 10-20



We conclude the reflections on the chapter about fasting (see the preceding publications: no. 2-2010 and no. 1-2011), one of the longest chapters in St. Angela's brief Rule. She proposes fasting, united to prayer, as a style of life.

Fasting immersed in the shadows of the world

¹⁰“Thirdly, fast the forty days immediately after the Epiphany to keep in check the senses and appetites and lustful desires which lord it over the world at this time especially.”

This is the fast in carnival time... a long fast... to acknowledge the lordship of the Lord rather than the lordship of goods, of pleasures, of sensuality that, in this season and in this world, seem to have primacy instead.

All that pertains to being faithful to the Gospel's requirement of penance, but also to making a credible response to the widespread challenges of consumerism and hedonism in our society. Paul VI said, *“Where economic affluence is greater, that is where it will be necessary to give witness by asceticism, so that the children of the Church may not be engrossed in the spirit of the world.”*

Fasting to seek mercy

¹¹“Also, to ask for mercy before the throne of the Most High for so many debaucheries which are committed by Christians during times spent this way, as is more than apparent to everyone.”

The plea for forgiveness and for mercy is strongly felt in Saint Angela... a mercy that she asks for herself and for others: *“So am I forced, day and night, walking, standing, working, thinking, to cry out and shout to Heaven and to beg mercy and time for penitence”* (Rule, Ch. 5, 22).

And to continue in this way... three days a week

¹²“Fourth, after the octave of Easter fast three days out of the week, on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.”

Her style of life, moderate and sometimes austere, is still recommended today by the Church: *“Christians become the builders of a society marked by more welcome and solidarity and they foster within history a culture of love”*

(Pastoral Note on the Christian Meaning of Fasting and Abstinence CEI 1994).

Prayerful fasting

¹³“Fifth, fast the three days of Rogation, or litanies, that the Church celebrates before the Ascension to implore divine help for the Christian people.”

Angela always connects herself with the prayer of the Church for the Christian people; living in the world, she recognizes its necessity and makes a generous offering of her life: *“Willingly would I shed my own blood (if I could), in order to open up the blindness of their minds”* (Rule, Ch. 5, 34).

Fasting united to prayer to ask for the Holy Spirit

¹⁴“Sixth, fast every day after the Ascension, 15 and together remain in prayer with as much strength of spirit as possible till the day of the sending of the Holy Spirit, that is till the Easter of May, 16 beseeching that great promise made by Jesus Christ to his chosen and well-disposed people.”

Angela proposes a fast united to prayer: *“Remember again that each one be solicitous about prayer...which is coupled with fasting”* (Rule Ch. 5, 1-2). So too the word of God teaches us: *“Prayer accompanied by fasting is efficacious”* (Tb 12:8); *“Anna, daughter of Phanuel, served God day and night in the Temple, with fasting and prayer”* (Lk 2:37). Fasting in preparation for the feast of Pentecost is particularly emphasized by the Foundress... a fast united to the prayer of contemplation to ask that the promise of Jesus Christ be fulfilled: the descent of the Holy Spirit. Fasting and prayer make us capable of the dispositions suited to receiving this great gift. In this case Saint Angela speaks with great force of spirit (on other occasions she had used the verb *sforzarsi*) as if to remind us that the life of asceticism is not easy and by no means to be taken for granted... it requires commitment and perseverance. This emphasis by Saint Angela on preparation for Pentecost is not strange if we only recall how strongly she affirms the role of the Spirit in the chapter on obedience: *“And above all, to obey the counsels and inspirations which the Holy Spirit continually sends into the heart”* (Rule, Ch. 8, 14).

And to complete the liturgical year, again three days a week

¹⁷“Seventh, after the Easter of May, return to the aforementioned three days of the week till Advent.”

Again from Pentecost until Advent... therefore always, through the whole year, the exhortation to fast accompanies us as if to remind us that “fasting and abstinence – together with almsgiving and other charitable works – always belong in the life and the penitential practice of the Church: in fact they respond to the Christian’s enduring need for conversion to the Kingdom of God...” (Pastoral Note).

A balanced fasting, with discretion and in obedience

¹⁸“However, because one does not want anything unreasonable, you

are admonished that no one ought to fast without advice, especially that of her spiritual father 19and of the lady governors of this Company, who may have to relax and diminish these fasts as seems necessary.”

In certain circumstances the tone of life proposed by Saint Angela would have been manifestly imprudent and rash. From this fact comes the wise admonition to her daughters: no one should presume to direct herself in this penitential practice nor should she limit herself even to consultation with a spiritual director who might be unaware of some particular circumstances or health problem that would make a modification appropriate. Therefore each one should seek the view of the lady governors of the Company, considered as irreplaceable judges in this matter.

This is how the Constitutions explain the roles: *In dialogue with the spiritual guide and with the consent of the directress.*

Even in the practice of fasting, discernment and obedience accompany Saint Angela’s daughter, not to drift from it or eliminate it, but to personalize it and to make it appropriate so that it may become truly a practice performed in living communion with Christ, animated by prayer and oriented to the growth of liberty... the liberty of love.

Fasting as a gift...

²⁰“because she who indiscreetly hurts her body...would be sacrificing stolen goods, so say the sacred canons.”

The gift, to be a gift, should be personal, free, joyous, and, above all, rich in love... thus, and only thus, will we live in peace: *“In God, she has all her wealth and outside of God she sees herself impoverished of everything, being a total nothing, and with God possessing everything”* (Rule Ch. 10, 6).

Kate

FROM THE COMPANIES AND THE GROUPS INDONESIA



The Meeting of the Indonesian Company of Saint Ursula for 2010 was held in July in Bandung where each of the participants was welcomed by the Directress Meity and the animator Sister Emma.

Forming part of this world wide Company made us commemorate the 475th Anniversary of the Foundation of The Company with gratitude as well as pride.

The Meeting opened with a dance in honour of Jesus, Our Lover and the reading of the circular received from the President, Maria Razza.

We remembered everybody in our prayers, those present and the others who could not attend; we prayed for one another especially at noon on Thursday during the Angelus.

We reflected on the following themes:

- › The beauty of Secular life for Lay persons following in Christ's footsteps
- › Our Charism
- › God's mercy
- › Jesus the Good Shepherd
- › We, women, "midwives" in favour of life
- › A deeper look at our spiritual life
- › Our spiritual journey, like the disciples at Emmaus



During the Holy Mass presided by Mons. Johannes Pujasumayra in the chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Good Counsel, Kak Nini celebrated her consecration for life. It was a very beautiful and moving ceremony; the participation of an exceptional choir who rehearsed for over a month for the

ceremony, made this event even more memorable.

We meditated on the theme Jesus Christ, our only treasure, as suggested by Saint Angela, a treasure not to be hidden but to be shared by others.

The Meeting came to an end with a dance and the prayer, “O Lord make me an instrument of Your peace”.

The next Meeting of the Indonesian Company 2011 will be held in Bali.

United with you in prayer, I give you my warmest regards!

*Taken from the site of the Indonesian Company
<http://ursulinsekulir.wordpress.com/ursulin-sekulir-indonesia/>*



OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO SR. EMMA GUNANTE WHO STARTED THE COMPANY

50th anniversary of consecrated life with the Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Order

The 27th January 2011 was a very important day for Sister Emma, for the Ursulines of Indonesia and also for the Company of the Secular Ursulines which Sister Emma started, formed and closely followed.

Sister Emma was celebrating her 50th anniversary of religious consecration and many Sisters and friends from every part of Indonesia arrived in Bandung to take part in this festive celebration



Representing the Company were: Meity, Lena, Engeline, and Mia from Jakarta, and Eny and Lydia from Bandung.

At the reception desk of the Ursulines' house in Bandung, a 100 page booklet full of memoirs entitled "Emmanuel, God is with us..." was made available.

A big bible was placed in front of the altar in the chapel; this as a reminder of Sister Emma's work in translating the

Bible into Indonesia as well as to acknowledge her as a world renown Biblicist.

The celebration was rich in the Word of God, the spirituality of Saint Angela, choirs and hymns, dances; it was a grand thanksgiving ceremony for such an important jubilee.

We in Italy and the other Sisters from the rest of the world, through our sense of friendship and gratitude, were united to Indonesia through prayer.

Our warmest wishes, Sister Emma, come to you from all the Sisters

of The Company of Saint Ursula Secular Institute of Saint Angela Merici, and a particular smile from Elisa Tarolli, one of the “queens” in heaven.

Please keep in close contact with The Company in Indonesia and *united together with Our Lover, persevere faithfully and joyfully in the work you have begun.*



Kate

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The wonderful events that took place in Kinshasa!

It all happened the 25th November 2010, thanks to a Mass of Thanksgiving on the day of the 475th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Company by Saint Angela Merici.

Advent had just started; so it was a time for reflection, a time to see how we could unite our daily way of life to that of Him, who came to be our Saviour.

Our theme for reflection was that chosen by the Archdiocese of Kinshasa for the Pastoral year 2010-2011; namely, "The identity and coherence of the Christian Person."



The identity of a Christian person is marked by the coherence of his daily way of life and the teachings of the Gospel. These teachings may be summed up in one sentence; our Love for God and our nei-

ghbour. Father Gregoire Libana, our preacher, made repeated emphasis on “Why do we consecrate ourselves to God if our way of living does not manifest His presence in our life?”

This was followed by the moment we were all waiting for; Scholastique and Micheline asking to be admitted into the Company because they had chosen Jesus as their “Beloved”.

On the morning of the 28th November 2010, it rained heavily, as though the rain wanted to bless the event with Holy water. This did not mar their happiness or diminish the zeal of their undertaking; a Secular Consecration according to the wishes of Saint Angela Merici.

Following this, Alice, in her clear voice, made her first consecration promising Christ to belong to Him alone. Then, it was Charlotte’s turn to renew her vows of Consecration.

Thanks to the harmony which united us all, the priest who was officiating the ceremony, the choir and the witnesses present, we were able to enjoy this awe-inspiring event.

The Celebration was further enriched by the telephone calls and text messages sent by the other Daughters of Saint Angela who could not be present; Lubumbashi, Mbuju Mayi, Jeanne Lagrave, Michelle Langlois, and Marie Bernadette whom we remembered in our prayers to the Virgin Mary.

We are thankful that Our Directress Geneviève honoured us with her presence as well as being so abundantly blessed by our Mother, Saint Angela.

Your sisters from Kinshasa

Cameroon November 2010



Jeanne and I spent from the 20th November to the 5th December 2010 in Cameroon. It was Jeanne's 16th trip there, as for me I was travelling for the first time to that African country, a country I knew little about even though it is rich in natural resources.

The city of Yaoundé is inhabited by many young people and is bustling with activity. At the moment, road works are going on everywhere; when finished, Yaoundé look like any other European capital city. On my visit to Father Ignace, I was able to admire the beautiful landscape where palm, banana and coconut trees grown in abundance.

Every body offered us hospitality and this helped me to become familiar with the surroundings, with the way of life and Cameroon's typical culinary tastes. We visited the Kindergarten run by Angèle and Joséphine taught me how fish is smoked in banana leaves before being sold. It is really a work of art!

The French Cameroon Company met on the 25th November at the John XXIII centre in Yaoundé. A sung mass was celebrated by the Assistant, Father Benjamin Atanga to commemorate the 475th Anniversary of The Foundation of The Company of Saint Angela and the 15th anniversary of the Merician presence in



Cameroon. During the celebration Ruffine Mfoumou was officially admitted to the period of initial trial. For lunch we enjoyed very tasty African dishes and sweets especially prepared for us.

On the 4th December Marie-Joséphine and Nathalie accompanied

us on a visit to the last resting place of our dear Bernadette Michèle, who passed away last June. It was a very emotional moment for all of us ten Sisters gathered in prayer around her grave. We will meet her in heaven, as was promised by Saint Angela when we will be reunited with our “our one and Common Lover”.



Geneviève Chambri

The Friends of Saint Angela in Australia...



The school in which I work was under the leadership of the Roman Union Ursulines for over 50 years. When the first lay Principal was appointed a few years ago there was a strong desire amongst the staff to keep alive something of the Ursuline spirit that they had experienced. For some, this generated a desire to look at the life and writings of St Angela in order to understand more deeply the origin of what they had found so enriching in their lives. Early in November 2010, a small group of about twenty staff and friends gathered to pray and celebrate in anticipation the 475th anniversary of the Foundation of the Company of St Ursula. They were invited to consider participating in a regular monthly meeting to deepen their understanding of St Angela, to explore what was special about the way she influenced and inspired the people of her time...and what it could mean for the people of our time. They are conscious of St Angela’s words: “never cease to cultivate the vine entrusted to you” and feel they have

been entrusted in some way with something of her spirituality to nurture and pass on.

What would it involve? Meeting once a month (on the first Sunday of each month 4-6 pm) in community with like minded people to learn more about the life and times of Angela and discussion of what her message means in our lives. Initially, they propose to start with some readings about and /or by St Angela, like a book club. They would meet and discuss, sharing stories and some hospitality.



What possibilities do they foresee that might emerge? Social justice initiatives, a study or knowledge of the history of the Ursulines in the world and in Australia, pilgrimages, guest speakers, connections with other Ursuline communities around Australia (e.g the Companions in Brisbane) and the world. Most of those who came signed a register to continue with the first monthly meeting being scheduled for 6 February, 2011. They call themselves “Companions” as this is what the group established by

the Ursulines of the Roman Union in Brisbane is called. While the Sydney group will also hope to be supported by the Ursuline Sisters and will gather in the Ursuline’s meeting space, they have also grown over the last two years to realize that they must convene themselves and grow towards being independent and self-sustaining.

These “companions” are mostly married men and women. Once established they would hope to invite alumni and other friends to participate. Such is the working of the Holy Spirit in Australia.

Monica Vaughan

CANADA

It was Friday before Consecration Day

Priscilla, Azucena and I met at Holy Rosary Church to prepare the Parish Hall.

On the day of the Consecration of Goretti, Azucena and Corazon , November 27,2010 early in the morning I looked out and found out it was snowing very badly. What a day ! Then I started praying my Divine Office, and at the end I prayed "Lord please grant us a nice weather for the consecration of the three ladies." I left early to go to church and I met Ella who helped me a lot to prepare the things needed for the meeting. Rosa too helped me preparing the altar. At 10:00 a.m. sharp the Holy Mass started. Barbara lead the song very solemnly until the end. It was so solemn also what Fr. Daniel Chui did and he helped me alike to do the same with Goretti, Azucena and Corazon: to make it louder when we speak. After the ceremony I read your compliment to them. It was a great honor and privilege for me to do this on your behalf. We did it so well.

After the Holy Mass we took some pictures. We invited Father for our gathering. What a surprise when we went out... The sun was shining so bright, it seems nothing had happened. No snow on the ground and the weather was so beautiful. "Look, I said, the weather is so beautiful Our Lord listen to our prayer."

Everyone went to the hall to eat a eat a good meal prepared by Gemma , and to welcome our newly consecrated Sisters in Christ. We were full of joy, a great day to celebrate . Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia ! May God bless us and keep us in HIS LOVING CARE.

Eugenia Viernes

Canada USA Consecration for Life

In December I had the privilege of making my final consecration. For all of us, this precious event has many facets. On one level, it expresses our relationship with God: total, committed, life-long, intimate, and loving. It expresses our desire to answer God's loving call. Our consecration rises on the wings of God's grace. It depends not on our strength but on God's.

On August 17, 1962, I first made vows as an Ursuline of Cincinnati. My consecration continues that union with Christ, begun long ago. I am grateful for the opportunity to express and seal it anew.'

On another level, our consecration is a commitment to live our relationship with God along a particular vocational path. In this sense, my life has taken a new turn. After forty happy years in Ursuline religious life, God called me to the Company.

The Company has shown me the special graces of Ursuline secular life. God invites me forward and supports me in trying to live Christ's Gospel mission at the heart of the world. Our companions in the USA, Canada, and around the world enrich my life immensely. Kathleen



On December 18 2010, Mary-Cabrini Durkin of the USA (left) made her consecration in Quebec. Pictured with her are Pierrette Giguere (associate), Jacqueline Morin (foundress, Company of Canada), Therese Bolduc (directress), and Father Real Forgues (ecclesiastical vice-assistant).



Hallinan continues her sisterly collaboration from heaven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks to all!

Mary-Cabrini Durkin

THE COMPANY BEGINS IN MEXICO

Precisely as in Brescia the Ursuline world was celebrating around the Madre for the 475th anniversary of the foundation of the Company, Silvia in Mexico made her first consecration in our Company, surrounded by her relatives and many friends.

It was truly moving to participate and to witness this event, which seemed to me like being there among the first women with St. Angela. Or rather Silvia could be a “bonus,” she who, with great simplicity and commitment, accepted the Lord’s invitation, in the words of our dear madre, to



be a true and virginal spouse of the Son of God and in these years of formation to recognize what such a thing means and what a new and wondrous dignity it is to be thus chosen.

In our brief and intense sojourn in Mexico I once again experienced that we have in our hands a great and precious treasure, the charism of St. Angela, a treasure that is for all. It is great because it is universal, can be lived in every situation, in every culture. We have received it as a gift, which is to be handed on by us; the more we live it, the more be-

autiful, rich, contemporary, true, and complete it becomes. It is as if it is fulfilled if it expands our boundaries.

Silvia now belongs juridically and in fact to the Company of Trent. This reality raises a deep question in me; in fact often I ask myself how she can feel that we are her Company. She needs, through living her vocation, to have, to be, and to experience “company.” Maria Ch., Carla P., and I were there as her sisters, so that through us she might taste something of what it is to participate in the Company and to rejoice in sisterhood. During the ceremony, there was deep emotion when she called us “my sisters.” While I was there I paid attention to the concern that very soon others may follow the example of Silvia. She has invited me to cultivate the hope that surely there will be others; we leave that to God to accomplish, and we do not worry about it.

No less important was the experience of “company” that we had among ourselves. It was lovely to share this human and spiritual experience together; we shared our lives, as we are, and, such as we are, we are welcomed, bearing one another’s burdens.



Mirella

SOUTHERN BRAZIL

On Sunday 28th November 2010, the Bishop Dom Dos Santos Airton Jose, celebrated a mass of thanksgiving in the cathedral of Mogi das Cruzes to commemorate the 475th anniversary of the Foundation of the Company of Saint Ursula.



As the Ursuline Sisters of Syracuse run a college in Mogi, they were asked to join in our ceremony of thanksgiving.

The cathedral was packed since a local newspaper had published an article about the Company which included an open invitation for the celebration.

Two youngsters, one carrying a picture of Saint Angela as the peasant girl from Desenzano, and the other carrying a relic of the saint given to me by the bishop of Brescia on the 27th January 1966, led the procession. They were followed by the clergy up to the altar.

In his homily, the bishop pointed out the important role the Foundation of Saint Angela, played in support of women and stressed on the importance of their formation and their role in the church.

At the end of the mass, the bishop invited the congregation to the church hall, where Nicole was waiting to give further information regarding the Company. If they wanted, they could also sign the book she had written about Saint Angela Merici, her life and the spirituality of a simple lay person in the world.



It is a known fact that in Brazil sweets are never missing when there is a celebration..... therefore we joyfully shared the sweets as well.

The bishop Dom Airton found the time to speak to each and every one of us and we are happy to have him as our bishop.

Nicole Jeandot

MADAGASCAR

While each one of us worked out for ourselves how to meditate and reflect all year on consecrated secularity according to the Meridian style of life, as the Federation suggested to us, we celebrated the 475th anniversary of the Company's foundation together on August 24, 2010, after our joint spiritual exercises.



We are still a small group; however two of us have already departed for the Father's house. We believe and pray that the seed planted through these sisters of ours will make the Company grow in Madagascar.

Spiritually united with St. Angela's whole Company in the entire world, we celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving for the benefits received by the Company since its beginning, for all who have helped us, and for our vocations, also remembering our deceased sisters.

This is not even to mention Fr. Attilio Mombelli, a missionary here in Madagascar; it was through him that St. Angela Merici's way of consecrated secularity arrived among us Madagascans.

Voahangy

The 475th in Madagascar

On August 14, 2010, the small Company of St. Angela in Madagascar celebrated the 475th anniversary of the foundation.

Already on the afternoon of August 13, all the sisters had gathered in the home of Cassilde (the group's leader). There were greetings, hugs, exchanges of good wishes, sharing of experiences, but above all the joy of feeling "insieme," part of a family, united by the strong bonds of the



calling to be Daughters of St. Angela.

Early on the morning of the 14th, each one was doing her particular job.

Some were in the kitchen, others were preparing the chapel (the transformed large parish hall, where neighborhood people gather for various pastoral meetings).

A wonderful group of lay people from the neighborhood and the local choir accompanied us with spontaneity and generosity.

At 9 o'clock, the Eucharistic celebration began, presided over by Fr. Arcangelo Beretta, ecclesiastical assistant of the Company of Madagascar; concelebrating with him were Fr. Daniel, a Capuchin and vicar of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, and this writer, who came with joy to participate with the daughters of St. Angela on this day of grace and blessing. There were also sisters of another community, with whom the Ursulines share responsibility for different pastoral and social works. But more than that, there exists between them a bond of companionship and spiritual support, a sign of sincere love for one another.

At the beginning of the Mass, Voahangy briefly presented to the whole assembly the history of St. Angela and of the foundation of

the Company.

During the Eucharistic celebration one sister, Vololoniaina Annick, made her consecration.

Cassilde showed all her physical and moral strength for this highly important occasion.



Voahangy and Jeannette, with the choir, enlivened the liturgy. Rolande led the prayers of the faithful. The liturgy concluded with the song of St. Angela, “Hira Faneva,” the official song of the Company.

At the end of the ceremony, a picture of St. Angela was distributed as a

memento of this significant date.

The liturgical ceremony was followed by a “luncheon of friendship”: antipasto, first and second courses, fruit, and then the dessert.

On an occasion such as this the dessert has a particular importance, especially because its presentation serves as the culmination of the feast.

Unfortunately, the luncheon room was crowded, but with an amazing agility, the “dessert parade” managed to pass several times around the room.

Fr. Pascal, the regional pastor, though he could not come in the morning because of his pastoral duties, participated in the luncheon, to express his gratitude to the Company and his joy on this feast day. All those present appreciated his gesture of friendship and his simplicity.

After having “officially” sliced up the



sweet, as it was being enjoyed, we had “kabary,” words of thanks, good wishes, and acknowledgements, in which friends, guests, and representatives of the Company expressed their joy and gratitude.

The time passed swiftly... we were all left with the savor of the sweet in our mouth and with the savor of the Lord’s blessing and of Christian love in our heart.

THANKS TO ST. ANGELA !

P. Attilio Mombelli

GO AND VISIT YOUR DEAR SISTERS

To greet them, see how they are, comfort them and encourage them to stand firm in the life begun (5th Counsel)

In December 2010, encouraged and guided by this pressing invitation by Saint Angela, we went to visit our Sisters Annick and Clémentine in the region where they live on the Eastern coast of Madagascar together with Jeannette. It was our first visit to Vohipeno, in the diocese of Farafangana.

Vohipeno is a small city in the region called *Vatovavy fitovinany*,

(which means “the female stone where 7 seals are found... certainly has taken its name from the river SANDRANANTA which flows into the ocean a few kilometres away from Vohipeno).



Most of the inhabitants belong to the Antemoro’s tribe (also known as Anteimoro) which has Arab origins; for this reason, one finds

more Muslims in this region than anywhere else. This tribe, while showing respect to the official authority of the state, is still closely linked to its “mpanjaka” (pronounced “mpanzaca” which means “KING). Their “mpanjakas” enjoy much influence and authority and even today they intervene in socio cultural activities.



This is a tropical region with torrential rains, heat and humidity, an environment favourable for most tropical fruits including bananas, pineapples, and holm-oaks.

It was wonderful to discern the differences in landscape, climate, surroundings, culture, traditions; everything was new to us.

At Vohipeno, we frequently experienced these differences but we were also enriched by sharing and experiencing the joys, sorrows and difficulties of our daily lives and work.

We also had the opportunity to have a brief meeting with the Bishop of Farafangana: Monsignor Benjamin Ramaroson who was very glad to meet us. He encouraged us to carry on with our secular vocation and, at the end of the meeting, gave us his blessing.

What a blessing and what joy it was to be ‘united together’, following in the footsteps of Our Mother Saint Angela.

Voahangy

ITALY

The Council of the Federation at Chioggia

Saint Angela told the leaders, *have your Daughters come together from time to time, in the place you think best and most convenient...* (eight Legacy)

I am not so sure if Chioggia was the most convenient place, but it surely was the best!

According to the wishes of Saint Angela we had *at our disposal a suitable person...* our dear Bishop Adriano, the Assistant of The Council of The Federation.



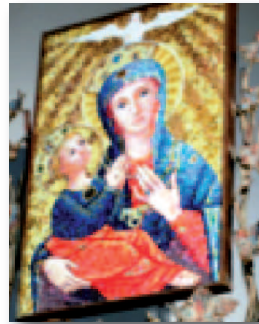
We were invited to stay at the Diocese's spirituality centre called the "*House of Our Lady of Divine Love* " here we were very comfortable.

Everything went on smoothly in Chioggia; we worked well and without haste because we arrived before the appointed date and, having no particular hurry to leave, stayed on till the end of the meeting.

With Mons. Adriano as our guide, we also went about and discovered Chioggia, which can be compared to Venice, a city we are more familiar with. We could see for ourselves the place where Mons. Adriano lives and acts as Bishop. Again we could observe how he acted as a brother, father and teacher; edifying goodness and humility whilst using his wisdom to assist all those who needed his help.

We heartily thank you Father Adriano! We ask all the Sisters to remember to pray for The Council of The Federation, so that we will be strengthened, comforted and in unity with the Holy Spirit in our work.

Kate



CREMA... a pleasant surprise from Brazil...

On Thursday 27th December 2011, in the church of The Company of Crema, our bishop Oscar celebrated a high mass to mark the liturgical feast of Our Foundress. The priests who concelebrated with him were our Assistant Father Federico Bragonzi, the Director of the seminary, the Director for the spirituality centre and the person responsible for consecrated life.

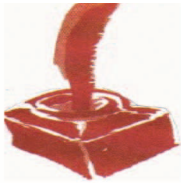
Many persons, closely related to The Company or to the spirituality centre which is located in our house, were present. A small choir made up of young members animated the ceremony. In his homily, after praising Saint Angela for her many good qualities, the Bishop emphasised one particular point; the way Our Mother answered to the Lord's call. She did this by leading the life of "a poor in spirit" knowing well that He would be faithful to His promise because He had said that "theirs is the kingdom of heaven". This is what urged her to insist that our life should be a perceptible example of poverty in all its aspects, especially today in our modern consumistic world.



At the end of the mass we had a very pleasant surprise. Francesco, a teacher in the local secondary school who had just come back from Brazil where, together with his wife, he had been doing voluntary work for some time, moved towards the main altar and gave the Directress a painting of Saint Angela wearing the habit of a tertiary Franciscan entitled **St. Angela from Bressa**. Francesco explained that while visiting the city of Goias, the old capital of the state of Goias, he had found the painting in the museum of sacred art belonging to the

church of “Boa Morte” which was built in 1700. The painting was the work of a famous Brazilian painter and sculptor, Veiga Valle, who was born in 1806 in Gioas. Many of his works are exhibited in the museum of Sao Paolo. Many Italians from northern Italy had immigrated to Brazil and settled in the state of Gioas. Among these Italians, there must have been people coming from Brescia who felt so proud of Saint Angela that they asked such an important artist to paint her portrait. We hope that someday, the Sisters from Brazil will be able to come and admire this painting!

Luciella



INCOMING MAIL

From Treviso

Dear Sisters, I do not know if the same thing happens to you or not; I feel elated whenever I receive The Federation’s booklet, "In the same charism". Why?

Because we are strong, because the Holy Spirit has given all The Companies of Saint Angela and the Church, a great gift: The Federation!

Saint Angela speaks to us with authority and insists that we stay "united together"... This unity is the testimony of Saint Angela’s presence among all human beings and in society.

If we reflect clearly, "united together" means that we are united not only with our Company but with all the Companies in Italy and abroad that form part of The Federation. This is amazing because this unity spreads the "sweet perfume" of Christ and The Company to many nations.

Have we ever given a thought about the hard work of the leaders of The Federation and the amount of distances they travel? The answer to that question is easily found in the booklet!

Dear Sisters, I feel I should thank The Federation, our dear President Maria Rosa and her Council for all that they do with so much love and sacrifice, for our big family.

Carla Furlan

From Burundi... a few excerpts from their writing...

The Daughters of Saint Angela of The Company of Burundi feel honoured in writing to you.



We thank you for all you have done for us and would like to inform you about the programmes we have in mind for the future...

Your support was greatly appreciated; you have guided us firmly both during our period of formation and later by helping us to be faithful to our promise and by the way you follow us closely, caring for

each and every one of us, until Our Company gradually developed.

Thank you for all the advice you have given us. We thank you also for travelling to Burundi to meet us and to talk to us personally.

It is such a great honour to form part of the worldwide Company... We consider this unity of great importance and we know that only prayer can keep us closely united.

We persevere to do our best to familiarize ourselves with The

Constitutions, without losing hope or looking back...

We try to be the good yeast by giving good example wherever we are!

With regards to financial problems: we are all members of the same family... let us all get down to work... let us encourage one another, we never sit back and relax, we are not greedy because we know that unless we sow we cannot reap. We make good use of the little we possess without wasting anything. We are an example to others in sustaining the Church financially and by helping the Community with enthusiasm...



***Please let us continue to pray for each other.
The fact that we are hard working and in close union with
one another continues to give strength to this Company.***

Nataliya and the Sisters of Burundi

**Let us thank the Lord
For this flowering new shoot,
which promises fruit in abundance
in the African country ...**

Our best wishes to the Sisters in Burundi:

***you will be willing first of all to recognize
what such a thing implies
and what a new and astonishing dignity it is!***



Etiopia
feast of the first consecration
January 2011





ALWAYS

*I like to think...
that the honesty of a person's conscience
ALWAYS reflects the will of God;*

*I like to think...
that in the world it is ALWAYS necessary to be clear
in one's actions and relationships;*

*I like to think...
that in every community being closely united
is ALWAYS a sign of fraternity and fellowship;*

*I like to think...
that there is ALWAYS room in the Lord's Heart
For every person who shows kindness*

*I like to think...
because I ALWAYS have faith in The Lord .*

Marina Minnini



The real meaning of the Company...

*Forming part of The Company
makes life worth living for...*

*What is better in life, which profession is more honourable, than
that of being one of those
who were especially chosen by the Lord!*

*To form part of that Company, which for a special reason, enjoys
the privilege of being called
The Company of the Son of God.*

*If one understands the meaning of all this,
there is no better happiness or good fortune!...*

*Hold with high esteem, this great gift
bestowed on you by the Lord in Heaven ...*

*May the Sisters be aware of the special grace,
yes, the great blessing that was bestowed on them
through God's invitation and what a great loss it is
if they fail to understand His call.*

(Cozzano Epistola confortatoria 963 r v)

The Company belongs to Jesus Christ...

*It was God who inspired and willed Our Mother Foundress to form
and found in His Name,
this sacred way of life.*

*This is the absolute truth, so much so, that she called it The Com-
pany of Jesus Christ and not hers.*

(From the letter by Cozzano
confortatoria 963 r)



Pilgrims on Pilgrimage



Bishops and sisters, taking St. Angela's hand
when you fly to the land of the Lord,
carry us with you, one by one
in the holy places where love flowered...

O Nazareth! Land of Mary,
where the Word came down into her heart,
and the sublime Magnificat arose,
sung in a divine ecstasy of love.

You will see the star, there in Bethle-
hem,
where the Redeemer was born
among the choirs of Angels singing
hosannas
and of shepherds, humble of heart....



O holy land, dear Palestine!
Bethany, Tabor, Naim, Samaria,
Jericho and Cana, that first
knew Mary's assistance!

Sisters, to be able to go with you
along those roads where Jesus spoke
of harvests, of workers, and of living water,
of his Father and ours, who has loved us so much!

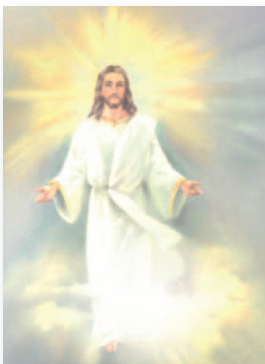
Behold Calvary! ... “All is finished!”
Sisters, on our behalf kiss the sad earth!
Ask the Lord, on our behalf, his forgiveness
And a deep, infinite spousal love!

But then you will seek out that sepulcher
now made glorious by Resurrection,
you will leap with joy on the hill
That witnessed the Ascension!



O bishops and dear sisters,
we entrust you to the holy Mother
and through this voyage in the land of the Lord we accompany
you in prayer!

(Angela Cassardo - Comp. Torino - August 1974)



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