

Angela's Promise



We all have had the experience of a friend making a promise to us. Sometimes that friend keeps the promise and other times the person is unable to fulfill that promise. We know one valiant woman who made a promise of friendship and of presence.

Angela's promise to be with us always is most reassuring as we consider the challenges of today's world. Traumatic events like the pandemic, forest fires, floods, climate change, poverty, isolation, and loneliness are today's realities. In many ways, Angela experienced similar traumatic events. She witnessed firsthand the abuse and suffering of women and girls amid wars and violence.

Angela's founding of the "Company of St. Ursula" was focused on improving the social conditions in Brescia, Italy. Imagine the Ursuline Order spreading throughout Europe and beyond! We Ursulines have been described as "the most bold and adventuresome of nuns" while always living our lives for the sake of the Gospel.

So, despite the unrest and systemic injustices that prevail in today's world, as they did hundreds of years ago, Angela assures each of us of her promise to be with and among us always. I find it most encouraging and comforting when I recall her words, "Take it for a fact that you will recognize me as your faithful friend."

Several years ago, I was blessed with a trip to Italy and had the privilege of following in Angela's footsteps with some of our Sisters and the Companions of St. Angela. The experience was an absolutely moving one and at times it was overwhelming. We visited Brescia, Desenzano, Rome and several other places. One of the highlights for me was standing in front of St. Angela's incorrupt body at St. Afra's Church, Brescia. It was an emotional experience and tears welled up within me as I gazed upon her. In that moment I recalled Angela's wisdom words:

“Live in harmony united together in one heart, treat each other with respect. I embrace you and I give you the kiss of peace, asking God to bless you.”

Her legacy, and now ours, connects us deeply to that first call and vision of 1535. Angela’s first seed planted in Brescia has taken root throughout the world.

We give thanks for the gift of Angela’s contemplative spirit and for the inspirations we continue to receive through her.

As we celebrate this special feast you might want to ponder the following: “How am I experiencing the gift of Angela’s presence today?”

Today, filled with gratitude for the blessings that are part of our rich legacy as Ursulines, may we continue our mission as true contemplatives in action.

HAPPY ST. ANGELA’S FEAST DAY!!!!!!!

Lovingly in Angela,

Sr. Diane Sloan