

Day Four
Ursuline Jubilee Novena
Foundation of The Company of St. Ursula
by St. Angela Merici 1535 - 2010

Angela and Leadership

Opening Hymn

Introduction:

The shock of the desolate city of Brescia did not diminish Angela's strength of **Will** to serve. It called forth greater energy and strength of character to do something about the situation. Angela met many young men and women already working to alleviate the suffering of the people of Brescia, victims of war, poverty and immorality. She became their friend, so-worker, spiritual counselor, and finally their leader. It was said of her, "that she spoke with wisdom and affection that her little room was never empty". They came to her, young men and women; of high rank and the lowly poor, to ask for prayers, guidance, solutions to their personal and family problems.

Readings:

(Pause for 30 seconds for reflection after each quotation)

Have engraved on your mind and heart all your dear daughters, one by one.

Willingly strive to lead them with love and with mild and kindly hand.

Take care to have your daughters come together from time to timeand have them listen to a short sermon and exhortation, so that ,together like this, they might also meet each other as loving sisters, talking over spiritual matters, rejoice together, and together encourage one another, which will no small help to them.

Be gentle and compassionate and strive to act solely out of the sole love of God and zeal for souls when you admonish and advise the, or exhort them to some good and dissuade them from some evil. For you will achieve more with kindness and gentleness than with harshness and sharp words, which should be reserved only for cases of necessity, and even then, at the right place and time, and according to the person.

As for you, live and behave in such a way that your daughters may see in you a model. What you want them to do, do it yourself first. How will you reprove or admonish them for some defect if it is still in you? Or counsel them, and urge them to any virtue which you do not first possess, or at least, do not begin to practice yourself, together with them?

Take the greatest care that the good directions given, especially those in the Rule, be most diligently observed. If, according to times and circumstances,

the need arises to make new rules or do something differently, do it prudently and with good advice. Always let your principal recourse be to gather at the feet of Jesus Christ, and there with all daughters, to offer most fervent prayers. 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.

Closing Prayer:

Lord God and Father, teach us how to deepen our spiritual life that we may discern your life giving Spirit in the depths of our hearts, who guide us improve our leadership skills so we may be mature instruments to lead others into your Kingdom of love, peace and joy. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son. Amen.

St. Angela, our mother, pray now with us. Amen