

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

Angela and her Legacy

Leader: It has often been said that we are to dig the treasures in Scripture - to read, to reflect, to discover, to uncover the pearl of great price. So too with Angela. Her writings are treasures to be dug by prayer and reflection. By so doing we will discover a pearl of great price -the heart of Angela “who is constantly in our midst lending aid to our prayer”.

HYMN: I am here in your midst...

Leader: Apostolic spirituality, as Angela lived it and as she encourages us to live it, is not so much about **doing** but, rather about **being**. From her we learn how to be, particularly how to be with and for others.

“She was like the sun which gave light to all the others. She was like a fire and a furnace of love which inflamed them...Her words were ardent, powerful, gentle and pronounced with such strength of grace that each one felt compelled to say: ‘God is here.’” (Gabriel Cozzano, secretary of Angela)

Short pause for personal reflection

Let us listen to Angela and try to hear her words to us again for the first time.

1st Legacy: Have an attitude of mind and heart which puts love of God as the reason why we come together, and have genuine care for one another as a sign of our love for God. Look to Jesus and to his values for all that you do no matter how diverse your ministries may be.

2nd Legacy: Surround one another with a real and personal love; reach out in tangible ways to express that love; search for ways to do this because love only becomes love when we act upon it.

3rd Legacy: Deal with one another with gentle love, trying to “be kind always”, especially when differences of opinion arise; try to recognize each one’s unique gifts, and do not just appreciate the gifts, but consider them essential to the richness of the whole community.

4th Legacy: Our care and concern for others should be shown openly no matter what cost to self. Put others first and your love will not go unrewarded, for love begets love.

5th Legacy: But let us be real; I know love is very vulnerable, so easily injured, so have patience and a delicate charity with those who prove difficult. For our Spouse tells us: “If you only love those who love you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners love those who love them.... No! Love all, the grateful and the ungrateful, for then you will be compassionate as your heavenly Father is compassionate.”

Leader: We give thanks to God for the gift of Angela whom we all love. Her spirit is like a living spring from which we can always draw fresh inspiration for our life and ministry. We look forward with confidence to the fulfillment of her promises and blessings made to us and we pray:

--that we may receive into our hearts the Good News which Angela announces to us in the name of Jesus Christ. **Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

--that we may never cease to cultivate the vine which has been entrusted to us.

--that we may live in harmony, united in one heart and one will so that Jesus Christ may be in the midst of us.

--that God will renew the Church in a way that will be for the praise and glory of God and the service of the people of God.

--that we may have Jesus Christ for our one and only treasure.

--that we may persevere faithfully and joyfully in the task we have undertaken.

--that we may know Angela as a true and faithful friend now and at the hour of our death.

Let Us Pray

Loving and merciful God, in St. Angela model of wise and courageous love, You have given Your Church a mother, sister and faithful friend. Fill our hearts with passion for Your Kingdom and make us like her;

luminous signs of the presence of Christ;

of the power of the Spirit

of Your tender love for us. Amen