

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

**Angela as Peacemaker**

Opening Hymn

**Introduction:** The world surely needs peacemakers today. The recent General Chapter calls all Ursulines to be peacemakers so as to bring about reconciliation and hope. Angela was known as a woman of peace. She joined the Third Order of St Francis of Assisi while still at Desenzano, and through prayer and practice, imbibed his peaceful spirit.

Life in Angela's time was not unlike our own: political problems with neighboring nation which gave rise to wars, which in turn generated severe social problems, not the least of which concerned women and children.

**Readings:** "Be gentle and compassionate...for you achieve more with kindness and gentleness than with harshness and sharp words. C.2 v.1,3

Angela's responses to those who came for consultation were drawn from the teaching of Christ. Love for all; the beatitude of the peacemakers; forgiveness above all; forgiveness and reconciliation for the creating a new society built on love.

The wives of two stubborn and obstinate men, about to settle their anger by a duel unto death, saw their only hope of prevention was in Angela. She accepted and spoke to the two men, slowly with incisive words, as if to give "Someone" time to prompt her interiorly. They listened. In the end they exchanged words of forgiveness and reconciliation. Two families had found peace and serenity again.

**Reflection:** How can I spread peace in the practical circumstances of my assigned work; in my relationships with the members of my community and the people I meet in my ministry? How do I view violence of any kind: trafficking of women and children; abortion; capital punishment; war; and gang warfare? What do I plan to do about these injustices in society.

**Closing Prayer** Lord Jesus, you gave to many people, that gift so precious to you, when you said, "Go in peace"; "My peace I leave with you"; "Peace be with you". Give to us that gift of peace so our hearts will be the hearts of peacemakers, spreading peace; the sign of your presence among us.

St. Angela, you knew how it was to live in violent times. You touched the effects of violence in the lives of those who sought guidance. Obtain for us the gift to be peacemakers so that we may called "the children of God."

Closing Hymn