VESPERNS
FOR THE
475TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE
COMPANY OF SAINT URSULA

25. November 2010
Hymn:

TENETE L'ANTICA STRADA E FATE VITA NUOVA

Inno da S. Angela

Testo tratto dagli scritti di S. Angela - Musica di Bepi de Marzi (Maggio 2007)

Ritornello / Refrain

It 1. SEMPRE LA PRINCIPAL RISORSA VO-STRA SIA RICORRERE AI PIEDI DI GE-SÙ.
E SEMPRE OBBIETE AI CON- SI-GLI E ALLE ISPIRAZIONI DELLO SPI-RI-TO. (Rit.)
E 1. Let your first refuge always be at the feet of Jesus.
And always obey the coun-sels and inspirations of the Spirit. (Refr.)

2. The power and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit be in you all. / He will teach you to understand the signs of the times and to live.
Follow the spirit and follow the path, / he points the way to the future. (Refrain)

3. You are called to be brides of Christ the Lord/ Thanks be to God for this new dignity.
May Jesus Christ be your only treasure, / for he is love. (Refrain)

4. Stay true to your calling with great joy. / Be vigilant with great and longing heart.
God wants only your salvation. / Have faith secure and strong hope in his mercy. (Refrain)

5. Long for unity and concord. / Hold fast to them with all your strength.
May you be bound by the bond of love. / Cherish one another in Jesus Christ. (Refrain)

6. Have the assurance that you are never left alone in your distress. / God will take wonderful care of you.
Put your hope in him alone. / He will protect you like a good shepherd. (Refrain)

7. Act, bestir yourselves, believe and hope / call to him with all your heart.
If God has planted this community, / he will never leave it. (Refrain)

8. I am now more alive to you than during my lifetime. / I am constantly among you with Him who loves us all.
So I want you to be blessed / in nomine Patris et filii et Spiritus Sancti. (Refrain)
Antiphon: Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
we glorify you, we praise you,  
we offer you our thanks in faith, hope and love,  
with the words of our holy mother Angela.

1. Psalm
We hope and we believe, /  
Because you help us in everything.  
   We beseech you and humble ourselves under your mighty hand, /  
   Because in your goodness you give us the strength to fulfill the task you have entrusted to us.
We know and we are sure /  
That you yourself have planted this community and that you will never abandon it.  
   We believe and we hope, /  
   That you can transform distress and suffering into joy and jubilation.
We have the firm assurance/  
That we are never left alone in our need.  
   We believe that you, God,/  
   Will provide beautifully for us.
We place our hope in Jesus Christ,/  
Our only love and treasure.

SILENCE

2. Psalm
Leader:

Saint Angela, let us listen with open heart to your words:

- That you are more alive to us now/ that when you walked this earth.
- That you beg us with all your heart / to live together with one accord, all with one heart and one will.
- That you are always in our midst/ lending aid to our prayers.
- That we may always recognize you/ as our true friend.
- That we may rejoice with one another/ because what you tell us will without doubt come to pass.

3. Psalm

We need the strength and encouragement of the Holy Spirit, /  
In order to carry out the task entrusted to us with courage.  
   We want to learn from our Lord /  
   Who came into this world to serve.
We would like to try /  
To live prudent, just and modest lives.  
   We would like to try /  
   To bring peace and harmony wherever we are.
We want to do honor to Jesus Christ, /
To whom we have vowed our lives.
   We want to keep to the ancient way /  
   And live a new life.

We pray that God may never abandon his church /  
But rather continually renew it.
   We always want to find /  
   Our first refuge at the feet of Jesus Christ.

We want each other /  
To remain connected by the bonds of love.
   We want to encourage each other, /  
   To boldly continue in the work begun.

**Antiphon:** Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
we glorify you, we praise you,  
we offer you our thanks in faith, hope and love,  
with the words of our holy mother Angela.

**READING:**

**LAST LEGACY**

Finally, take the greatest care that the good directives given, especially those in the Rule, be most diligently observed. And if according to times and circumstances, the need arises to make new rules or do something differently, do it prudently and with good advice. And always let your principal recourse be to gather at the feet of Jesus Christ and there, all of you, with all your daughters, to offer most fervent prayers. For in this way, without doubt, 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. Hold this for certain: that this Rule has been planted directly by his holy hand and he will never abandon this Company as long as the world lasts. Because, if he has planted it in the first place, who is there who can uproot it? Believe it, do not doubt, have firm faith that it will be so. I know what I am saying. Blessed are those who will take very good care of it. If you faithfully carry out these and other similar things, as the Holy Spirit suggests to you according to the times and circumstances, rejoice, go forward willingly. See, a great reward will be prepared for you. And where the daughters are, there also will be the mothers. Be consoled; do not doubt; we want to see you in our midst in heaven, for the Lover of us all wants this too. And who is there who could resist him, whose light and joyful splendour of truth will surround you at the moment of death, and will deliver you from the hands of the enemy. So, persevere faithfully and joyfully in the work you have begun. And take care, take care I say, not to lose your fervour, for every promise that I make to you will be fulfilled for you beyond measure. Now I am going, and you, in the meantime, do what has to be done. But first I embrace you, and to you all I give the kiss of peace, begging God to bless you. In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

**SILENCE**
MAGNIFICAT:
Antiphon: Tenete l’antica strada e fate vita nuova
(Keep to the ancient way, and lead a new life).

Intercessions

- Help all Christians to make a commitment to Jesus Christ in their personal lives and in their engagement in society.
- Help all those who live according to the evangelical counsels be a sign of the moderate use of the goods of this world.
- Let all those who bear responsibility for other people always act out of respect for the dignity of the individual.
- Strengthen all those who stand up boldly in the proclamation of their faith.
- Help us, your church, to understand the signs of our times, and make us ready to start on the road to a new beginning.
- Bless the life and ministry of all the religious congregations and secular institutes of Ursulines throughout the world.

Closing Prayer (from 25. November 2009)

Gracious God, you gave Saint Angela the gift of reading the signs of her times. She gathered together on this day, the feast of St. Catherine, the first members of the Compagnia di Sant’Orsola. Just as the first Ursulines did, we also want to make your love visible to our world. In the spirit of Angela, let us together continue to build on the work in your church which she began. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord and God, who lives and works with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit to all eternity. Amen.

Blessing (Song?)