

Prayer for the Feast of St. Angela 2025

Angela Merici: Woman of Prayer

Entering into Stillness

We enter into sacred time.....sacred time that draws us into stillness.....We ask You, God of Life, to teach us the wisdom of pausing.....of the goodness of stopping to breathe.....Bring into our memory the reality that we are the temple out of which You gift the world.....out of which You sing Your song.....During this time enable us to listen to what You are trying to bring about through us and in us.....May we be reverent with each temple we meet during this day and beyond.....May all the good we long for come to pass.

Pause/Quiet Music (of choice)

Reflection

Portrait of Angela: Lead A New Life

Angela was a contemplative who sought and found God everywhere. What did “everywhere” mean to her? It meant long hours of prayer; it meant everywhere she had tasks to complete; it meant in every person she met.....in every service she offered according to needs and circumstances.

Pause

Angela gave her friendship with no thought of self. She gave it inclusively, simply, spontaneously, and she always came to the help of those most in need. Those who knew her learned from her what it meant to be “human,” open to all and to the whole person, with healthy optimism and genuine love. The word she uses is *piacevolezza*, a loveliness that is attractive and pleasing.

Pause

Active and devoted laypeople found in her an inspiring leader. Reading and interpreting “the signs of the times,” she was led by the Spirit to undertake an entirely new form of work, which evolved gradually as she moved forward step by step in response to the call of the Spirit.

Music

Ubi Caritas et Amour – Taizé Chant

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9e_QO1ATho

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.

(Where charity and love are, there God is.)





St. Angela's Day: Harmony

Sinead Harvey (Past Pupil of St. Angela's School, Waterford, Ireland)

A message from St. Angela whispers to us through the years.
It echoes in empty corridors, saying that we can find harmony in one another.
Without friendship and harmony, we are like flowers without sunshine and rain –
we cannot open, we remain in a shadowed world, imprisoned inside ourselves.

It is only through living in harmony with each other that we can know
real happiness and find real hope.

We need to respect each other's individuality and
not allow pretence and fear to shroud the people we are inside.....

When silence screams, when words echo in empty thoughts,
when we have not the strength to reach for strands of light somewhere inside,
we will find another's hand – and that hand will take us through despair to find hope.

Reflection/Sharing on What This Prayer Stirs in You

Intercessions

Reader: Angela, you had a dream in your beloved homeland that came to fruition in 1535.

All: Grant us the courage to act on our dreams in the turbulent times through which we live.

Reader: For you, Angela, unity was central, a unity in diversity.

All: Teach us to nurture that unity in our hearts and then go out and spread it around us.

Reader: Angela, you worked hard to live and teach the Gospel.

All: Help all in the Ursuline family to spread that message by word and action in our fragmented world.

Reader: Angela, you recognised the pattern of God's presence all around you.

All: Seize us with power and light to protect the earth and all of life, and so prepare for the coming
of the Reign of God.

Reader: For what else shall we pray?

Concluding Prayer

In Angela, you gave us a witness of patient and respectful care for all people. We ask
you to transform our hearts and make them places where others feel at home. Teach
us how to listen, help people find their way and grow in love and happiness. Amen.

**"A MYSTIC IS ONE WHO SEES THE IN-BREAKING OF GOD, AND THE PROPHET
REFLECTS THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY. THE TWO SEEM TO GO TOGETHER IN
ANGELA....."**

**PERHAPS THE GREATEST NEED OF HER TIME WAS THE SAME AS THE GREAT NEED OF
OUR OWN TIME: TO HAVE PEOPLE SEE AS GOD SEES AND TO SPEAK AND SERVE
THROUGH CONTEMPLATIVE LOVE."**

Martha Buser, OSU