

Heart • to • Heart

Angela Merici



Living Legacy

Vol. 11, No. 2, Part 1

February 2026

Postcards to St. Angela, Part 1

Dear Angela,

It seems that so many years ago you recognized the need for community! In our world today it seems we are becoming far too isolated, living our lives through our phones. I pray that we again embrace community and the love and support offered when we take the time to know and take care of each other.

Ellette Gibson

Printed in Germany

Pax vobiscum, Angela. Sending a postcard to one who has passed over, really invites my imagination to come out and play. We were all told of "many mansions." You were probably outside, "piazza-ing" around the world in the spirit of true mystery, guiding our hearts to just show up and BE present with a relaxed listening to whatever and whoever shows up to us. YOU **KNOW** how gentle listening can overflow into a "be-stirred" DO what we are able. Stick with us as we try to find that blend. You are so easy to trust.

Barb Danner

Dear Angela,

Thank you for your many words of wisdom. Today I recall these words from the prologue to your *Counsels*: "Do not lose heart if you do not know how or what to do. Have hope and firm faith in God, for God will help you in everything." You experienced difficult times. Your words lift my spirits and help me to trust God in the messy moments of life.

Theresa Davey, OSU

Dear Angela,

Thank you so much for your writings. How I love them. You said you will be with us to the end. I believe that and I am counting on it.

Many years ago we wrote a weeklong retreat honoring you. One of the days we were to spend with you I remember that so well. I took you on a tour of the newly renovated retreat house and talked about it. Today I would take you to the Villa and let you see our rooms and meet our sisters and staff. Thanks for being with us until the end of time.

Mary Matthias Ward

Dear Angela,

Thank you for teaching me how to live spiritual motherhood.

Thanks,
Sr. Kateřina

Dear Angela,

We older ones, born earlier, are already looking forward to seeing you face to face.

Thanks for everything,
Sr. Andrea

Dear Angela,

You guided my early life as a student, and years later as a staff member at Ursuline Academy of Dallas. I have felt your spirit, guidance, and wisdom many times on this journey and am grateful to you for this gift. I encounter your spirit in the Ursuline Sisters, my coworkers, our students, and at our sister schools throughout the world. What a blessing!

Mimi Bason

Dear Angela,

Please help us keep our sights on the love of God and Neighbor in these times. You understood that all things are gifts from God's hands. As you gathered women to serve God in their daily lives, teach us to see the earth as our common home needing care. Help us to live with simple, grateful hearts, protecting creation for future generations. Intercede for us, that we may be faithful stewards of ALL God's people and good gifts.

Kevin

Dear Madre Angela,

Your last word to us is a motto for me: "Live in harmony, in the bond of charity, esteeming each other, helping each other, bearing with each other in Jesus Christ." I am so grateful for these words and many others that help me focus my daily life and live in a meaningful relationship with community, family and in our world.

Your loving daughter and companion,
Karen, osu

Dear Angela,

Your words - **Do something. Get moving. Be confident. Risk new things. Stick with it. Then be ready for big surprises** - provide so much encouragement to me in these days as we plan for an Ursuline future full of hope. Help us to remember your message of **gentleness** and kindness. Thank you for being **always in my midst and lending aid to my prayers**. Protect our world.

Love,
Jeannie

Dear Angela,

You promised to "Be in our midst, lending aid to our prayers." We, your daughters, especially in the USA, need your help more than ever! This has been a very difficult and stressful time for us given our political situation. Do you have any suggestions on how we can be courageous, peace-filled and maintain our hope at this crucial time in our country? Looking forward to hearing from you.

Love,
Ann Peterson

Dear Angela,

You are here is our midst, lending aid to our prayers. Thank you for your presence with us daily as we minister and bring your words to so many who surround us. As I share coffee with you daily, I sense your presence, support of me and so many others, especially those in need of your help in their lives.

Love,
Lois

Dear Angela,

You who, as a poor young girl, fed workers in the field;
You who had to leave your home to start your life anew;
You who fostered friendships with a gentle, loving care;
You who saw the needs of girls in men's relentless world;
You who traveled, blind, saw with your heart & not your eyes;
You who, sight restored, relieved those blind with war-like rage;

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We who see your labors in a world much like our own;
We who wish to follow you in any way we can;
We ask you humbly, keep us near, & guide us with your hand.

Anne Therese

Dear Angela,

Thank you for encouraging us to always listen to the Holy Spirit speaking to us from within our hearts. As you taught, this attentiveness to the Spirit helps us find God everywhere and in all life situations. Happy Feast Day!

Love,
Elisa

Dear Angela,

Thank you for guiding and encouraging me in all the ways I can live in your spirit. I have faith you are always with me and I strive to remain present so you can feel me as much as I feel your love, compassion, and gentleness. I adore our personal and deeply meaningful relationship and am so grateful to you, my Madre.

Your faithful daughter,
Karen Mortillaro

Dear Angela,

Your words of encouragement and wisdom have had a tremendous impact on my life. They come from your relationship with our God.

Because of you, I feel I have grown into who I am today in this 21st century as an Ursuline Sister. Please continue to be present to me as you have promised.

Joanne

Dear Angela,

These are troubled times in creation, church, world and the U.S. I thank you for reminding us that we have courage and perseverance amidst these troubles. You call me to be a person of hope, bringing hope to others, as I listen to the Spirit in prayer, and together with others work towards healing Earth, and bringing justice where there is injustice.

Gratefully,
Mary

Dear Angela,

You are such a shining star in our Ursuline Universe and I am ever grateful for where the star leads us. Often when faced with the reality of our world today with all the darkness of people and nations, I feel lost, powerless, but when I remember your courage in the face of loss, my hope is renewed and my fear is calmed.

Love,
Pauline

Dear Angela,

Buon Giorno! Happy Feast Day! Today all your daughters/sons from all over the world rejoice with you, in GRATITUDE for you encourage words, and your PRESENCE always with us. To take care, to pause, to wonder, (even sketch) and always to listen to my ❤ are words that imbue my spirit, "TO LIVE A NEW LIFE." HAPPY FEAST DAY! ❤

Regina Marie

Dear Angela,

During this time of wild unpredictability in our world, I take hope in your words: 'God wants only your good and your joy' (Rule, X.18).

This is true for our whole planetary community. May it be so and may I do my part that it may be so.

Anne

Dear Angela,

Greetings, Angela, from Idaho! We want to share with you how some of our graduates from the one and only Ursuline school (Moscow, ID) have been engaged in revolutionary sectors that are serving our state and our world: semiconductor manufacturing, pioneering next-generation nuclear energy and cybersecurity, clean energy innovation, and agricultural sustainability. Angela, please be with us and hear our prayers.

Moscow Companions of Angela

Dear Angela,

Even though you probably didn't like a lot of attention drawn to yourself, I value the way those who love you try to portray who you are—by artist drawings, pictures and sculptures. My favorite one is a sculpture of you sitting on a bench in what I consider to be "The Piazza." Your right arm is gracefully stretched out along the top back of the bench in a gesture of welcome, as if you are saying "Come, rest awhile. Allow me to listen and perhaps ease some of your burdens." Angela, in today's world, so many are in need of this kind of companionship. You were always so Present in God's love, allowing it to flow through you to those who were blessed to BE in Your, and therefore in God's Presence. And all I have to offer you is THANKS.

Kathy

Dear Angela,

Thank you, I am very grateful to God that I joined the order you founded! Thank you for teaching us unity and love!

Thank you,
Sr. Perpetua

Dear Angela,

Thank you for always accompanying us! Thank you for initiating us into the mystery of Spousal union with the Lord. Thank you for being so open to the Holy Spirit, not being afraid to walk the untrdden path, against the tide, and bringing many new things to the Church. Thank you for letting the Holy Spirit guide your decisions. Please, pray for us, so that we too may not be afraid to do God's will, proclaiming God's Kingdom in whatever way we can!

Love,
Sr. Marie-Anne

Dear Angela,

Thank you for dedicating yourself to the education of girls and women, and for allowing us to follow in your footsteps!

Thank you,
Sr. Adeodata

Dear Angela,

You once said, "**Beware of trying to accomplish anything by force.**" And this is so timely for all of us right now. We ask your intercession for peace and healing, and may we treat ALL in accordance with love and gentleness. St. Angela, Pray for Us!

Beth Sheehan Collins

Dear Angela,

Thank you for your wisdom and guidance. You are always with us lending aid to our prayers. May you continue to guide us through these turbulent times. Help us to model your love and care for all. May we always remember to act, move, belief, have firm faith and be ready for big surprises.

Pat

Dear Angela,

If I had to choose one person in this world of ours who has changed my life it would be you. While in Rome I had the opportunity of making a three-day retreat in all the holy places where you lived, grew up and ministered to others. Your world opened my world, Angela. You taught me to follow Christ's way of life, always seeking you and especially you in and among the poorest of the poor.

Maria Teresa de Llano, osu

Dear St. Angela,

On your feast day, we thank God for the gift of your life—your courage, wisdom, and deep trust in divine providence. You taught us to see with compassion, to serve with humility, and to remain faithful even in times of uncertainty.

Intercede for us, that we may walk in your spirit: attentive to God's voice, gentle with one another, and committed to the care of the young and the vulnerable. May your example continue to inspire us to live the Gospel with joy and courage in our world today.

St. Angela Merici, pray for us.

With gratitude and love,
Sr. Kevina Ekal, OSU

Dear Angela,

You sowed many seeds of faith, of joy, of hope and of peace in your life. These seeds have matured since 1535. For all these years they have expanded and touched so many lives in beautiful and life changing ways which will continue not only now in our time, but into the future! Thank you, Angela, for being a woman of faith, vision and hope!

Margaret Johnson, osu