

Prayer for the Feast of St. Angela

January 27, 2026

Call to Prayer and to Dialogue with the Signs of our Times

"The Church carries the responsibility of reading the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel...The joys and the hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the [people] of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in our hearts." (Gaudium et Spes, #1 & 4)

Song Reflection:

"In the Signs of the Times"

(Monks of Weston Priory)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GENh5nkXDYk&list=RDGENh5nkXDYk&start_radio=1

**In the signs of our times, your Spirit, O God, is offered as gift:
may we live in your Spirit, as people of truth, compassion, and love.**

Where there is hatred, let us sow the seeds of love;
where we are wounded, may we open our hearts and forgive.

Where there is doubt, let us sow the seeds of faith;
where there's despair, may we be the singers of hope.

Where there is darkness, let us brighten the world with your light;
where there is sadness, may we spread the joy of Good News.

Where there's injustice, let us be the voice of the poor;
where there is hunger, may we be your bread for the world.

Where there is war, let us heal with deeds of peace;
where there is death, may we nourish the signs of new life.

Reflections

"Angela Merici was a woman of her times and she was a woman in dialogue with her times. By this I mean that she did not flee her world but rather stayed in her world and brought the gospel message of Jesus to bear upon it. Likewise, we her [followers] remain in our world and try to bring the gospel to fruition in it...Her dialogue grew out of her vision, her way of seeing as God saw. She dialogued with her times by staying in the world and serving the needs of others. (Martha Buser, OSU)

Brief Pause

"If there is one word that we should never tire of repeating, it is this: dialogue. We are called to promote a culture of dialogue by every possible means and thus to rebuild the fabric of society...Nor can there be authentic dialogue unless we are capable of opening our minds and hearts, in empathy and sincere receptivity." (Pope Francis)

Brief Pause

"Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach." (Clarissa Pinkola Estes)

For Reflection and Sharing:

As I ponder the above reflections,
what insights, invitations, or challenges do I find
for being in dialogue with our times as Angela was with hers?

Praying Together:

“Responding to the Signs of the Times”

(Jane Deren, Education for Justice, www.educationforjustice.org, with adapted ending. Used with permission.)

God of mercy and compassion,
We recognize the signs of our times
Through the affirmations of our Pope and our Church,
Of the value of life, and the human dignity
Of mothers, fathers, and children at the U.S./Mexico border,
Of all migrants and refugees around the world,
Of prison inmates on death row,
Of those who are “throw away” people at the margins,
Of all who struggle for decent housing and decent work.

God of mercy and compassion,
We recognize the systems and structures of sin
That impede human flourishing,
That deny people of their rights,
That put up barriers to voting and being heard,
That encourage racism and fear of the other,
That dismiss the value of solidarity.

God of mercy and compassion,
We recognize the signs of hope you send,
The willingness to stand up for the stranger,
The vision and commitment of our youth,
The call to end the death penalty around the world,
The new vocations to public service,
The growing sense of the common good,
The concerns and care for creation.

May we all be engaged in the “continuing conversion”
To your way of justice and peace
As we recognize and respond with mercy, compassion,
Commitment and solidarity
To the signs of our time.

We pray in the spirit of Angela,
who lived in dialogue with her times.
Amen.

