

Heart ♥ to ♥ Heart

Angela Merici

Living Legacy

Vol. 10, No. 5

May 2025

As we prepare to celebrate the feast of Pentecost on June 8, our May issue of *Heart to Heart* focuses on the gift of the Holy Spirit and St. Angela's ability to "move in the power and inspiration of the Spirit." Certainly, we have experienced the presence and guidance of the Spirit in the recent election of Pope Leo XIV! We include a prayer for him in this issue.

From "A Pentecost Reflection with St. Angela Merici"

(Carol Curtis, OSU, Louisville, KY)

"After the Feast of the Ascension, remain together in prayer with as much strength of spirit as possible until Pentecost, the day of the sending of the Holy Spirit, beseeching that great promise made by Jesus Christ to his well-disposed people (Rule, Chapter 4).



Attempting together the *sending of the Holy Spirit*, Angela gathers the Company, strong in prayer, at the source of its charism. We sense the intense vitality of expectation swelling among them like buds in springtime. This simple convocation, *remain together in prayer*, sketches Angela Merici's ideal of a contemplative and apostolic community, an image of the Church in communion and mission. Angela moves in the power and inspiration of the Spirit, even as she abides in the Spirit."

As we "remain together in prayer" for the coming of the Spirit, how does the "image of the Church in communion and mission" impel me/us forward?



“To Live with the Spirit”

(Poet Jessica Powers)

To live with the Spirit of God is to be a listener.
It is to keep the vigil of mystery,
earthless and still.
One leans to catch the stirring of the Spirit,
strange as the wind's will.

The soul that walks where the wind of the Spirit blows
turns like a wandering weather-vane toward love.
It may lament like Job or Jeremiah,
echo the wounded hart, the mateless dove.
It may rejoice in spaciousness of meadow
that emulates the freedom of the sky.

Always it walks in waylessness, unknowing;
it has cast down forever from its hand
the compass of the whither and the why.

To live with the Spirit of God is to be a lover.
It is becoming love, and like to God
toward Whom we strain with metaphors of creatures:
fire-sweep and water-rush and wind's whim.
The soul is all activity, all silence;
and though it surges Godward to its goal,
it holds, as moving earth holds sleeping noonday,
the peace that is the listening of the soul.



How, in our world today, are we called to walk the journey of living
with the Spirit of God as listeners and lovers?



From “Angela Merici, Woman of Vision with a Pilgrim’s Heart”

(Anne Curry, OSU, RIP)

“**A**ngela took many paths and visited many places, but above all hers was a journey of the heart where she listened and followed the lead of the Spirit. We have this image of her being led interiorly while at the same time moving out toward others to serve them. She was invited and so entered generously into that spiritual adventure of companionship with her God. At times of wondering and wandering, she placed herself under the mighty hand of God; on her journey, coming to rest at the wellsprings, she found her ‘refuge at the feet of Jesus Christ’ (*Last Legacy*); taking up her passage again and again she became a woman on the move in the dance of life with her partner, the Holy Spirit.”



How do we each take up the challenge to follow our
“journey of the heart” and engage in the dance of life as Angela did?



“A Prayer for Pope Leo XIV”

Faithful God, You guide us on the path of life and your goodness is our constant companion.
Be with our new Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV, in his service of the Church.
Fill him with the power of your Spirit, the peace of your presence and the compassion of Christ.
May he walk with you, in wisdom and humility, and lead us, together with all God’s people,
to embody your love for the world. Amen.

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/prayer-for-the-new-pope>