

Heartbeats

The Company of St. Angela in the 21st Century

Vol. 2, No. 4

August 2017

To Those Who Share in the Charism of Angela Merici



Dear Ursuline sisters, associates, colleagues, and companions,

This communication launches a new collaborative effort focused on the charism of Angela. As individual Ursuline sisters serving in the ministries of charism formation, education, justice and peace, and vocations, we recognize that the spirit and vision of Angela are at the heart of all we are about. This new effort seeks to integrate and focus a shared exploration of Angela's charism as we – Ursuline sisters, associates, colleagues and companions – are called to live it today and into the future.

We will be using the *Heartbeats* newsletter as a regular means of communication, connection, and networking. In this way, we hope to “gather today's heartbeats of Angela's charism and their pulsing energy.” The issues of *Heartbeats* will carry invitations to explore various facets of Angela's charism and spirit. It is our hope that this exploration will be further enriched by your involvement and participation.

This newsletter is being shared with Ursuline sisters, associates, members of the companies of Angela, school leaders and others with whom we are in contact. Please know that you, too, are free to share it with any others you know who experience the aliveness of Angela's charism today.

Thank you for your support of this new endeavor. We invite you to continue reading as we turn our attention to a facet of Angela's charism – her contemplative spirit.

Gratefully, in Angela,
Diane Fulgenzi, OSU
Madonna O'Hara, OSU
Elisa Ryan, OSU
Maureen Welch, OSU

*“Charism is the heart of the founder aglow at one period in history
Beating in on us in another day and age . . .
Charism is a tree, branch, flower, fruit
An ever-changing, always rooted obsession
For the coming reign of God, where it is needed most,
One that develops from age to age
And then grows up in a new way in the next one.
Charism is a living passion for whatever dimension of the life of
Christ . . . peace, truth, healing, mercy . . . is missing now
Here in our time, where we are.”*

Joan Chittister, OSB

Angela's Contemplative Spirit

During the next few months our *Heartbeats* newsletter will focus on Angela's contemplative spirit. We offer these introductory reflections for your pondering.

Angela was a contemplative, captured by the Lord whom she sought and found everywhere, following him with love ever alert and faith ever discerning. "Everywhere" for her meant in long hours of prayer; and it also meant everyplace where she felt she had a task to do; every person whom she met, regardless of age, sex or rank; every service that she rendered according to needs and circumstances. For at all times she acted under the influence of love, at once liberating and unifying, which in a single thrust brought her to God and to her fellow [women and] men. (*Lead A New Life*, 1969)

The clear sunlit beauty and the deep silence of the countryside found an echo in Angela's spirit and awoke in her a need for light and for the infinite: a need for God. (*Lead A New Life*, 1969)

Contemplative love for God was a special gift of Angela's. It is in us, it echoes in us. In this way we are connected to her. (Martha Buser, OSU, *Also in Your Midst*, 1990)

For Pondering:

- How do I "seek and find God everywhere"?
- What nourishes my contemplative spirit?
- How does the oneness of creation touch my life and challenge me?



"You have God and all creation on your side."

(St. Angela)