

Saint Angela Merici

1474-1540

Saint Angela Merici was born to a poor family in Desenzano del Garda and soon afterward remained an orphan. In 1489 she decided to depart for the Holy Land where she was struck with a temporary blindness.

Inside herself, however, she saw a light and a staircase that rose up to Heaven, where crowds of young girls waited for her. She then understood her mission. She returned to her native land, founded the Company of Saint Ursula, a congregation that would occupy itself with the formation of thousands of young women.

Father Francesco Landini, in a letter of his from 1566, described an angelic vision had by Angela while she was engrossed in

had in Brudazzo on the hills from Desenzano and Padenghe, Angela saw again a long line of Angels and virgins among whom she recognized a friend of hers dead only a few days.

The mysterious voice this time announced that the Company would rise up in Brescia, and she was ordered to found it before her death. In fact at only sixty years old Angela succeeds in this undertaking. On the 25th of November 1535, Angela Merici



prayer during a break from work in the fields: “She felt suddenly enraptured by God and saw Heaven open itself up with a procession of Angels and virgins in alternating couples, the Angels played music, the virgins sang; in the parade she saw her deceased sister, who forecasted to her that she would be the founder of a Company of virgins.” In another vision

gave the official start to the Company of Saint Ursula: 28 virgins gathered in the church of St. Afra, received the Eucharist and consecrated themselves to God. Angela died shortly thereafter, on the 27th of January 1540, surrounded by her 150 daughters.