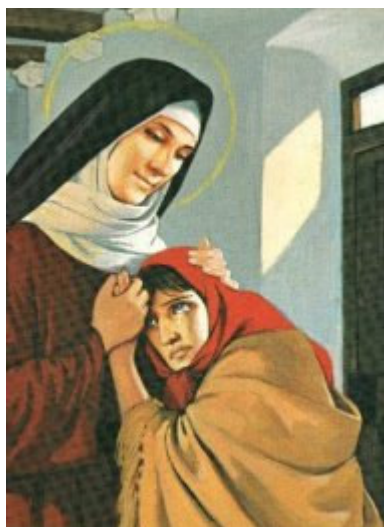


Lives of Saints

St Angela Merici

1474 - 1540

Feastday: 27th January



“Disorder in
society is the
result of
disorder in the
family.”

St Angela Merici

I was born in March 1474 at Desenzano, Lake Garda, Italy. I was left an orphan at the age of ten and together with my elder sister went to live with our uncle in the neighbouring town of Salo. On his death I lived with my brothers.

I became a tertiary of St. Francis at the age of 15. In Crete, during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I was struck blind. I insisted on continuing with my journey, visiting the shrines with devotion and enthusiasm. On the way home, while praying before a crucifix, my sight was restored at the same place where it had been lost.

I once received a vision telling me that I would inspire devout women in their vocation. In 1535 I gathered a group of girl students and began the Institute of Saint Ursula (the Ursuline Sisters). My first schools were in Desenzano and Brescia. I then created the regula, a list of rules for those who would join the order. These include three oaths: of poverty, obedience, and holiness. I wanted my women to remain in the world, and to devote themselves to every sort of corporal and spiritual work of mercy; with particular emphasis on education. By educating children in the milieu in which they lived I strove to effect an improvement in social conditions.

I died on 24 January 1540 in Brescia, Italy, and was canonized in 1807 by Pope Pius VII.

S. D. C.
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