

Prayer for the Feast of St Ursula

October 21, 2021

Call to Prayer

Coming together for prayer takes many forms in the 21st Century. We may be *insieme* (together) virtually or in person, with members of our individual Ursuline communities — Sisters, Associates, school faculty, staff, students, and parents past and present from around the world — or we may be alone at our computers. However we gather, we are *insieme*, and the Feast Day we celebrate each October reminds us of our strength in numbers.



St. Ursula Window, Brescia University, Owensboro, KY,
originally from the Ursuline Sisters of Paola, KS

And so we pray . . .

Loving God, St. Ursula's story has been the inspiration for countless women and men throughout Christian history, but most especially for St. Angela Merici. The power of *insieme* to unite and strengthen people of faith to do Your will is palpable in every age. We give You thanks and praise for placing people of wisdom, courage, strength, compassion and love in our midst. Guide us as we continue to tell their stories and to bear witness to the ability their convictions have to bring us closer to Your Son Jesus. We ask this in His name. Amen.

Call to Song

["Insieme" - sung by 101 Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union from 25 countries](#)

Reflection

They say that news travels fast, and you don't have to look far for proof. Think of how fast the stories of Jesus and the experiences of St. Paul were passed from one person to the next. Even faster once printing became widespread almost 600 years ago. Faster still in the age of social media where a symbol in front of a phrase can instantly unite people around a cause or spread the Good News (#PopeFrancis).

#LetAfghanGirlsLearn — #NiUnaMenos — #OrangeTheWorld — These are just [some](#) of the hashtags that bring people together to share their experiences surrounding an important topic, event, or injustice. It is no wonder that these stories — along with the story of St. Ursula and her Companions — gain momentum by bringing people together.

St. Ursula — no matter the exact date of her death, the exact circumstances surrounding the tragedies that befell her and her (no matter the number) companions — is a witness to faith in Christ and His — and our — triumph over death. This year, as we celebrate in a completely 21st century way, let us reach across the table or the internet to stand *insieme* in prayer to be strengthened and inspired by the convictions of our patroness and her friends.

Pause for Personal Reflection and Sharing

How does the story of St. Ursula and her Companions touch you/speak to you in this 21st century?

Call to Stand Insieme

Loving God, grant us wisdom to see the ways Your Kingdom has not been realized.

We pray: ***St. Ursula, intercede for us.***

Loving God, grant us courage to stand against injustices to people and all of creation.

We pray: ***St. Ursula, intercede for us.***

Loving God, grant us strength to persevere despite exhaustion and disillusionment.

We pray: ***St. Ursula, intercede for us.***

Loving God, grant us compassion to see the sufferings of others and to respond with care and nurture.

We pray: ***St. Ursula, intercede for us.***

Loving God, grant us love in our hearts to share Jesus' love with all those we encounter along the path of life.

We pray: ***St. Ursula, intercede for us.***

(Other spontaneous intercessions may be added)

We lift up these prayers, and those we hold in our hearts, to you, Loving God.
Guide us, in the spirit of St. Ursula, to have wisdom, courage, strength, compassion
and above all — to have love for all of your creation. May we stand *insieme* in unity
to do the work necessary that will one day bring about Your Kingdom.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



'St Ursula Shrine', 1489. The Reliquary of St Ursula, Hans Memling, Memling Museum, Sint-Janshospitaal, Bruges.