

# Prayer, Reflection, and Sharing for the Feast of St. Angela

January 27, 2022



Following in the footsteps of Angela,  
Pilgrim of peace and reconciliation,

We hear today the call  
To become more and more

PEACEMAKERS:

In justice, solidarity and harmony  
Within ourselves and between us,

In our community lives,  
In prayer, contemplation, and mission,  
Among peoples and cultures,  
With the earth and the whole creation.

## Opening Song: "When the Wolf is at the Door" by Carrie Newcomer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-9oAncqprY>

There's an owl gliding silently tonight,  
The hours drag slow as morphine.  
In the dark are little flashes of light,  
Small hearts hold their breath then breathe.

**There's a storm like I've never seen before  
Rumbling like a train, coming up through the floor.  
We can't just be healed,  
We must be transformed  
When the sky goes dark and the wolf is at the door.**

My old dog lifts her nose into the wind,  
She can tell when trouble is near.

We mark the sidewalks with symbols and lines,  
And pray that it don't stop here.

It's like a wave coming in, I can't stop or change  
And the shape of things I knew won't ever be the same.  
When the old world ends, a new world starts  
What finally comes together, first had to fall apart.

I've been seeing things I thought I'd never see.  
There once were four, but now there's three.  
Change comes slouching in unnamed and unforeseen,  
With a quiet voice or on soundless wings.

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Realizing where the world is at this moment in our history and heeding Angela's words that we need to change with the times, the following reflection sums it up. Angela – a woman who walked into the future not knowing where it would take her, and yet she continued. We are at that moment in our time. Like her we face the future with faith and trust, always being aware of the common good of all.

## Reflection: “We Will Never Be the Same”

(Christine Yount Jones)

When this is all over, we will never be the same . . .  
When the world returns to its fast pace . . .  
When our healthcare providers can take a breath without fearing infection . . .  
When they can sleep, rest, cry . . .  
When they find peace after all they have seen and experienced . . .  
When families bury their loved ones . . .  
Grieve their losses . . .  
Stagger away from graves as our war heroes who were most scarred by this virus . . .  
When those who have battled for their lives are restored . . .

**We will never be the same.**

**We will never take for granted** the freedoms we had to do the simplest things. To run to the store for bananas. To hug our grown kids. To sit on the floor and play with our grandkids.

**We will never take for granted** the privilege of gathering with our brothers and sisters in Christ to break bread, to worship, to come to the Table.

**We will never take for granted** a handshake. A hug. A kiss on the cheek in greeting.

**We will never take for granted** what we once thought we would never lose.

**We will be awakened.**

**We will be awakened** because while we once thought we were in control, we never really were. We will see how fragile life is and that the Author of Life is the only One in control. We will seek God more.

**We will be awakened** to how connected we are to one another. Not just to our families and friends, but we are connected to people all the way on the other side of the world. Their destiny and our destiny are delicately intertwined. We will be more responsible.

**We will be awakened** to who we really are. We will see that we can be noble and heroic even with something as simple as just staying home. We will realize that what we really value isn't the stuff of life but it's the people in our lives... and the people we do not even know. We will see that like generations before us we have what it takes to do what's necessary for the common good. We will be more noble.

**We will be awakened** to the needs of others. We have been asked to slow down for the sake of those who are at risk. And we have done it. We have closed businesses, cancelled money-making events, delayed dream trips. We have stopped doing what might harm our neighbors. We will awaken to finally see the needs of all those at-risk among us. We will see the poor and disadvantaged in a new way, and we will act and vote differently. We will be more conscientious.

**We will be awakened** to our limits. We will see that even though our world leaders seek to do what's necessary and best for the common good, they are limited. They do not know what to do – and yet they lead bravely.

**We will be awakened** to our personal and institutional gaps. For us personally, we will realize how much we need community. We will reach out and connect in ways we never have. We will build the social network we wish we had had in place before. For the church, we will also realize where the gaps are in our way of doing church. We will see whether we have built a network of community that can sustain not meeting on Sundays. We will ask and seek answers to the question: What does it mean to be the church? In our isolation we will emerge with a new commitment to connection. We will be more connected.

**When this ends, we will never be the same.**



***Time for silent reflection, followed by sharing on the two questions in bold below.***

Creator God,  
Breathing your life into our being,  
You gave us the gift of life.  
You placed us on this earth  
With its minerals and waters,  
Flowers and fruits,  
Living creatures of grace and beauty  
You gave us the care of the earth.

O God of love,  
You gave us the gift of peoples –  
Of cultures, races, and colors,  
To love, to care for, to share our lives with.

Today you ask us:  
**“Where is your sister, your brother?”**

Today you call us:  
**“Where are you; what have you done?”**

### **Response from the Writings of Angela**

***Response: For the Spirit of God has made me, the breath of the Almighty keeps me alive.***

- May the strength and true consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all so that you can maintain and carry out vigorously and faithfully the charge laid upon you . . .
- Do not lose courage then, if you feel yourselves incapable of knowing and doing all that such a special charge demands. Have hope and firm faith in God, for God will help you in everything . . .
- Be bound to one another by the bond of charity, esteeming each other, helping each other, bearing with each other . . .
- Always let your principal recourse be to gather at the feet of Jesus Christ. . .and Jesus Christ will be in your midst . . .

### **Concluding Prayer**

Divine Mystery,  
Aware of our bondedness  
In Jesus,  
In Angela,  
And in relationship with each other and the world,  
We rejoice  
In our expanding understanding and awe of all creation,  
From the smallest elements  
To the immensity of a reality beyond what we can imagine.  
We long to be open to possibilities  
In an unfolding future  
And to the new responses that are called forth  
Believing that the Divine is at its heart.

**May It Be So.**