



Prayer for the Feast of St. Angela

January 27, 2023

HOPE

Introduction

We celebrate the feast of St. Angela in the first month of a new year, very aware of the sufferings of so many in our cities, our country and our world: war and other forms of violence, natural disasters, homelessness, hunger . . . Both Angela and Pope Francis invite us to live hope and to give hope.

In this prayer, each quotation from Pope Francis is followed by words of hope from Angela.

Opening Song

“Christ Be Our Light” by Bernadette Farrell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qibAAo0JiEQ>

Excerpts from Pope Francis’ Message for the 2023 World Day of Peace:

Francis: When tragic events seem to overwhelm our lives, and we feel plunged into a dark and difficult maelstrom of injustice and suffering, we are called to keep our hearts open to hope and to trust in God, who makes himself present, accompanies us with tenderness, sustains us in our weariness, and, above all, guides our path...We should be like sentinels keeping watch and ready to glimpse the first light of dawn, even at the darkest hour.

Angela: I have this firm and unquestioning faith and hope in infinite and divine goodness, that we shall overcome all dangers and adversities.

Francis: At the very moment when we dared to hope that the darkest hours of the Covid-19 pandemic were over, a terrible new disaster befell humanity...The war in Ukraine is reaping innocent victims and spreading insecurity, not only among those directly affected, but in a widespread and indiscriminate way for everyone, also for those who, even thousands of kilometers away, suffer its collateral effects.

Angela: Have hope and firm faith in God for God will help you in everything.

Francis: We are called to confront the challenges of our world in a spirit of responsibility and compassion... Only by responding generously to these situations, with an altruism inspired by God’s infinite and merciful love, will we be able to build a new world...of love, justice and peace.

Angela: Act, move, believe, strive, hope, cry out to God with all your heart, for without doubt you will see marvelous things.

Video Reflection

“Do Not Fear to Hope” by Rory Cooney

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zd2ZERJ9n5I>

For Reflection and Sharing

How have I experienced hope that was so essential to Angela?

How is God inviting me/us to share our hope with one another?

Intercessions

Deeply conscious that today refugees and immigrants are God's people journeying in darkness, seeking the light of hope, we pray . . .

Response: Hear us, O God.

May we be a beacon of hope for those who feel they have no hope, let us pray . . .

Response: Hear us, O God.

For the children of the world, may they grow in the desire to bring hope to the future, let us pray . . .

Response: Hear us, O God.

May all who share Angela's charism throughout the world champion the cause of bringing hope to those who have no hope, let us pray . . .

Response: Hear us, O God.

May God bless the followers of Angela with new members who will carry her message of peace and hope to future generations, let us pray . . .

Response: Hear us, O God.

Other intercessions . . .

Holy and ever-living God, by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed; guide us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live each day in love for one another and for you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Loving and gracious God, through the intercession of St. Angela, we ask your blessing on all whose lives are enriched by her charism and legacy. May we be beacons of light and hope for all we meet on the journey of life. We pray in Jesus' name and through Angela's intercession. Amen.