



Leading Your Women's Ministry

New Chapel Leader Roundtable (60 min.)

Moderator: Elizabeth

Panel: SJ, Elizabeth, Amanda Fox

Priestly Perspective: Father Joe

Have you recently discerned into a chapel leadership position? Have a million questions about leading your CWOC? This is the panel for you – hear from past chapel presidents about challenges and successes, get the priestly perspective on CWOC, find out how MCCW and your regional coordinator can help you and have a chance to ask at least a few of those questions!

Holy Role Model: St. Angela Merici

Ice Breaker:

Lessons:

1. Do something. Get moving.
 1. Meet with your chaplain
 - i. From the sourcebook: Where Do We Begin?
 2. Assess chapel needs
 - i. From the sourcebook: Sample Needs Survey
2. Be confident. Risk new things. Stick with it.
 1. What resources can give you confidence?
 - i. Past board
 - ii. MCCW sourcebook/website
 - iii. Regional Coordinator
 2. Planning Your Year
 - i. From the Sourcebook: Let's Get Together (parts 1 & 2)
3. Get on your knees.
 1. In all things, begin with prayer
 - i. From the sourcebook: Fostering Servant Leadership
4. Then be ready for big surprises.
 1. Brainstorming for the year ahead
 2. Q & A



Military Council of Catholic Women – Worldwide, Inc.

SPIRITUALITY, LEADERSHIP, SERVICE



St. Angela Merici

(from www.Franciscanmedia.org)

Angela has the double distinction of founding the first teaching congregation of women in the Church and what is now called a “secular institute” of religious women.

As a young woman, she became a member of the Third Order of Saint Francis, and lived a life of great austerity, wishing, like Saint Francis, to own nothing, not even a bed. Early in life she was appalled at the ignorance among poorer children, whose parents could not or would not teach them the elements of religion. Angela’s charming manner and good looks complemented her natural qualities of leadership. Others joined her in giving regular instruction to the little girls of their neighborhood.

She was invited to live with a family in Brescia (where, she had been told in a vision, she would one day found a religious community). Her work continued and became well known. She became the center of a group of people with similar ideals.

She eagerly took the opportunity for a trip to the Holy Land. When they had gotten as far as Crete, she was struck with blindness. Her friends wanted to return home, but she insisted on going through with the pilgrimage, and visited the sacred shrines with as much devotion and enthusiasm as if she had her sight. On the way back, while praying before a crucifix, her sight was restored at the same place where it had been lost.

At 57, she organized a group of 12 girls to help her in catechetical work. Four years later the group had increased to 28. She formed them into the Company of Saint Ursula (patroness of medieval universities and venerated as a leader of women) for the purpose of re-Christianizing family life through solid Christian education of future wives and mothers. The members continued to live at home, had no special habit and took no formal vows, though the early Rule prescribed the practice of virginity, poverty, and obedience. The idea of a teaching congregation of women was new and took time to develop. The community thus existed as a “secular institute” until some years after Angela’s death.

Additional notes:

- St. Angela’s rule was officially approved by Pope Paul III in 1544 and the Ursulines became a recognized religious community of women with a teaching ministry.
- In writings before her death, St. Angela wrote, “Act, move, believe, strive, hope, cry out to him with all your heart. For without doubt you will see marvelous things, if you direct everything to the praise and glory of his Majesty and the good of souls.”
- A modern English interpretation of this has been adopted by many Ursuline institutions: “Do something, get moving, be confident, risk new things, stick with it, get on your knees, then be ready for big surprises!”