PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE RENEWAL CHAPTER OF THE COMPANIONS OF ST ANGELA

1. In an introductory paragraph, mention could be made of the fact that the rate of change in the world, and in all walks of life, has been so rapid that societies in which religious live and work have changed almost beyond recognition. The Church must keep touch with these changes, and adapt accordingly and appropriately. St Angela herself told her first daughter over 400 years ago, that they were to keep their finger on the pulse of the Church, and change when and where necessary, but with prudence, and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Church has asked religious to examine their way of life, their Rules and Constitutions, and in the light of Vatican II, bring their Constitutions up to date. It will be important to stress the difference between change for change sake, and serious renewal. The Church has never intended that we become so 'modernised' that there is no difference between religious and the layman. The renewal must be aimed at a deepening of the spiritual life from which will flow a richer apostolic life.

2. Now that the time has come for the election of a new major superior for the Congregation, it is right and proper that this renewal precede her taking office. It is a very serious matter that will entail earnest prayer, sincerity with God, self and each other. Naturally, direction and assistance from those with experience is necessary. The Ursulines have been asked to form a team, the members of which will work on different areas of the Constitutions that have to be revised.

3. Give the names of the team:
   Co-ordinator: Sr Gemma Lawler
   Members: Sisters Anselm Peace, Therese Walsh,
   Mary Clunie O'Shea, Anne Mayhew, and
   Catherine Pearson.

4. Division of work:
   a) Study of the documents of the Church, especially Perfectae Caritatis
   b) Writings of St Angela
   c) Study of the Constitutions under the following headings:
      i) Spiritual Life
      ii) Consecration - the vows
      iii) Community life
      iv) Apostolate
      v) Formation
      vi) Government and Finance

5. Method to be followed:
   a) Study of the existing Constitution with an eye to retaining what is good and renewing what they feel needs updating.
   b) The Ursulines responsible for any particular section will provide reading material which every sister will be expected to use.
   c) A questionnaire will accompany the reading material with a view to directing the thinking.
   d) Written feedback will be required, but this written work will be explained beforehand.
   e) These written exercises will be collated and summarised to be used
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>23rd - 29</td>
<td>Spiritual Life</td>
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<td>30th - 5 Feb</td>
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<td>20th - 26</td>
<td>Further work on the vows</td>
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<td>27th - 2 Apr.</td>
<td>Formation</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>3rd - 9</td>
<td>Holy Week</td>
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<td>10th - 16</td>
<td>Formation</td>
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<td>17th - 23</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>1 - 7</td>
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<td>8 - 14</td>
<td>Community Life</td>
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<td>15th - 21</td>
<td>Government &amp; Finance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>22nd - 28</td>
<td>Government &amp; Finance</td>
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You will notice that I have vaguely indicated 'work on documents' for the week Dec. 26th until 31st, and my reason is that we Ursulines will be having our Provincial Chapter during this time, so work will be given to them. And it has just occurred to me that I have marked them down for work during their retreat, which will mean that the section to be done at that time will be limited to one week and not two. More could possibly be done later, should that be necessary.

12. On the morning of the 14th Sr Catharine Pearson will give them the first instruction in the use of the Breviary, and then give one each day for the next two or three days, depending on the time she needs. I will also ask her to say the hours with them at least on the day when she has them together at St Mary's.

13. May I remind you that you will have to officially appoint Sr Eugene as superior of the St Mary's group as soon as you and the Archbishop think fit.

14. I thought that it might be more convenient for the commission leaders to meet the Companions in two groups when once they have got launched, for the instruction part of the work, as it will entail a lot of expensive travelling for them if they are to go to St Mary's each time. All the leaders can drive, so this facilitates things. However, plenary meetings will be held every so often at St Mary's. If you have any other ideas, I am open to them. Be assured of our earnest prayer and dedication to this work.
DIVISION OF WORK:

a) Study of the documents of Vatican II
b) Writings of St Angela
c) Spiritual Life
d) Consecration
e) Community Life
f) Apostolic Life
g) Formation
h) Government & Finances
i) Introduction to the new Breviary

ROSTER:

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<th>Date</th>
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| Monday, Dec. 13th | Introductory talk by Mgr A. Kelly  
Discussion of plan of work  
First talk on the use of the new Breviary  
followed by Evening Prayer with Sr Catharine  
9:00 am Talk on the Breviary and recitation of Morning Prayer with Sr Catharine  
10:00 Tea followed by the talk on the Vatican Documents by Sr Mary Clement  
Independent work on the Documents |
| Tues., Dec. 14th | Retreat                                                                                         |
| Thurs., Dec. 23rd | Winding up work on the Documents  
Writing of St Angela  
Community Life  
Vows - Chastity  
Vows - Obedience  
Vows - Poverty  
Spiritual Life  
Holy Week  
Break  
Apostolate |
| Sun. Dec. 26th  |                                                                                               |
| Fri. Dec. 31st  |                                                                                               |
| Mon. Jan. 3rd  |                                                                                               |
| Mon. Jan. 9th  |                                                                                               |
| Mon. Jan. 10th |                                                                                               |
| Mon. Jan. 11th |                                                                                               |
| Wed. Jan. 12th |                                                                                               |
| Sat. Jan. 22nd |                                                                                               |
| Sun. Jan. 23rd |                                                                                               |
| Sat. Feb. 5th  |                                                                                               |
| Sat. Feb. 19th |                                                                                               |
| Sun. Feb. 6th  |                                                                                               |
| Sat. Feb. 20th |                                                                                               |
| Sat. Mar. 5th  |                                                                                               |
| Sun. Mar. 6th  |                                                                                               |
| Sat. Mar. 19th |                                                                                               |
| Sun. Mar. 20th |                                                                                               |
| Sat. Apr. 2nd  |                                                                                               |
| Sun. Apr. 3rd  |                                                                                               |
| Sat. Apr. 9th  |                                                                                               |
| Sun. Apr. 10th |                                                                                               |
| Sat. Apr. 16th |                                                                                               |
| Sun. Apr. 17th |                                                                                               |
| Sat. Apr. 30th |                                                                                               |
Sun.  May 1st  Formation
Sat.  May 14th

Sun.  May 15th  Government & Finances
Sat.  May 28th

METHOD OF WORK

a) Study of existing Constitutions with an eye to retaining what is good, and renewing what needs updating.

b) Team members responsible for sections will provide reading material that should be faithfully done.

c) A questionnaire will accompany reading material to assist with the written feedback which will be required. The written work will always be carefully prepared beforehand.

d) When the general study has been completed, you will be asked to form commissions, together with those of the team with whom you will have been working. Each commission will be given specific section of the work to deal with and will work towards preparing chapters for the new Constitutions.
We, Companions of Saint Angela, are called to a life of union with God in prayer and in community. As consecrated witnesses to Christ, we joyously and courageously respond in faith and love by proclaiming the Good News and serving those in need. In a spirit of reconciliation, we will work to develop all the people of our country by promoting co-operation and development projects such as education, nursing, and social work. In solidarity, we search together for God's will in a changing world.

June 1977
January 14, 1951

Mother M. Gertrude O.S.U.,
Ursuline Convent,
Krugersdorp.

Lear Mother Gertrude,

Some time ago, when your Mother Provincial was on Visitations in the Transvaal, you will remember that we had a discussion about the possibility of me being able to found a Native Diocesan Congregation of Sisters under the direction of the Ursuline Sisters. At that time, though I spoke with full consent and encouragement of Bishop O'Leary, I had not the authority which has now been confided to me as Vicar Apostolic of the Johannesburg Vicariate. Now, however, it seems to me that I should pursue the question further, so that our long-cherished Ideal of having Native Sisters for the Apostolic and Missionary work in the Vicariate may be brought nearer its realisation.

It still is my ardent hope that the Ursuline Sisters will be willing to accept this most important task of laying the foundation stones for such a Native Diocesan Congregation. For this reason I feel that I should write to you in order that you might know my mind and at the same time be enabled to communicate with your own religious superiors.

I take the liberty to set forth some preliminary suggestions, viz.,

1) The financial responsibility for this Native Congregation will rest with the Vicar Apostolic of the Johannesburg Vicariate who, in all financial matters, will act in close consultation with the relevant Ursuline authorities;

2) The House of formation for this Native Congregation will be situated in close proximity to the present Ursuline foundations - if possible, next to St. Mary's Mission;

3) The Ursuline Sisters selected for the work of this Foundation will remain subject to their Ursuline Superiors in all that appertains to their religious Life and obligations; their work will also be subject
Vatican City,
June 18th, 1952.

Prot. N. 2349/52

Your Excellency,

I have received your petition to establish the Association of the Handmaids of St. Angela to undertake religious and Apostolic work in the field of education, catechising, nursing, formation of feminine lay Apostles in Catholic Youth activities.

This Sacred Congregation ("de Propaganda Fide") hereby grants the necessary permission to issue a Decretum Erectionis and would like to have the Constitutions as soon as possible.

With best wishes and blessings for the new religious Society,

I remain,

Yours very sincerely in Christ,

P. Card. Fumatomi Biondi, Prefect
+ Peter Costanbini
Secretary.

His Excellency
Most Reverend Bishop P. Whelan, O.M.I.,
Bishop of Johannesburg.
Ursuline Convent,
Krugersdorp,
29th May, 1954.

My Lord,

I have great pleasure in informing you that yesterday I received a letter from Our Very Reverend Mother General approving of our proposals

1. That Mother Gertrude Moran be appointed Moderator General of the Company of Saint Angela;

2. That Mother Antoinette Carroll should be in charge of the Novices.

Our Very Reverend Mother says that she approves fully of our decision. "The training of a Native Sisterhood is a most important work for any Mission, and we must consider it a grace to have been chosen for the work."

Assuring you of our fullest co-operation, and begging your blessing,

I remain,

Your Lordship's respectful and obedient child in Christ,

Superior of the Mission.
With the full approval of Our Very Reverend Mother General, Mother Marie de St. Jean Martin, the Mission Council of South Africa at their Meeting held at Krugersdorp on the 8th June, 1954 appoints Mother M. Antoinette Carroll, as Novice Mistress for the new African Congregation — Companions of St. Angela — a Diocesan Congregation founded by His Lordship, Bishop W. P. Whelan, O.M.I. on 7th August, 1954.

Signatures:  

Superior of the Mission.

Mission Secretary.
10 August 1954

Mother K. Gertrude C.S.U.
Moderator General of the Diocesan Congregation
of the Companions of Saint Angela.

Dear Mother Gertrude:

Herewith I send you the Official Decree whereby
I have canonically erected the Diocesan Congregation of the
Companions of Saint Angela. Your authority as Moderator
General of the little Congregation now has official
canonical effect. In like manner, Mother M. Antoinette is
has all the necessary canonical jurisdiction for her function
as Novice Mistress in this Congregation. Though this
new Congregation comes under the immediate jurisdiction of the
Ordinary of the Diocese of Johannesburg, the whole ordinary
administration and responsibility for the Companions of Saint
Angela is now placed in your hands. It will be your function
to take all practical steps to launch this little Congregation
on its providential way under the special patronage of Saint
Angela. All admissions to the Novitiate and to Religious
Profession are committed to your care, acting in collaboration
with the Novice Mistress. The canonical examination of
candidates will, of course, be in the hands of the Ordinary of
the Diocese.

Be sure that this work entrusted to your care comes to you
from the hands of God, Who has permitted all human agencies
to be set aside so that He might purify it and use it for His own infinitely Wise Designs. Laus Deo
Semper.

I shall always pray for you and for the little Sisters
to be entrusted to your care.

Sincerely yours in J.C. et M.I.,

[Signature]

+ W.F. Shehan C.S.I.,
Archbishop and Apostolic
Administrator of the Diocese of
Johannesburg.
LECRETUM ERECTIONIS CONGREGATIONIS DIOCESEANAЕ SUB TITULO
"COMPANIONS OF SAINT ANGELA".

Nos, GULIELMVS PATRITIIUS WHELAN O.M.I., Dei gratia et
Apostolicae Sedis auctoritate, Episcopus et Administrator
Apostolicus Dioecesis Johanneburgensis, considerantes
quam perutille nostrae Dioecesi fore novam Congregationem
Dioecesanam pro Sororibus Indigenis, eiusque fundationem
nunc opportunam indicantes, provisione pro congrua habita-
tione et sustentatione sodalium facta, Sede Apostolica
consulta eiusque beneplacito accepto, Sanctoque Nomine Dei
invocato, potestate nostra ordinaria et virtute praesentium
talem Congregacionem sub titulo "Companions of Saint Angela"
hic et nunc erigimus, eaque canonice conditam et personam
moralem ecclesiasticam constitutam ad tramitem Sacrorum
Canonom (99-103) cum iure possidendi et bona sua administrandi
sub immediata nostra iurisdictione, et in omnibus existentem
ad terminos iuris communis, declaramus.

Finis seu scopus huius Congregationis erit educatio iuventutis,
instructio catecumenerum, opera pro iuventute catholica, formatio
feminarum pro apostolatu laicatus, visitationes paroecianae, cura
aegrotantium, alisque caritatis opera ab Ordinario ordinata.

Pro regimine huius Congregationis speciales constitutiones iuxta
normas ab Apostolica Sede latas scribi fecimus.

Domus matrix Congregationis erit in Missione Sanctae Mariae,
Krugersdorp. Ad officium Moderatoris Generalis, de consensu
Concilii Superioris Congregations Ordinis Ursulinae Unionis
Romanae, assumpta est Mater Gertrude Moran C.S.U., et ad officium
Magistriæ Novitiarum assumpta est Mater Antoinette Carroll C.S.U.

Datum apud Aedibus Nostris in Johanneburg, Anno Domini 1954,
die 7a mensis Augusti, praesentibus Exc.mo et Rev.mo David
O’Leary O.M.I. et Reverendo Patre Philip Marius McCarthy O.M.I.
testibus ad id specialiter adhibitis etque rogatis.

+ W.P.Whelan O.M.I.,
Johanneburgensis.

Testes: 1. D. O’Leary
2. A.M.M.CCarthy, O.M.I.
Proposed Dress for the Members of the Native Diocesan Congregation

"The Companions of Saint Angela."

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CANDIDATES: Grey Frock -- School length, with elbow sleeves, white collar, and turn-up cuff.

POSTULANTS: Blue-grey pleated frock, about two inches above ankle. Long sleeves with cuff of same material. White collar. Short white veil.

NOVICES: Habit: Pleated tunic in blue-grey material (pattern Boarder's Gym), ankle length. Long sleeves with cuff of same material. Shoulder cape almost to waist, opening at back.

White veil attached to tight-fitting white cap -- bandeau effect.

Medal of the Immaculate Conception, with SS. Angela & Ursula on reverse side, worn over cape.

Cincture and Rosary.

Black sandals.

PROFESSED: Same as Novices. Black veil. Medal to be replaced by Crucifix at Profession.

*Approved* + Bishop Congo

August 7, 1954.
Rise .......................... 4.55 a.m.
Morning Prayers and Meditation .......................... 5.20 to 6.20
(Preceded by a 20-minute meditation)
Little Hours (Office of Our Lady) .................... 6.20
Holy Mass (followed by 20 minutes' thanksgiving) ...... 6.45
Breakfast ................................ 7.45
Make bed and tidy cubicles (10 minutes) ............. 8.20
Instruction ................................ 9.30
(After instruction, washing up, sweep and tidy
Refectory)
Spiritual Reading (individual) ..................... 11.45
Help in Kitchen, Laundry, and sweep, dust and tidy
Novitiate and Dormitory until Examen time.
Examen ................................ 12.
Dinner ................................... 12.
(washing up, etc. after dinner)
Vespers and Compline ....... 1.15
Rosary .................................. 2.10
Spiritual Reading (in common) ................ 2.30
Recreation (Tea) .................. Weekdays 3 to 3.30
.................................. Sundays 3 to 4.
Matins and Lauds ........................ Weekdays 3.30
.................................. Sundays 5.30
Study Christian Doctrine, New Testament, etc. 4 to 5.
Evening meditation, and preparation for next
day's morning meditation ................... 5.20
Benediction (Thursday and Sunday) .............. 6.
Supper .................................. 6.30
(Washing up. Set tables for breakfast, etc.)
Recreation ................................ 7.30 - 8.30
Night Prayers .......................... 8.30

Sundays: Review of week (15 minutes)
* Holy Hour .................. 4 to 5 p.m.
Tuesday: Confession (between 5 and 6 p.m.)
Friday: Chapter of Faults (end of morning instruction) *
Monthly retreat day: Last Sunday of the month

Novices do embroidery, knitting and mending during recreation.
In summer time (when Matins and Lauds are at 5.30) Games 3.15 to 4 p.m.

Ursuline Convent,
KRUGERSDORP.
In order to provide for the spiritual interests of the Diocesan Congregation of the Companions of Saint Angela, now canonically erected in virtue of authorisation given by and in accordance with the directives of the Holy See, I hereby appoint the Reverend Father Jean Verot O.M.I. as Spiritual Adviser to this Congregation, represented in the persons of Mother M. Gertrude O.S.U., Moderator General, and Mother Antoinette O.S.U., Novice Mistress.

Given at Bishop's House, Johannesburg on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, 1954.

+ W.P. Whelan O.M.I.,
Archbishop, Administrator Apostolic of the Diocese of Johannesburg.