

DECLARATION

Student number: 209-202-6

I declare that **Inculturation and consecrated life in the Catholic Church: The Companions of St Angela as a case study** is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

.....

20 November 2003

M MODISE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To begin with I would like to thank God for the gift of perseverance and for the light to see which direction to take with thanks to Dr Karecki for finding me and introducing me to the Christian Spirituality programme. She is a supervisor who is kind, clear, consistent and guided by the spirit of ubuntu which radiates in her personality.

Grateful thanks to Brother Kevin McDonnell to whom I am indebted for his kindness, generosity and for his editorial skills. I am particularly grateful to Barbara McGregor for her most valuable critique of the ideas I shared with her and to Dr Maitse who believed in my ability to accomplish this task. Lastly but not least, my sisters, the Companions of St Angela, who gave me the space and the time to work. It is with them that I have grown from being a sister to becoming a mother, an elder and hopefully an ancestor.

SUMMARY

Consecrated life or religious life as it is sometimes called within the Catholic Church is almost as old as Christianity. All baptised persons are consecrated persons by virtue of their baptism, but the consecrated life to which some people feel called, is a special and fruitful deepening of the consecration received in baptism and confirmation.. This dissertation explores Christian spirituality as it is manifested in consecrated life with relation to inculturation and religious life. The scope has been limited to a study of one congregation, the Companions of St Angela as a case study.

KEY WORDS

consecrated life

inculturation

charism

Christian spirituality

evangelical counsels - poverty, celibacy, chastity, obedience.

incarnation

commitment

prophetic witness

ubuntu

evangelisation

eschatological dimension

apostolate

community

ABBREVIATIONS

AG	<i>Ad gentes</i>
AMACEA	Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa
C	Constitutions
CIVCSVA	Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic life
CSA	Companions of St Angela
EA	<i>Ecclesia in Africa</i>
EAs	<i>Ecclesia in Asia</i>
EN	<i>Evangelii nuntiandi</i>
ES	<i>Ecclesiae sanctae</i>
ET	<i>Evangelica testificatio</i>
GS	<i>Gaudium et spes</i>
IMBISA	Inter-Regional Meeting of Bishops in Southern Africa
JURCAN	New Code of Canon Law
LG	<i>Lumen gentium</i>
MR	<i>Mutuae relationes</i>
OMI	Oblates of Mary Immaculate
OSU	Order of St Ursula
PC	<i>Perfectae caritatis</i>
PI	<i>Potissimum institutioni</i>
RC	<i>Renovationis causam</i>
SACBC	Southern African Bishops' Conference
SAFC	<i>Starting afresh from Christ</i>
UISG	International union of superiors general
VC	<i>Vita consecrata</i>

LIST OF APPENDICES

- 1 Letter of Bishop W P Whelan OMI to Mother Gertrude Moran OSU.
- 2 Letter from Cardinal Biondi giving Bishop Whelan permission to start the congregation.
- 3 Unsigned letter from the superior of the Ursuline mission to Bishop Whelan.
- 4 An Act from the mission register appointing Mother Antoinette OSU to be Novice Mistress.
- 5 Letter from Bishop Whelan accompanying official decree of the erection of the congregation.
- 6 Official decree of the foundation of the congregation of the Companions of St Angela.
- 7 Proposed dress for the members.
- 8 Timetable for the novitiate
- 9 Appointment of Fr John Verot as Spiritual Director.
- 10 Photos 1-5 from 1954 to 1957
- 11 Photos 6-10 from 1956 to 1989
- 12 Plan in preparation for the General Chapter
- 13 Programme in preparation for the General Chapter
- 14 1977 and 1989 Charism Statements

TABLE OF CONTENT

	PAGE
DECLARATION	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
SUMMARY	iii
KEYWORDS	iv
ABBREVIATIONS	v
LIST OF APPENDICES	vi
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 RESEARCH PROBLEM	1
1.2 IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY	7
1.3 FOCUS AND LIMITATIONS	10
1.4 METHOD OF APPROACH	12
1.5 LITERATURE STUDY	13
1.5.1 Inculturation	16
1.5.2 Consecrated life	17
1.5.3 Historical sources	18
1.6 OVERVIEW OF THE CHAPTERS	18
1.7 CONCLUSION	20
CHAPTER 2: ST ANGELA MERICI	22
2.1 INTRODUCTION	22
2.2 ANGELA'S HISTORICAL CONTEXT	24
2.3 ANGELA MERICI: FOUNDRRESS	27
2.4 ANGELA'S WRITINGS AND CHARISM	30
2.4.1 Angela's writings	30
2.4.2 Angela's charism	32
2.5 THE URSULINES IN SOUTH AFRICA	35
2.6 CONCLUSION	36
CHAPTER 3: COMPANIONS OF ST ANGELA	38
3.1 HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE COMPANIONS OF ST ANGELA	38
3.2 ST MARY'S MISSION	43
3.3 THE FOUNDATION OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE COMPANIONS OF ST ANGELA	45
3.4 ANGELA MERICI'S CHARISM AND THE COMPANIONS OF ST ANGELA	49
3.5 STEPS TOWARDS SELF-REALISATION AS AFRICAN SISTERS IN THE FAMILY OF ANGELA MERICI	54
3.6 CONCLUSION	56
CHAPTER FOUR: REREADING OUR AFRICAN MEMORY	58
4.1 INTRODUCTION	58
4.2 DEFINING UBUNTU	59
4.3 THE PHILOSOPHY OF UBUNTU	62
4.4 THE SPIRITUALITY OF ST ANGELA MERICI AND UBUNTU IN THE LIFE OF THE COMPANIONS OF ST ANGELA	63
4.4.1 Prayer	64
4.4.2 Hospitality	65
4.4.3 Service	67
4.4.4 Peace and reconciliation	68

4.4.5	Motherhood and community	70
4.4.6	Consecrated chastity, poverty and obedience	71
4.4.7	Pilgrimage spirit	76
4.4.8	Discernment and respectful listening	78
4.5	<i>THE RULE OF ST AUGUSTINE</i> AND UBUNTU IN THE LIFE OF THE COMPANIONS OF ST ANGELA	80
4.6	CONSCIOUS EFFORTS AT INCULTURATION	82
4.7	CHALLENGES	83
	4.7.1 Empowering women	83
	4.7.2 Rebuilding a strong sense of community	84
	4.7.3 Enhancing inculturation	85
4.8	CONCLUSION	86
	CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION	88
	APPENDICES	98
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	99