

# For the Feast of St. Ursula 2020

As we celebrate the Feast of St. Ursula, we are reminded that St. Angela chose this 4<sup>th</sup> century Christian martyr as the patron saint of her Company of St. Ursula in 1535. St. Ursula was known as a leader of women companions, a model of faith, courage, loyalty, and commitment to Christ and to a life of Christian witness.

In a recent letter, Sr. Sue Flood, the leader of the world-wide Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union, reflects: "Wrapped as she is in the mist of time and legend, we have little factual detail about St. Ursula's life. What we do know is that in a distant time, she and her companions drew strength and courage from each other as they were confronted with challenges to their life and their faith. And we further know that this inspired St. Angela and gave direction to her vision for her Company.



C. Pastro 1997, Detail

"In artwork through the centuries St. Ursula is presented as a strong woman, and very often as a woman offering protection and guidance to her companions. The work by Brazilian artist, Pastro, captures these characteristics. St. Ursula is shown as strong and focused, offering protection and guidance. Of course, in the complete piece, St. Ursula is depicted with St. Angela, both of them directing the eyes of their companions towards the crucified Christ.

"In the face of the personal, communal and social realities that we face today, St. Ursula provides us with an example of how we can embrace these vulnerabilities - together, in support of each other, offering guidance and direction through our shared commitment and companionship, and in the presence of our God of Life."

**Feast Day greetings and blessings  
from the Central Province Office of Sponsorship  
Diane Fulgenzi, OSU & Karen Mortillaro**