



We Are Called

Begin

Read aloud the unit title. Have your child silently identify someone he or she loves. **Say:** *Without saying it aloud, think of a kind message that you could share with this person, such as how much he or she means to you. Point out that the person did not actually receive the message. Explain that there are multiple ways to share the message. **Say:** The most powerful way to share your message is through your actions. Likewise, our faith is more than a mental activity. God calls us to live out our faith through our actions.*

Introduce the Saint

Ask your child to read aloud the paragraph on page 133. Explain that the Third Order of Saint Francis is a religious community for men and women who are called to devote their lives to God but who are not called to become priests or religious brothers or sisters. **Say:** *Because of her strong prayer life, Angela Merici was open to the dream that helped her discern that God was calling her to live out her faith in a new way.*

Invite your child to read aloud How the Saint Relates. **Ask:** *How did Angela receive her new call from God? (through her dream) **Say:** God calls each of us in unique ways. It is important for us to open our minds and hearts in prayer so that we can receive this call.*

Turn to page 134. Invite your child to read aloud Founding a New Religious Community. Explain that when people make a pilgrimage, they travel to a sacred place. **Ask:** *Why did Angela go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land? (to help her better understand the will of God) **Say:** Imagine you are traveling in a distant country, and you go blind. How would you react? What did the experience teach Angela? (to see with the eyes of her soul)*

Point out that like the dream she had, this experience of blindness helped Angela realize that God was calling her to serve his people in a special way. Explain that when we see with the eyes of our souls, we listen to God in prayer so that we can discover his will for us.

Say: *Like the Rule that Saint Benedict wrote for the members of his community, Angela wrote her Rule and Testament to give the members of her community advice on behaviors that would help them live together peacefully. Angela Merici was a pioneer in that her community was one of the first to live among people so that the sisters could better serve people's needs. Identify any apostolic communities in your area in which sisters live among the people.*

With your child, add Angela Merici's feast day, January 27, to your calendar. Together research the Order of Saint Ursula to discover how members of this community continue the work that Angela Merici began.