

Blessed Angelina of Montegiove
(Angelina of Marsciano, Angelina of Corbara)

born 1377, Montegiove, Orvieto, Terni, Italy
died. 14 July, 1435, Foligno, Italy

Angelina's vow of chastity meant nothing to her father. He threatened to kill her if she did not marry the Count of Civitella del Tronto. On their wedding night, the count glimpsed Angelina with her guardian angel, and from that moment he considered it a privilege to share her celibacy and good works.

Widowed after two years, Angelina became a Franciscan tertiary, traveling the Abruzzi region with a growing band of women who shared her vow of celibacy. The young fortune hunters who had hoped to marry them complained to their overlord, Ladislas, king of Naples, calling Angelina a vagabond and a heretic. The king summoned Angelina. Although he had not announced his plans, Angelina knew he intended to have her burned alive, and she prepared by filling her cloak with live coals. Facing him, she said *"Allow me to speak in my own defence, and when I shall have do so, if you still consider me guilty, here is the fire to burn me and reduce me to ashes!"*

Angelina held out the glowing coals, which miraculously damaged neither her habit nor her hands. The king was completely disarmed and soon let her go. Angelina and her companions made a pilgrimage to Assisi, then moved on to Foligno where she founded the first convent of the Franciscan Third Order. (Until then, all Franciscan tertiaries lived at home.) Among those she mentored were Margaret Dominici, Antonia of Florence (29 February), and Paula of Foligno.

The Genius of Angelina of Montegiove:

Angelina made it clear that she did not condemn marriage and recommended the state of virginity only to those who had been given the grace to desire it."

Reflection:

*"As the sparrow finds a home
and the swallow a nest to settle her young,
My home is by your altars, LORD of hosts, my king and my God!"*

Psalm 84.4

Source:

Gallick, Sarah [The Big Book of Women Saints](#) p. 212