



March 12

Blessed Angela Salawa of Cracow, Secular Franciscan

Good day, good people! May the Lord give you peace!

Humility is a virtue essential to living the Christian life. Contrary to what some in our society believe, there is a vast difference between humility and humiliations. One of the most insightful spiritual writers of our time, Benedictine Joan Chittister, describes "humility as the ability to know ourselves as God knows us." To know ourselves as God knows us includes a deep understanding that no one is outside the purview of God's love. We share a great dignity that God has extended to all of

creation. It cannot be compromised or qualified.

Blessed Angela Salawa had this intuition. She did not suffer from the disease of narcissism which has so afflicted our society today. Humility is what grounded her and led her to put her trust in God. Lacking the strong health necessary to enter a religious community, she did not give in to depression. Instead, she responded to the needs in front of her. Working as a maid, she gave her free time to helping the poor and sick.

When WW I broke out, she gave of her time serving wounded soldiers. She never gave up on God even though life was one challenge after another. It was her gift of humility that helped her through several incidents of several false accusations and job losses. This same gift of humility kept her faithful during the later years of her life as she lived penniless and with an unconfirmed diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis. Doctors were unable to correctly diagnose her illness which only enhanced the disease. Her humble resolution to her life is captured in her wise proclamation; "Lord, I live by your will. I will die when you desire. Save me because you can."

Let us pray. Almighty God, You teach us that the commandments of heaven are summarized in love for you and our neighbor. Following the example of Blessed Angela Salawa's selflessness, may we be among the blessed in Your Kingdom. This we ask through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Blessed Angela Salawa of Cracow is the friend of God, the company we welcome today.