

Reflection

*Offered by Sr. Mary Ellen McAleese
August 2, 2015*

Feast of Our Lady of the Angels

1st Reading – Sirach 24:1 – 2, 16 – 22

2nd Reading – Ephesians 3:16 – 21

Gospel – Luke 1:26 – 33

Bells from Assisi played for about 3 minutes

As the bells of Santa Maria del Angeli fade in the background, here we are, almost 4800 miles away from Assisi, gathered in Our Lady of the Angels in Wheaton. Celebrating the feast of Our Lady of the Angels and 60 years since the BUILDING of this Motherhouse, Our Lady of the Angels.

We find ourselves still faithful to and yet evolving in our response to the initial call that Francis heard,
“GO REBUILD MY CHURCH.”

What are we celebrating today – our liturgy booklet says “Feast of Our Lady of the Angels.” But...

I ask again: What are we celebrating?

- Our Lady or Francis
- A couple buildings or our lives

I say “Yes” to ALL of the above... as well as celebrating:

- The ROOTS of Franciscanism – deep and strong
- The HEART of Franciscanism – which with every beat extends LOVE and PEACE beyond all borders
- Our LIVING of Franciscanism today – here and now as brother and sister with all creation (modeled as well by Pope Francis)

As I worked on this reflection, I was reminded of the well-known quote from the book entitled, *The Little Prince*:

“What is essential is invisible to the eye –
and can only be seen by the heart.”

After Francis did some muchly needed external building and repairing of churches, he was led by Lady Wisdom to do his own inner work... to undergo a total TRANSFORMATION of his life from the INSIDE - OUT...

This is always the way of WISDOM. All mystics study – know – live the MYSTERY from the INSIDE – OUT.

Wisdom is an inner call – urge – desire – grace... that may have some outer manifestation but always provides for deeper inner work.

Mary moved from fear to pondering – to her YES – to birthing the Incarnate One.

Francis moved from building with bricks and mortar to redesigning his whole life – to founding the 3 Franciscan Orders.

Take a MOMENT now and maybe more later to reflect on what is your journey from the INSIDE – OUT...

TODAY more than ever we celebrate the clarity that Lady Wisdom continues to give us – empowering us to know that our call is NOT to BUILD the CHURCH but rather

TO BE THE CHURCH...

This year as we celebrate 60 years since the building of this Our Lady of the Angels... It is truly one of Wisdom’s great blessings to have each of you with us as we TOGETHER

BE THE CHURCH HERE AND NOW...

from the INSIDE – OUT...

May we hear as Blessing these words of FRANCIS...

“I did what was mine to do, may
Lady Wisdom show you what is yours!

AMEN