

St. Angela: Graceful, Spiritual, and Alive

LOUISVILLE, Ky (October 30, 2009) - On Friday, August 28, three construction workers attached ropes to a statue of St. Angela Merici, the foundress of the Ursulines, that had been stored in the Maintenance Shop on the Ursuline Campus. The workers used construction equipment to hoist the 800 pound, hollow statue from the ground and then slowly and gently move “her” down the road.

Their destination was a reserved spot between the renewed Ursuline Arts Center and Sacred Heart Model School Gym. Once at the piazza, the statue was righted, the brackets aligned, cement inserted into the fasteners and then the statue gently lowered onto the base where it would remain.

See video of how the crews moved the 800 lb. statue by [clicking here](#).

About six weeks later, on October 13, a special ceremony was held to unveil “St. Angela” and recognize the family who donated the statue to Sacred Heart Schools. Dan Ulmer gave the statue to SHS in honor of his late wife Helen Mohlenkamp-Ulmer and her sisters who are alumnae of Sacred Heart Academy.



Construction workers place the St. Angela statue in to her new home.

[View Photos](#)

A similar statue sits at the Ursuline Academy in St. Louis, Missouri. The artist, Annette Zobel, spoke at the ceremony. She currently teaches fine arts at UA in St. Louis. As she explained, before beginning the piece, she met with a group of Ursuline Sisters several times to learn more about St. Angela Merici to determine the best way to depict their foundress.

“Angela chose to serve others at a young age,” Annette said, explaining the symbolism behind the statue. “Therefore she is depicted here as a young peasant woman barefoot and in motion. She is not still or stagnant. Angela was a pilgrim and a pioneer,”

“Angela was designed to be like a tree, growing in her mission, branching out to community and the world with open and welcoming arms. Reaching out to the world and to Heaven, she is connected to all people,” she continued.

“She is graceful, spiritual and alive. Her hair falls into the leaves of a tree that continues to grow. She is grounded in the earth and rooted in nature.”

If you’d like to see this beautiful depiction of St. Angela Merici, come by the campus. To see video of the statue being erected in the piazza, go to www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org and click story number one in the “television set.”