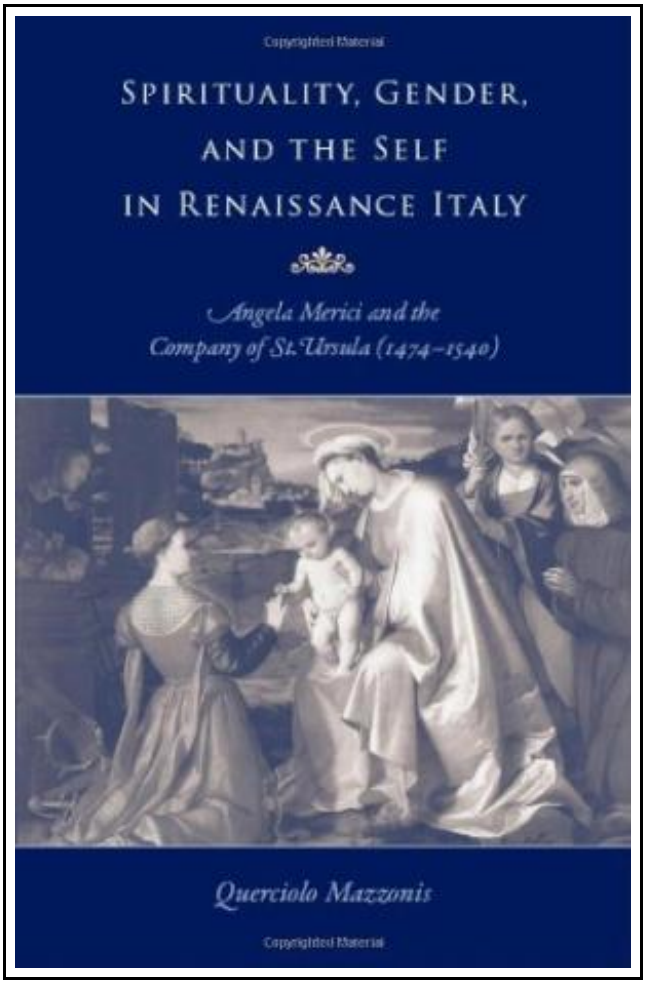
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The Catholic University of America Press, United States, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 211 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Angela Merici (1474-1540), like other mystic women such as Catherine of Siena, was considered a santa viva - a living saint - by virtue of her mysticism, sacred knowledge, human qualities, and participation in civic life. However, Angela s originality and genius reside above all in the foundation of the Company of St. Ursula. It is there that she put her theology into practice and translated her spiritual ideas and experience into a defined model of religious life for women. Spirituality, Gender, and the Self in Renaissance Italy places St. Angela Merici and her Company of St. Ursula in historical and religious context and examines them from a variety of perspectives: institutional, social, spiritual, and cultural. By analyzing Merici s spirituality, the book contributes to two fields of research that have been particularly rich and contentious: women s religious life and early modern Catholicism. The Company of St. Ursula, long mistaken for a charitable or educational confraternity, proposed a form of consecration for women outside the convent, similar to that lived by late medieval women such as the beguines and the tertiaries. Merici s ideal of spiritual life - inward-looking, a-institutional, democratic, public, and transcendent - codified into a religious rule the irregular features of the female approach to the sacred. It offered women the possibility of living beyond the limits imposed on them. Furthermore, Merici s spirituality is compared with a vast array of religious practices promoted by important religious thinkers of her time, such as Battista da Crema, Erasmus of Rotterdam, and Ignatius Loyola. The book seeks to understand the historical significance of spirituality by linking religious models with relevant aspects of Renaissance society and...

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