

St Clare of Assisi

Clare was born into a wealthy family in _____ in 1194. She was prayerful and kind as a child. When she grew up, she refused two offers of _____ because she was interested in becoming a nun.

In 1212 Clare heard St Francis _____. She was inspired by him and wanted to commit to poverty like he did. She knew that nothing on _____ will bring us true happiness.

At that time in Church _____, there was a lot of corruption in the Church. For example, some people donated money to the Church just as a way to gain _____ power, and the money was not used well by some leaders of the Church. It was not in line with what Jesus said about using any wealth we have to _____ those in need. For Clare, like for St Francis, choosing a life of poverty was a way to _____ the Church (and the world) what Jesus taught.

In March 1212 Clare secretly left home to follow St Francis. He received her vows as a nun, and then placed her in the care of some Benedictine nuns for her religious formation. She resisted strong family _____ to return home, and was eventually joined by others, including her sister Agnes, who wished to follow with her the Franciscan ideal of absolute _____. When her father died, their mother joined as well.



In 1215, when more women had joined Clare, Francis helped her begin a new religious order. They opened a small convent near San Damiano, the church that St Francis had _____ a few years earlier.



The order followed rules of strict poverty and daily _____, even more so than other nuns of the day. More and more women were inspired by this, and Clare was able to open many new _____ with the same spirit of poverty. They eventually took the name 'The Poor Clares'. Women can still join this _____ today.

Clare kept a _____ with St Francis over the years, and they inspired each other to stay strong in their _____ from Jesus. Like Francis, Clare was

committed to serving the community joyfully and was imbued with a love of nature.



In 1240, there was a war happening near Clare's convent. Some _____ came to attack the convent. As they were climbing ladders to go over the convent walls, Clare brought a monstrance to the convent gates, which contained a consecrated host (Jesus' body in the _____). She started praying earnestly right there, making herself vulnerable to attack. The soldiers were shocked at her courage and faith, and their ladders fell backwards. They left the convent and the whole town of Assisi alone. This event reminds us that Jesus will always protect us when we turn to Him in faith.

St Clare is the patron saint of _____, because once when she was too ill to attend Mass, she was reportedly able to see and hear the _____ in a kind of vision on the wall of her room.

Clare died in 1253. She was canonised (declared a Saint) just two years later.

WORDBANK

repaired	mission	poverty	earth
preaching	pressure	order	marriage
Mass	soldiers	political	prayers
history	friendship	Assisi	remind
convents	serve	Eucharist	television

ANSWERS

Clare was born into a wealthy family in **Assisi** in 1194. She was prayerful and kind as a child. When she grew up, she refused two offers of **marriage** because she was interested in becoming a nun.

In 1212 Clare heard St Francis **preaching**. She was inspired by him and wanted to commit to poverty like he did. She knew that nothing on **earth** will bring us true happiness.

At that time in Church **history**, there was a lot of corruption in the Church. For example, some people donated money to the Church just as a way to gain **political** power, and the money was not used well by some leaders of the Church. It was not in line with what Jesus said about using any wealth we have to **serve** those in need. For Clare, like for St Francis, choosing a life of poverty was a way to **remind** the Church (and the world) what Jesus taught.

In March 1212 Clare secretly left home to follow St Francis. He received her vows as a nun, and then placed her in the care of some Benedictine nuns for her religious formation. She resisted strong family **pressure** to return home, and was eventually joined by others, including her sister Agnes, who wished to follow with her the Franciscan ideal of absolute **poverty**. When her father died, their mother joined as well.



In 1215, when more women had joined Clare, Francis helped her begin a new religious order. They opened a small convent near San Damiano, the church that St Francis had **repaired** a few years earlier.



The order followed rules of strict poverty and daily **prayers**, even more so than other nuns of the day. More and more women were inspired by this, and Clare was able to open many new **convents** with the same spirit of poverty. They eventually took the name 'The Poor Clares'. Women can still join this **order** today.

Clare kept a **friendship** with St Francis over the years, and they inspired each other to stay strong in their **mission** from Jesus. Like Francis, Clare was

committed to serving the community joyfully and was imbued with a love of nature.



In 1240, there was a war happening near Clare's convent. Some **soldiers** came to attack the convent. As they were climbing ladders to go over the convent walls, Clare brought a monstrance to the convent gates, which contained a consecrated host (Jesus' body in the **Eucharist**). She started praying earnestly right there, making herself vulnerable to attack. The soldiers were shocked at her courage and faith, and their ladders fell backwards. They left the convent and the whole town of Assisi alone. This event reminds us that Jesus will always protect us when we turn to Him in faith.

St Clare is the patron saint of **television**, because once when she was too ill to attend Mass, she was reportedly able to see and hear the **Mass** in a kind of vision on the wall of her room.

Clare died in 1253. She was canonised (declared a Saint) just two years later.