

*Do you feel called to center
your life in God?*

*Do you desire to give your
life for our world?*

If you do, you will have to exchange all you have and are now in the same way that Jesus emptied himself to show us what it means to live in God. This is also Saint Clare's meaning of the "Poverty Most High" she taught. We must be willing to loosen our grasp on all the material things we might have had so that we become free to be united more deeply with a God who is Love, and the transcendent Source of all creation.

How does a person know they are called to a Poor Clare's Franciscan contemplative form of life? How deeply do you desire to be centered in God and to give your life for our beautiful world? The answer is a good start. Contact us. We'll talk about it.

May you respond with faith and trust to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, so that, like Mary, the Mother of God, you, too, may give birth to the Spirit of God in our world.



Saint Francis of Assisi

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**POOR SISTERS
OF SAINT CLARE**



POOR CLARE NUNS

*"I hold you to be Co-Workers with Christ, and a support for
the weak and failing members of Christ's Body." (St. Clare)*



Chiara de Favarone de Offreduccio, was born of a noble family in Assisi, Italy, around 1194. Called by the Spirit, she left all that her family's wealth offered her to live the Gospel as a follower of Francis of Assisi. Clare began a poor and simple contemplative form of life for women in an urban setting as a prayerful presence among the people. In the spirit of Saint Francis, they made themselves available to all who came to them seeking peace, prayer and consolation in their troubles.

Clare instilled in her sisters the desire to keep the eyes of their heart on Christ, poor, humble, and crucified, to earn their living by the work of their hands, and to live together in holy unity. To the three religious vows, the Poor Clare takes a fourth vow of enclosure to secure their contemplative charism. Saint Clare strove all her life to make possible for women our poor and simple Gospel life of prayer and love of one another. Hers was the first religious Rule written by a woman, for women, approved by the Church.

In 1875, two daughters of St. Clare, Sisters Mary Magdalen and Mary Constance Bentivoglio, were sent from Rome by Pius IX and the Minister General of the Franciscan Order, Bernardino of Portoguardo, to establish the First Rule of St. Clare of the Strict Observance in the United States. Our Boston foundation was planned by Mother Magdalen, and approved by Bishop John O'Connell, before her death in 1905. Sisters arrived in Boston in 1906, and our community has since made five new foundations.

St. Clare once heard the voice of Jesus saying: *"I will always take care of you."* Although we do all we humanly can to earn our living, we trust in God's loving providence, which has never failed us through the kindness of so many people. We thank you and bless you all in the words of Saint Clare: *"May almighty God bless you. May he look upon you with the eyes of his mercy and give you his peace. May he pour forth his graces on you, abundantly, and in heaven may he place you among his saints."*



*“Look at Christ,
meditate on Christ,
desire to be like Him”
Saint Clare of Assisi*



*Our apostolate is the praise of God
and prayer for the world we love*

*We strive to witness to the love of
God through sisterly love and unity*



*As Franciscans we work gratefully
trusting in Divine Providence*

*Our contemplative life opens us to the
mystery of Christ in all creation*

