



Francis and Clare: Faithful Friends, Simple Saints

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STS. FRANCIS & CLARE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

www.christianhistory.net

This website is an invaluable resource for those interested in just about any figure or era of Church history. Though not a Catholic production (it's Protestant), it is ecumenical in its approach to Church history. This site includes wonderful pictures, maps, timelines and "side-bar" stories of each topic covered. Magazine issue #42 is wholly dedicated to the life and times of St. Francis of Assisi, and all articles from within this printed version are accessible in the online format available at:

<https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/issue/st-francis-of-assisi/>

St. Clare: A Short Biography Joan Mueller O.S.C. © 2013

This introductory portrait of St. Clare highlights the relevance of this pivotal saint to our lives here and now, by focusing on her theology of joyous poverty in imitation of Christ. This is a brief book, but complete in retelling Clare's story as one who rejects privilege and pleasure in favor of an austere lifestyle dedicated to the Franciscan ideals of Gospel poverty and prayer.

The Lessons of St. Francis: How to Bring Simplicity and Spirituality into Your Daily Life John Michael Talbot with Steve Rabey © 1997

A terrific read – especially during Advent or Lent – as a spiritual "tune-up." Talbot, a singer and contemporary American follower of Francis, encourages readers with meaningful insights into the Franciscan tradition. Well-suited for small faith-sharing groups (it is comprised of several short chapters for easy digestion and contemplation), this book is packed with inspirational quotes and lessons for daily living.

Mystics & Miracles: True Stories of Lives Touched by God Bert Ghezzi © 2002

As the title implies, this book looks at several saints in the Catholic tradition who have experienced God directly through mystical experiences. Among the vignettes offered are terrific miracle-stories about both St. Francis and St. Clare.

St. Francis of Assisi: A Biography Omer Englebort © 1965

An accessible portrait of St. Francis, this is considered one of the best biographies about the "Little Friar." The author, a Catholic priest, writes as a historian, but without ever losing the spirituality that marked Francis' life. There is a chapter on St. Clare as well.

ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
c. 1182	Francis is born [originally named Giovanni but re-named Francesco – meaning, “little Frenchman,” by his father, Pietro Bernadone]
1204	After fighting against the Perugians, Francis is imprisoned and becomes ill
1205	After leaving on a Crusade, Francis has a dream that compels him to return to Assisi; he returns to much ridicule as he regularly seeks solitude in caves and abandoned churches and seeks out the poor and sick to assist
1205	Two miraculous encounters: Francis kisses the leper, and he hears God’s voice through the cross in the chapel of San Damiano asking him to “rebuild the Church”
1206	Francis publicly renounces his inheritance in front of his father and the bishop of Assisi
1209	Francis travels to Rome to seek papal permission to found a new religious order – the Friars Minor – and receives it from Pope Innocent III
1211	Francis makes his first journey to the Holy Lands in an unsuccessful attempt to convert Muslims
1212	Clare begins the Second Order of St. Francis, which will come to be known as the Poor Clares
1213	Francis receives the gift of Mount La Verna as a retreat place for his order
1219	Francis meets with Sultan Melek-el-Kamel in the Holy Lands in a second unsuccessful bid to convert Muslims to Christianity; the journey results in illness and weakness
1221	Francis writes a formal rule for his order, and creates a Third Order for lay people to follow
1223	Francis reproduces the Nativity crèche in Greccio
1224	While on retreat at La Verna, Francis receives the stigmata
1225	Francis composes the <i>“Canticle of the Sun”</i>
1226	Francis dies on October 3
1228	Francis is canonized by Pope Gregory IX

ST. CLARE of ASSISI TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
1194	Clare is born
1211	At 17, Clare hears Francis preach for the first time in the church of San Giorgio in Assisi. Inspired by his words, she asked Francis to help her to dedicate her life to God, and he vowed to do so
1212	Clare pointedly refuses her parents' arranged marriage for her. Clare leaves home on Palm Sunday, Francis cuts her hair, and she takes the veil of a nun.
1213	Following Francis' example of embracing Gospel poverty, Clare begins the Second Order of St. Francis, which will come to be known as the Poor Clares
1215	Clare is made abbess at San Damiano convent
1219	Based on the Benedictine order, a rule is drawn up that will govern the newly formed Order of Poor Ladies [Poor Clares]
1226	St. Clare is with St. Francis when he dies
1228	Pope Gregory IX visits Assisi and seeks to diminish the order's vow of strict poverty; Clare asks to retain strict poverty and Gregory eventually grants her wish
1234	Clare uses the Blessed Sacrament to thwart the army of Frederick II who was preparing to assault Assisi
1252	Clare has miraculous vision of midnight Christmas Mass
1253	Clare dies
1255	Clare is canonized by Pope Alexander IV
1850	St. Clare's tomb is discovered; an original copy of her rule is found in her mantle when Clare's coffin is opened
1872	St. Clare's bones are transferred to the shrine in the crypt of Santa Chiara
1958	Pope Pius XII declares St. Clare the patron saint of television