

Saint Colletta of Corbie

1381-1447

Coletta of Corbie is the founder of the Order of Colettian Poor Clares. Daughter of the carpenter of the nearby Benedictine abbey, she was a Beghard, then a Benedictine nun, then a Poor Clare.

Disillusioned by the laxness she found among the Poor Clares, she received permission from Pope Benedict XIII (an Avignon Pope) to reform the monasteries of the Order and to found new ones in order to bring them back to the ancient observance of the rule that their Foundress, Saint Clare of Assisi, had wanted. The devil tormented her continuously, appearing to her in the likeness of a black, terrifying lion or of a loathsome man. At other times, however, he assumed

the form of horrible animals, dragons, serpents, spiders, and worms which invaded her cell and which she cast out with a crucifix and holy water. One day, while confessing to Father Pierre de Vaux, she implored the Lord to let the priest, too, see the devil as he had appeared to her in the form of a lion. Her prayers were answered and, for a moment, Fr. Pierre was able to witness the horrible vision. At the sight, he fainted.

