

Saint Clare of Assisi

1193-1253

Saint Clare was born at Assisi in 1193 of the noble Offreducci family. At the age of 10, she is present when Francis gives all his clothes back to his father Bernardone. Seven years later she too decides to follow his example to abandon everything to dedicate herself wholly to God.

After becoming a religious, Saint Clare established herself at the Convent of San Damiano in Assisi, where she becomes the abbess. Here she founds the feminine Order of the “poor recluses” (later on called the Poor Clares). It is here that Francis will dictate the first Rule. Subsequently, Saint Clare writes the definitive Rule, asking

freed from five demons, thanks to Clare’s intercession, While being cast out, the demons, in fact, confessed that Saint Clare’s prayers were burning them and forcing them to flee this possessed person. Not without reason did Pope Gregory IX have an extraordinary confidence in the prayers of this Saint, having already experienced the



for and obtaining from Pope Gregory IX the “privilege of poverty.” Because one Christmas night, she contemplated on the walls of her cell the crèche and the solemn ceremonies taking place at Saint Maria of the Angels, she was chosen by Pope Pius XII as the patroness of television. As heir to the Franciscan spirit, she is concerned with spreading this spirit everywhere, distinguishing herself by her devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament, which saves her convent from the Saracens in 1243.

In *The History of St. Clare, Virgin* we read of the time in which, by dint of her prayers, she succeeds in freeing a woman from the demons:

“A devout woman of the Pisa Diocese once went to the monastery to thank God and Saint Clare for having been

power of Clare’s prayers. Often, whenever new problems arose, as they usually do, Pope Gregory IX, while he was still Bishop of Ostia and after he was elected Pope Gregory IX, would humbly write to her and ask for her prayers, and subsequently he would experience the power of her prayer. This act of humility is truly worthy of imitation: the Vicar of Christ begs for the help of the Servant of Christ and recommends himself to her virtue! Of course, he knew what love can do and how easy it is for virgins to have access to the Divine Majesty. If, in fact, the King of kings gives Himself to those who ardently love Him, what – if it is appropriate – could He possibly refuse those who pray to Him with devotion?”