

St. Clare

Clare was a young, wealthy woman who lived in Assisi, Italy. She knew of the man everyone called Francis, the poor man of Assisi. She knew he had once been rich also, and had nice clothing and much fun with his friends. Now he owned nothing, wore rough clothing, and found all his joy because of God. Clare's aunt took her to hear Francis speak. And through Francis, God spoke to Clare, too. She too gave up all her parties, pretty clothes, and money. She too began to live in poverty and to love Jesus. Many people began to see her holiness and to understand how deeply she loved Jesus. Soon other women joined her, and Clare was their leader. They were called "The Poor Ladies." That was a long time ago. But even today, there are nuns who follow St. Clare's example, and they are called "The Poor Clares" in her honor.