

St Clare of Assisi

One day, when she was twelve, Clare heard Saint Francis preaching. Francis stood in the middle of the town square and said loudly: "Do as I do: live in poverty! Serve Jesus in your brother! Serve him in the poor and the hungry. He needs you!" Clare was very interested and she went home, wondering about what Francis had said.

That night she could not sleep. She tossed and turned in her bed asking herself, what could those words mean for her? What could she do? Clare already loved the Lord and served Jesus in the poor and sick every day. Clare made a decision to go and talk to Francis. After several years, she decided to live like Francis; poor and humble.

When Clare was nineteen, she left home, cut off her hair and asked to join St Francis' order. Over time, other women joined Clare, they lived together in a convent and their community grew.