

# THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," (Mk 10:14)

## A Season of Saints!

It was the preaching of a young man named Francis during Lent of 1212 in Assisi, Italy that gave the eighteen-year-old Clare the courage to follow her vocation in life. Clare saw that Francis had truly followed the invitation of Jesus to the rich young man in the Gospel when He said: "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow Me." (Matthew 18:21) At first the people of Assisi thought Francis was crazy for radically following what Jesus said but over time they began to admire him, calling Francis *Poverello*, "the poor little one." Many of the young people in Assisi were attracted to his way of life and soon a band of young men had gathered around him. Clare too wanted to follow the way of Francis! Going against the wishes of her father who had made plans for his beautiful daughter to marry a rich nobleman, Clare, along with a relative who was her escort, snuck out of the palace where her wealthy family lived. When the brothers met Clare, they broke into song as they proceeded to the Chapel of Saint Mary of the Angels. There, Clare exchanged her rich clothing for simple clothing and a veil. After singing and praying, Francis cut off Clare's long, beautiful hair as a symbol of her commitment to her new way of life. Clare's father was enraged when he discovered that Clare had become a nun! He tried to bring her back home. "You have given your allegiance to that young troublemaker, Francis, rather than obeying me, your father!" he yelled. "No, Father," answered Clare calmly. "I have given my allegiance to Jesus alone. Francis only showed me the way." At one point her father tried to take Clare back home by force but Clare grabbed hold of the altar and would not let go! *Saint Clare of Assisi, pray for us!*

Mrs. Prather

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"We are kids telling kids about Jesus!"



## Saint Clare of Assisi

Clare would need that holy stubbornness on many occasions throughout her life. Her bishop and even the pope tried to force the religious order she co-founded with Saint Francis, the *Order of the Poor Ladies* (now known as the *Poor Clares*) to hold property rather than remain poor. Clare insisted on following the path of total poverty set by Francis.

Another time, raiders were preparing to attack the monastery of San Damiano, home to Clare and her sisters. Clare, who was ill at the time, rose from her bed and went to the Chapel, took Jesus in the Holy Eucharist from the tabernacle, and then went to a window where the invaders had already placed a ladder. She stood, holding the Blessed Sacrament up high! The invaders coming up the ladder fell back, dazzled! Then they fled, leaving the nuns in peace.