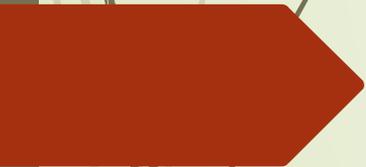


# The Franciscan Journey

## Chapter 3

By Lester Bach OFM Cap



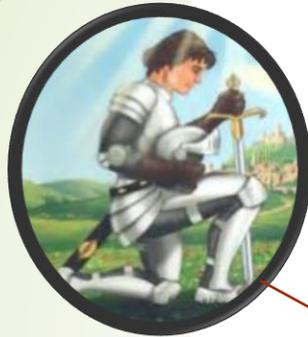
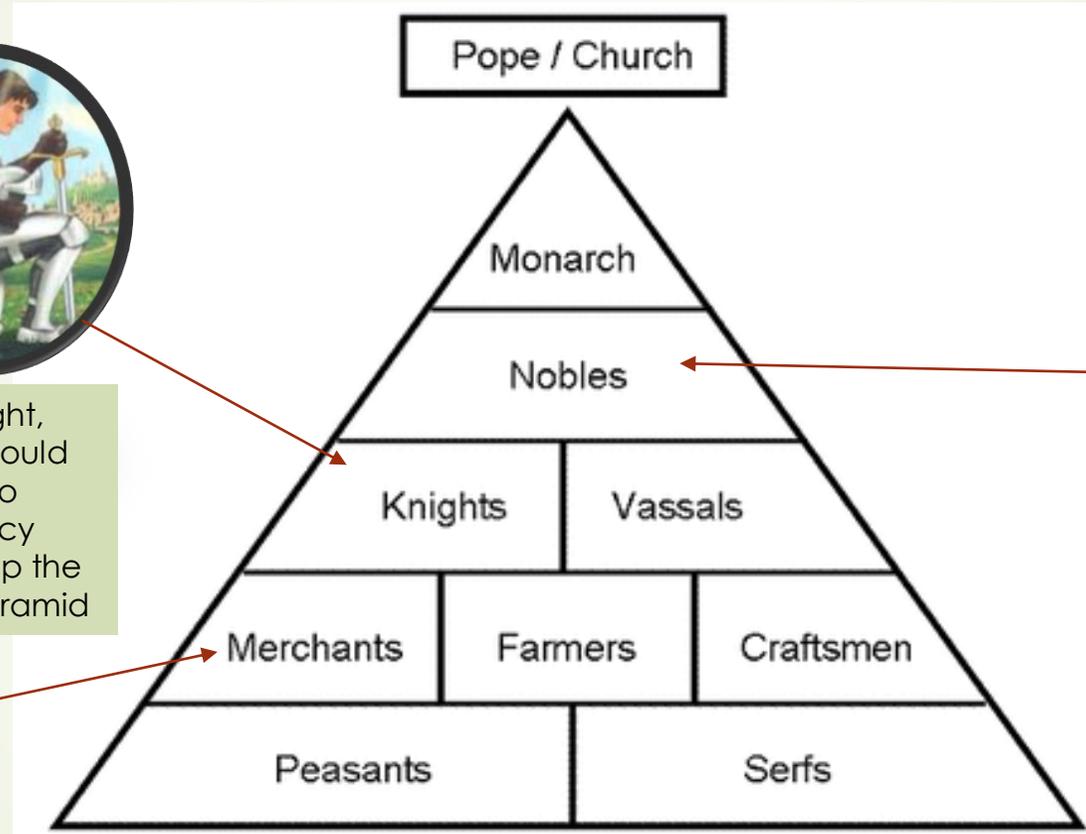
*Francis*

*Clare*

*Catholic Doctrine*



# Social Class in the Middle Ages



As a Knight, Francis could marry into aristocracy - move up the social pyramid



Chiara Offreduccio  
St. Clare born into nobility



Pietro Bernadone and Pica de Bourlemont, merchant class parents of Francis



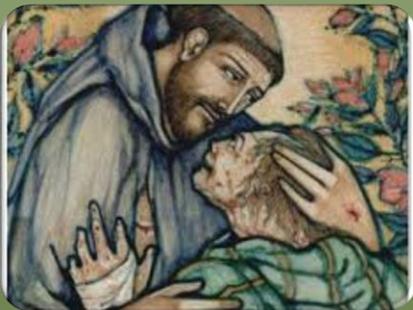
## Opportunity for Knighthood - joins Crusades

- Taken Prisoner – becomes sickly
- Francis time in prison made him more reflective
- Father pays ransom for him after 1 year
- Returns home to recuperates under care of mother Pica



## Joins Crusades a 2<sup>nd</sup> time - at urging of father

- Francis heard a voice telling him to *go back and do what the Lord tells him to do.*
- Francis sold his horse, clothes and went home
- Conflict with his father who thought that Francis had lost his senses and brings him before the Bishop
- Francis leaves his home and returns all material goods to his father.



## Francis met the Leper – changed his heart

- When I was in sin, it was too bitter for me to see the leper, but when he showed mercy to them, what once seemed bitter was turned into sweetness of soul and body.
- Lady Poverty – Symbol of Love for Jesus - Material goods, things do not bring happiness or peace
- Sister Death - Francis dies naked and poor, just as he was born – possessing nothing



Clare of Assisi - Father Favrone di Offreduccio, a nobleman, Mother, Ortolana was a devote Catholic

When war broke out Clare's family had to flee to Perugia but returned years later  
Men in her family – knights or military men, home echoed with clanging armor and swords  
She was expected to marry and bring new life to the family



Clare dedicated to relationships and had special concern for the poor

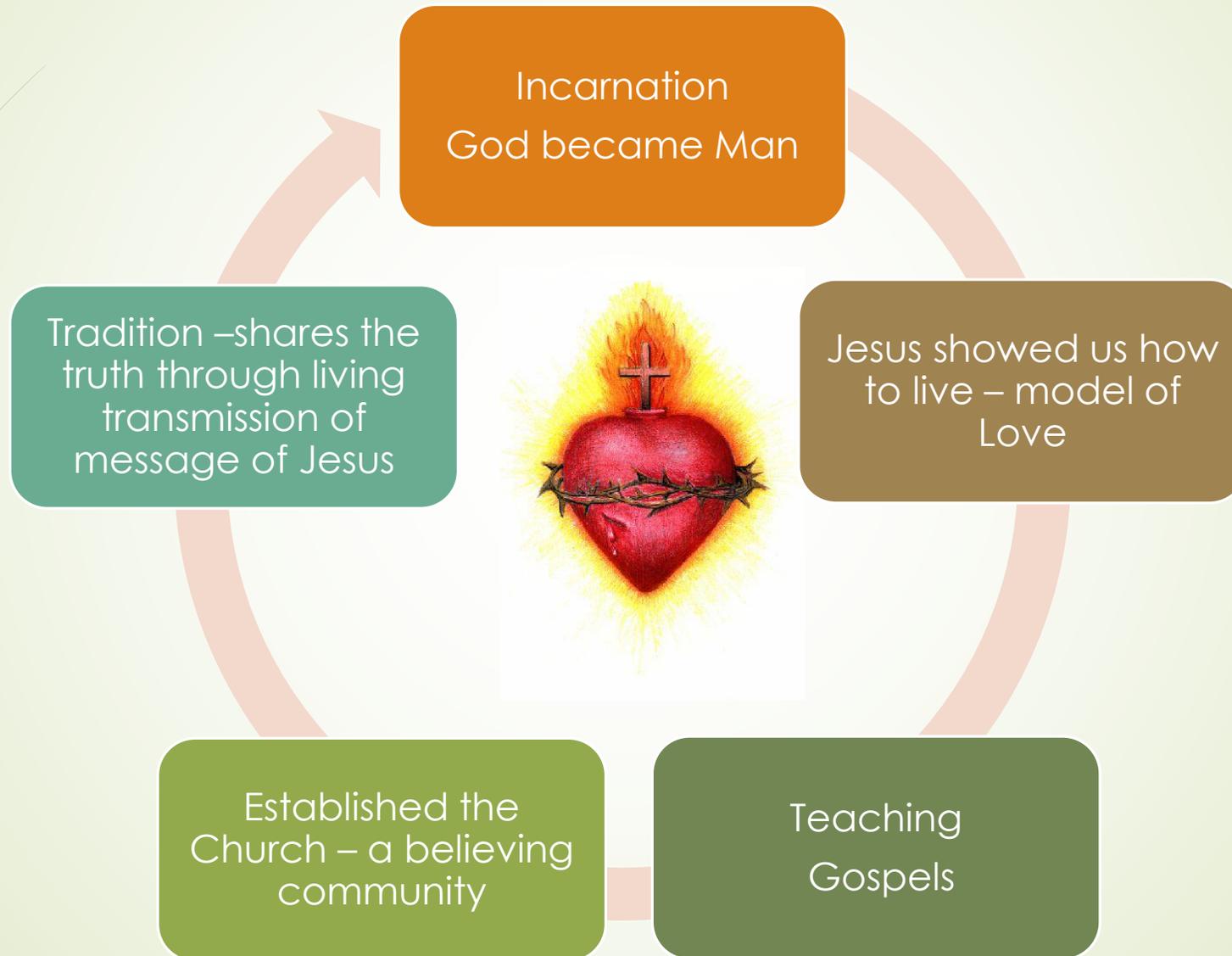
- She and her sisters – Catherine (Agnes) and Beatrice were recognized for generosity and concern for poor
- Saw Francis renounce his goods before the Bishop of Assisi
- She wanted to meet Francis and a meeting with him was arranged by a friend



Francis dream became Clare's dream

- Clare received the rough habit of the friar from Francis
- Lived in San Damiano, the Poor Clares began
- Lived contemplation and service – her dedication was a source of support for Francis

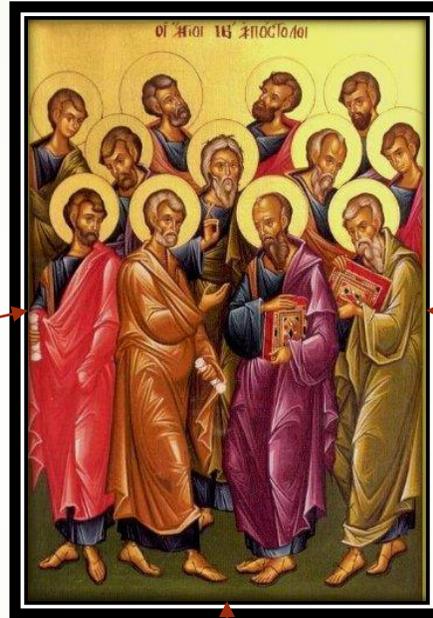
# Catholic Doctrine



# Church – Believing Community



Magisterium –  
Authority  
Bishops of the  
world & Pope



Sacred Scripture  
Inspired by God  
& Word of God

Tradition – living transmission  
of the message of Jesus

Jesus revealed how to live “I am the truth, the way and the life”.

# Essential Element of Catholic Faith - Eucharistic Spirituality



Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist

*Beloved, let us love on another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ... Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.*

*1 John 4:7-8, 11*

