The Franciscan Journey
Chapter 3

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Francis
Clare
Catholic Doctrine

Together, they changed the world
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
- Francs 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\textsuperscript{nd} 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 devout 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 the 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’s 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

- **Incarnation**: God became Man

- **Tradition**: shares the truth through living transmission of message of Jesus

- **Jesus showed us how to live**: model of Love

- **Established the Church**: a believing community

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

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
Essential Element of Catholic Faith - Eucharistic Spirituality

Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist
Beloved, let us love one 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