

Feast of St Clare

11 August

“Climbing on the wall of that Church, [Francis] cried aloud in the French language to some poor people who were standing nearby: ‘Come and help me in this work of the monastery of Saint Damian, because soon there will be ladies here who by the fame of their lives and their holiness will give glory to our heavenly father throughout his entire holy Church.’” (TestCl 12-14)



St Clare can be seen as a model for people in contemporary society and not merely a personality referred to as a backdrop of medieval scenery. She is alive in every age and always speaks the language of the present.

A group of St Clare’s College senior students gathered together recently to explore the question: Clare Favarone - Clare of Assisi, the woman at Francis’ side – who is she for you?

The outcomes of a highly interactive discussion produced some interesting insights and food for thought!

- We are proud to be ‘related’ to Clare: 5 or 6 years immersed in the Franciscan atmosphere at St Clare’s makes us feel that Clare is like a big sister to us. Like all big sisters, she influences us and we feel the impact of her values and attitudes in our lives but in a different context.
- Her name, Clare means light, a bright, shining light. We are challenged to be like little matches striking up the light of Gospel values in a world which has hidden such values in the dark.
- Clare’s story is amazing: as young adolescent women living in the C21st, we are like St Clare. We are to be role models in today’s materialistic world and to lead by our own personal example in being counter cultural. How can we be unique like Clare in this?

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- We believe that Clare identifies with the environmental issues of today and especially global warming. She was most particular in her use of all things of creation and like St Francis has an incredible respect for all of God's creation. Everyone knows stories about St Francis and his love for all creation. People would be surprised at St Clare if they knew more about her.
- As a female, she challenged the status quo of the day. Clare embodied the ideal of loving God

because she was confident knowing that being loved by God gave her the drive to stand up to the men in her family who wanted to control her for their own advantage in becoming richer land owners.

- It's like living in her shadow because her message and actions relate to everyone. It follows us wherever we are. It means that different aspects of St Clare's life are visible in all the girls and it can be seen in the way we care for and relate to each other. We don't have to be talking about St Clare all the time because 'actions speak louder than words'.

Although Clare lived in the 13th Century, she is a woman for today. She teaches us about leadership. Some of her beliefs and values are still quoted but in 21st Century language. For example, Clare said: 'Wisdom comes from the group'. Leadership training tells us to collaborative. She said: 'Praise God by your life'. Leadership training tells us to be the best we can be. Clare said: 'With swift pace, light step and unswerving feet so that even your steps stir no dust'. Society tells us to be mindful of the footprint we leave on the earth.

God of Mercy, You inspired Saint Clare with the love of poverty. By the help of her prayers, may we follow Christ in poverty of spirit and come to the joyful vision of your glory in the kingdom of heaven. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

HAPPY FEAST DAY!

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