



History of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare of Assisi

Intermediate level.

Goal: This module invites you
to become familiar with Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi
through the DVD:

Clare and Francis: Together they changed the world.

This two parts program (total of 200 min) is available at MSF Franciscan Library.
A group may choose to view just a few scenes depending on the time.

Languages: English and Italian; subtitles in Spanish

Suggestion:

view the DVD in two separate 1½ hour gatherings.

Opening prayer:

O God, you have given us minds to know you and hearts to love you.
Strengthen us to walk in the ways of Jesus. Amen
(Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise)

Introduction to Part I scenes:

Tumult in Assisi, War and Prison, Clare Visits Prison, Francis rescued from Prison, Joining the Crusades, Hearing the Lord's Call, Encountering the Lepers, Praying at San Damiano, Francis is Chained by his Father, Returns Clothes to his Father, Loving lady Poverty Friends Join Francis, Clare Visits Francis

View Part I

Discussion starters:

What touched you about this story?
Share the struggle of the both sets of parents in accepting their child's way of life.
What are some of the characteristics of Franciscan spirituality?
St Francis is a saint for all people. Why is that true?

Closing prayer:

God of mystery, your love for us is beyond measure. Teach us to return love for love. We pray in the name of Jesus. (Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise p 767)

Part II

Opening Prayer:

O God, give us hearts of flesh that we may see what you see, hear what you hear, and serve your people with compassion and love. We ask this through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen
(Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise p. 772)

Introduction to Part II scenes:

Accused as Heretics, Off to see the Pope, Pope approves the Order, Clare Follows Francis, Clare joins the sisters, Francis befriends the wolf, Travels to the Crusades, Preaches Christ to the Sultan, Creates the First Live Nativity Scene, Returns to changes in the Order, The Rule and the Stigmata, Canticle of the Sun and the Death of St. Francis.

View Part II

Discussion starters:

What touched you about this story?

In what ways did the church of Francis' time need rebuilding?

Francis is shown embracing a leper and being embraced by a leper. Who are the lepers of our time and how might we embrace them? And invite us to be embraced by them?

Both Francis and Clare embraced "Gospel Poverty." In what ways can we choose "poverty" in our own lives?

What do you take from the DVD *Clare and Francis* ?

Closing prayer:

Most high, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity...that I may carry out Your holy and true command. (Prayer before the Crucifix)

