

# Formation

## Postulant:



After a process of discernment with the Community, a candidate is admitted as a **Postulant** for one year.

## Novice:

Upon completing her year of postulancy, a Postulant receives the habit and begins her two-year program as a **Novice**.



## Temporary/First Professed:



After completing the two-year Novitiate program, the sister will be admitted to **Temporary/First Profession of Vows** for a period of three to six years.

## Final/Solemnly Professed:

After the completion of Temporary/First Profession of Vows, the sister makes her **Final/Solemn Profession of Vows**, permanently committing herself to the vowed life as a member of the Order of St. Clare in our Community.



## Come and See

We welcome inquiries from women 22-50 who may feel called to this way of life.

Father, you called St. Clare to follow in the footsteps of the Virgin Mary and to become a mother to the Mystical Body of Christ. You gave her a strong love for the Church and for all her brothers and sisters. In her last words she blessed you, Lord, for having created her. Like her, I ask for the grace to comprehend what a precious gift life is. May she intercede for all Your children to be zealous in our labor and in the joy of being together. Through her powerful intercession, grant me the favors I beg in this novena (mention intention), but above all the grace to live and die as she did, in Your most holy love. Bring me one day to eternal life where I may praise and sing forever of Your mercies. I make this prayer in the name of Jesus Your Son. Amen.



## Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare

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# Poor Clare Sisters Of Cincinnati, Ohio USA

## Is God Calling You to be a Poor Clare?



*"Among all the gifts which we have received. . . from the Father of Compassion. . . our vocation is a great gift."  
-Testament of St. Clare*

## Our History and Charism

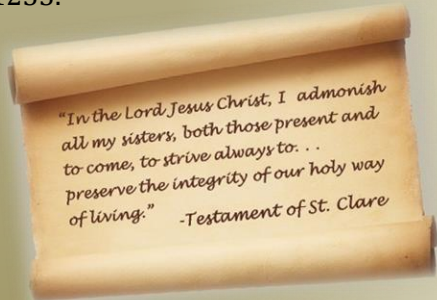
### St. Clare of Assisi:



On Palm Sunday, March 18, 1212, the young noblewoman, Clare di Offrenduccio, left her ancestral home to join Francis and his group of brothers. She became the first woman of the Franciscan Order.

While she embraced the same radical poverty of the first brothers, Clare lived within the confines of the little monastery of San Damiano. The cloister of San Damiano was always open to the needy and the sick who came for comfort and healing.

The way of life which Clare embraced quickly caught fire, and she was joined by many other ladies from Assisi and the surrounding areas. The sisters at San Damiano spent their life in prayer and in community life. Clare was the first woman to write and receive Papal approval of a religious Rule. The approval came just two days before her death in 1253.



### The First Poor Clare in the US:



In 1875, Mother Magdalene Bentivoglio was sent by Pope Pius IX from her community in San Lorenzo-in-Panisperna, Rome, to the United States to found a Poor Clare Monastery. The first Monastery was established in Omaha.

## The Poor Clare Sisters in Cincinnati



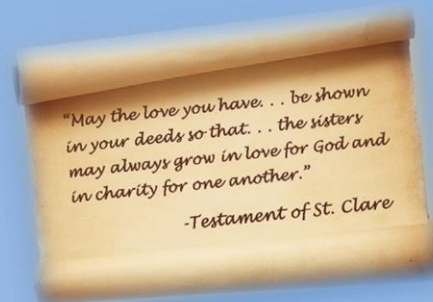
On June 24, 1990, Sr. Doris Gerke from the monastery in Huehuetenango, Guatemala; Sr. Dianne Short from the monastery in the Bronx, NY; and Sr. Anna Marie Covely from the monastery in Langhorne, PA, moved to St. Vivian's Parish Convent in Cincinnati. The Duncan, B.C. monastery became the sponsoring monastery for our Poor Clare foundation.

On January 2, 1991, Rome approved the establishment of our foundation in Cincinnati.

The ground-breaking for our current monastery building was held in September of 1996, and we moved into the monastery on March 4, 1998. Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk presided at the Dedication Mass on March 19, 1998.

## Our Community Life

Coming together in community helps us to en flesh the Gospel - caring, supporting and encouraging one another, learning to accept each other as sisters, adjusting to the differences of personalities, and appreciating the uniqueness of each one of us.



"Let them devote themselves... to pray always to Him with a pure heart."  
-Rule of St. Clare

## Our Life of Prayer

The heart of the life of the Poor Clare Nun is prayer. Our life is dedicated to prayer as we seek to grow in our relationship with God and to intercede for the needs of the world. We come together to celebrate the Eucharist and to pray the Liturgy of the Hours throughout the day. We also provide for times of quiet prayer and study in solitude each day. An atmosphere of respectful silence is maintained within the monastery so that we may be attentive to the working of the Spirit within us.



## Our Work

We seek to provide for our material needs through spiritual direction/companioning, directed retreats, clerical work, sewing, providing meeting room and retreat space, and sale of cards and crafts. As daughters of Clare and Francis, we also rely on the providence of God coming to us through generous friends and benefactors to meet the needs we cannot supply by our own labor.