

St. Clare (Sample Lesson Plan)

August 11th is the Feast Day of Saint Clare and that may be a good topic for ongoing formation at a monthly Fraternity Gathering/Meeting.

Material was taken from the *FUN Manual* on St. Clare of Assisi by Francine Gikow, O.F.S. (it is near the end of the manual). You will also find one of the Digests (there are 9 digests) *Saint Clare of Assisi: A Mother And Model For All Franciscans* by Deacon David D. Ream, O.F.S. a good resource.

Some notes about the *FUN Manual* are: on page 9 of 24, the second paragraph under *Francis' Formula Vitae*: the pope was **Pope Honorius III** NOT II and on page 8 of 24, when talking about Agnes of Prague, this isn't Clare's biological sister, even though her biological sister's name is Agnes.

Some other topics that you may or may not want to discuss or keep for another time are: Clare's method of *Lectio Divina*, page 14 of 24 and Significant events in Clare's life, pages 21 and 22 of 24. You may want to copy the pages of events and hand out to the Fraternity members.

So, having said all of that, now you can understand why it is suggested that our Gathering should be at least 2 to 3 hours in length. This would include about 10 to 15 minutes of business, Formation for 1 to 2 hours and then the social part which may be good to be in the middle of the Formation Session and of course there needs to be Prayer.

Now, concerning the topic of Clare, read the *FUN Manual* session on St. Clare of Assisi and it is suggested to also read the Digest on Clare. Make notes of anything that strikes you, ideas that you find interesting, some things that you didn't know and facts that you think are important. Reflect upon your own experiences with the Poor Clares.

Draw up an outline of how you hope the Formation Session will unfold in your Fraternity. Just a reminder, there are NO OBSTACLES, only opportunities to BE CREATIVE!

Don't feel that silence is terrible. The introverts in the Fraternity need some time to think before answering. Give a lot of positive reinforcement when people do share their observations. Remember, we are trying to be good servant leaders and our *Rule of Life*, article #21 states, "each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister." The wonderful fact is that when working with a Formation Team, the responsibility rests upon others and not just on the Formation Director. Formation MUST be covered, but the Formation Director DOESN'T have to do everything!

When it is time to facilitate the discussion on Clare, you may want to begin by asking your brothers and sisters the following questions:

1. What do you know about St. Clare?
2. What do you find remarkable about St. Clare?
3. What impact does St. Clare have on your life?
4. What was the relationship between St. Clare and St. Francis?
5. What did the Eucharist mean to St. Clare?
6. How did St. Clare view poverty? Why was it so important to her?

You can see how this part can easily take between 1 to 2 hours.

When it is time to end the Gathering with prayer, you may decide to end with the *Blessing Attributed to St. Clare*, page 20 of 24 in the *FUN Manual*. You could either pray it and the members listen, have someone else pray it, make copies of the page and everyone pray it, or anything else that you deem fitting.

