St. Agnes of Prague (Poor Lady)  
also known as Agnes of Bohemia  
[June 1211 – March 2, 1282]  
Feast Day: March 2

(not Clare’s biological sister)  

Agnes was born in 1203, daughter of Ottakar of Bohemia and Queen Constance of Hungary. At the age of three, she was betrothed to Boleslaus, son of the duke of Silesia. Boleslaus died young and Agnes was free. She was sought by Frederick II for his son and later, when widowed, for himself. Both proposals were rejected.

In 1225, Agnes came to know the Franciscan friars who preached in Prague. She learned from them of the Lady Clare and her life. In 1232, she erected a hospice and turned it over to the Crosiers of the Red Star. She also obtained land for a convent for the Poor Ladies of San Damiano as well as a residence for the friars who would serve the Poor Ladies. She was impressed by the spirituality of Francis and Clare. Clare’s First Letter to Agnes was written before Agnes entered the convent.

Clare wrote Four Letters to Agnes of Prague from 1234 – 1253.

Agnes wrote to Clare and the Holy See asking permission to establish the Poor Ladies of San Damiano in Prague. She requested some sisters from Italy to help with the establishment. In the spring of 1234, Agnes, seven other young women from wealthy families and five Poor Ladies from Italy entered the convent. She began corresponding with Clare whose spirit she followed. She remained in the monastery for 54 years and died on March 2, 1282.

One of the best ways to understand Clare’s spirituality is through her writings, especially in her letters to Agnes of Prague. [St. Clare of Assisi – 3-23-2011, page 13 of 24, FUN Manual]

Clare also knows that the way to God is through the Crucified. She gave this advice to Agnes of Prague, Gaze upon Him, Consider Him, Contemplate Him, as you desire to Imitate Him. [The Rule of the O.F.S. – 3-23-2011, page 21 of 46, FUN Manual]

Agnes died in Prague on March 2, 1282. She was canonized a Pope John Paul II [now Pope St. John Paul II] in 1989. March 2 is St. Agnes of Prague’s Feast Day.

[Compiled by Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Revised July 2017]