Early Followers of Francis and Clare

This list highlights some of the early followers of Francis and Clare who lived mostly within the first one hundred years of the Franciscan Movement. It reflects many different sources, not all of which agree with one another! If some of the accounts were not in agreement with specific dates, the compilers did their best to reflect accurate information.

Clare’s group was known as the Poor Ladies of San Damiano, Damianites or the Poor Ladies of Assisi [known today as the Order of St. Clare or Poor Clares (O.S.C. or P.C.; Second Order); the Third Order of St. Francis (T.O.S.F.; Third Order Secular) is known today as the Secular Franciscan Order (O.F.S., Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis)].

St. Agnes of Assisi (Poor Lady) [1197/1198 – November 16, 1253] (Clare’s blood sister!)
- 1212 Clare’s sister Catherine (Francis later names her Agnes) joins Clare
- 1219 Sent as Abbess to Monticello near Florence
- 1253 Returns to San Damiano after 34 years away; dies three months after Clare
- 1753 Canonized by Pope Benedict XIV

St. Agnes of Bohemia/Prague (Poor Lady) [June 1211 – March 2, 1282]  
(not Clare’s blood sister!)
- 1234 Lady Agnes, daughter of the king of Bohemia, founds a monastery of Poor Ladies in Prague, and takes the veil there; Clare writes her First Letter to Agnes of Prague
- 1235 Clare writes Second Letter to Agnes of Prague
- 1238 Clare writes Third Letter to Agnes of Prague
- 1253 Clare writes Fourth Letter to Agnes of Prague
- 1989 (November 12) Canonized by Pope John Paul II (now Pope St. John Paul II)

St. Angela of Foligno (O.F.S.) [1248 – January 4, 1309]
- 2013 (October 9) Canonized by Pope Francis

St. Anthony of Padua (O.F.M.) [1191 – June 13, 1231]
- 1191 Born Ferdinand Bulhoes in Lisbon, Portugal
- 1220 Ordained a priest and joins the Friars Minor, taking the religious name of Anthony, after Saint Anthony of the Desert
- 1224 Receives Francis’ written permission to teach theology to the brothers
- 1229 Teaches theology to the friars in Padua
- 1231 (June 17) Buried at the Church of Mary, Holy Mother of God, in Padua
- 1232 (May 30) Canonized by Pope Gregory IX
- 1946 Named a Doctor of the Universal Church by Pope Pius XII with the title Doctor of the Gospel (the Evangelical Doctor)

[Compiled by Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Revised July 2017]
St. Bonaventure (O.F.M.) [1221 – July 15, 1274]

1221 (some sources say 1217) Born Giovanni di Fidanza in Bagnoregio
1228 – 1231 Cured by Francis
1243 Enters the Franciscan Order; becomes a Master of Theology
1257 – 1273 Serves as Minister General of the Order
1255 – 1267 Writes The Legends and Sermons about Saint Francis; Soul’s Journey Into God, 1259; The Major Legend of Saint Francis, 1260 – 1263
1260 Commissioned by the Chapter of Narbonne to write the Life of St. Francis
1273 Made Cardinal Bishop of Albano by Pope Gregory X
1274 Dies at the Second Council of Lyons which he helped orchestrate with Pope Gregory X
1482 (April 14) Canonized by Pope Sixtus IV
1588 Named a Doctor of the Universal Church under the title Seraphic Doctor

St. Conrad of Piacenza (O.F.S.) [1290 – February 19, 1351]

1625 (June 2) Canonized by Pope Urban VIII

St. Elizabeth of Hungary (O.F.S.) [1207 – November 17, 1231]

1235 (May 27) Canonized by Pope Gregory IX

St. Elizabeth of Portugal (O.F.S.) [1271 – July 4, 1336]

1625 (June 24) Canonized by Pope Urban VIII

Blessed John Duns Scotus (O.F.M.) [c. 1266 – November 8, 1308]

Perhaps the most influential point of his theology was his defense of the Immaculate Conception of Mary (i.e., that Mary herself was conceived without sin). Drawing on the work, Pope Pius IX solemnly defined the Immaculate Conception of Mary in 1854.

1993 (March 20) Beatified by Pope John Paul II (now Pope St. John Paul II); Scotus was nick named “Subtle Doctor” for his penetrating and subtle manner of thought

St. Louis IX (O.F.S.) [1214 – August 25, 1270] King of France

1297 (August 11) Canonized by Pope Boniface VIII

Blessed Luchesio (O.F.S.) [c. 1180 – April 28, 1260]

(wife was Buonadonna; they may have been the 1st Secular Franciscans)

1273 Beatified by Pope Pius VI

St. Margaret of Cortona (O.F.S.) [1247 – February 22, 1297]

1728 (May 16) Canonized by Pope Benedict XIII

Blessed Raymond Lull (O.F.S.) [c. 1236 – June 29, 1315]

1514 Beatified by Pope Leo X

St. Rose of Viterbo (O.F.S.) [c. 1233 – March 6, 1251]

1457 Canonized by Pope Callistus III

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