Clare’s Timeline

1193/1194  Chiara (Clare) di Favarone di Offreduccio [Lady Ortolana (Ortulana) her mother and Favarone her father] is the first born to a renowned family of nobility in Assisi

1203 – 1205  Offreduccios are in exile in Perugia along with families from the nobility at war with the Commune of Assisi

1210 – 1212  Clare hears Francis preach and meets with him secretly

1212  (March 18)  Palm Sunday, Clare receives her palm from Bishop Guido; she leaves her father’s house by way of the “death door” and receives the religious habit from the hands of Francis at The Portiuncula; Clare stays at the monastery of San Paolo delle Abbadesse in Bastia and then moves to Sant’ Angelo of Panzo (April 3 or 4); only 16 days after Clare’s departure from her home, her sister Catherine (Francis later names her Agnes in honor of the youthful virgin martyr of the early Church) joins Clare; in late April or early May, Clare and Agnes settle at San Damiano where Clare’s group is known as the Poor Ladies of San Damiano, Damianites or the Poor Ladies of Assisi [known today as the Poor Clares (Second Order)]

1215  Francis gives a “Form of Life” to Clare and her companions; Clare accepts the title and role as Abbess of San Damiano; Pope Innocent III grants the Privilege of Poverty for San Damiano Monastery

1219  Cardinal Hugolino imposes a Rule on Clare and her sisters based on the Rule of Benedict, but not including the Privilege of Poverty or ministry by the Friars Minor, Clare struggles with this; Agnes is sent as Abbess to Monticello (Monticelli; Montecelli) near Florence

1224  Marks the beginning of Clare’s illness which often confines her to bed

1225  Nearly blind and suffering possibly from tuberculoid leprosy, Francis returns to San Damiano, where Clare and her sisters care for him; Francis writes The Canticle of Exhortation for the Ladies of San Damiano

1226  Clare’s mother Ortolana enters San Damiano Monastery; end of September or beginning of October, Francis makes final recommendations to Clare and her sisters concerning their Rule of life

1227  Pope Gregory IX dispenses Clare from ideals of Poverty and removes Friars Minor as chaplains to the Poor Ladies

1228  (September 17)  Pope Gregory IX restores the Privilege of Poverty and ministry by Friars Minor to the Poor Ladies

1229  Clare’s sister Beatrice enters San Damiano Monastery

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 (not her blood sister)

[Compiled by Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Revised July 2017]
1235 Clare writes *Second Letter to Agnes of Prague*

1238 Clare writes *Third Letter to Agnes of Prague*

1240 (September) Attempted Saracen invasion of San Damiano Monastery is repelled by Clare and the Eucharist

1241 Miracle of the liberation of Assisi from Vitale d’Aversa via Clare and her sisters’ intercessory prayers

1247 – 1253 Clare writes her *Testament*

1247 The *Rule of Pope Innocent IV* lessens fasting and permits possessions to the Poor Ladies; Clare starts to write her own *Rule*

1250 Clare’s illness gets worse; a cat (a symbol of a contemplative life) retrieves yarn for her

1252 (September 16) Cardinal Raynaldus verbally approves Clare’s *Rule*; Clare experiences Christmas Midnight Mass, even though she is physically absent

1253 Clare writes *Fourth Letter to Agnes of Prague* and her *Blessing*; Agnes (Clare’s sister) returns to San Damiano after 34 years away; in April, Pope Innocent IV visits Clare at San Damiano and approves Clare’s *Rule* on August 9 by means of the Papal Bull *Solet Annuere*, the first papally approved *Rule* written by a woman in the history of the Church

+ 1253 (August 11) Clare dies and is buried in the Church of San Giorgio in Assisi, 27 years after Francis’ death; Agnes of Assisi (Clare’s sister) dies in November

1254 Cardinal Raynaldus becomes Pope Alexander IV

1255 (August 15) Clare is canonized by Pope Alexander IV

1257 Poor Ladies move from San Damiano to the Proto-Monastery in Assisi, taking the original San Damiano Crucifix with them

1260 Clare’s body is transferred to the Basilica of Santa Chiara in Assisi

1263 The Order of San Damiano takes the name of the Order of St. Clare, “Poor Clares”

1753 Agnes of Assisi is canonized by Pope Benedict XIV

1850 (August 30) Sarcophagus and remains of Clare are found

1872 (October 3) Clare’s body is placed in a crypt in the Basilica of Santa Chiara

1893 Original Papal Bull *Solet Annuere* containing Clare’s *Rule* is found in a fold of her mantle

1958 (February 17) Pope Pius XII declares Clare, because of her Christmas Eve vision in 1252, Patroness of all those involved in any way in the production of television

1989 (November 12) Agnes of Bohemia/Prague is canonized by Pope John Paul II (now Pope St. John Paul II)


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