



St. Clare, Relentless

The story:

St. Clare spent her life fighting not for wealth or power, but for the right to own nothing and to trust that God would provide all she and her sisters needed. When she died on August 11, 1253, Clare had left her sisters a gift - her *Rule* or 'Way of Life,' a shared vision for living the Gospel together. Her vision was to own nothing, to trust God for everything. This was profoundly countercultural, and many powerful voices had tried to change her mind. But Clare never gave in. With abiding respect and determination, she was relentless. Days before she died, the Pope himself approved her *Rule*.

Her *Rule*, the first written by a woman, ensured space for communal decision making and collaboration, regardless of each sister's previous wealth or social status. It embraced poverty, completely trusting in God to provide for her community. There was no holding wealth or property 'just in case.' It showed her bold belief in following Christ's footsteps through deep, Gospel poverty, inspired by St. Francis.

For Reflection:

- Clare's example shows the value of radical trust that freed her from the need to control or possess. *What areas of my life or ministry would benefit from such radical trust?*
- In a world that tells us to hold tighter, gather more, secure our lives with possessions and plans, Clare's life asks us: What are we as a ministry clinging to? What would happen if we let it go?



St. Clare at San Damiano, from the Mission San Luis Rey website