Outline

- Clare in our context: A Timeline
- Violence as Clare’s context
- Radical poverty as a response to violence
- Responses to violence in our world
Clare in Our Context: A Timeline

<table>
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<th>6 BCE–28 CE</th>
<th>1194–1253</th>
<th>1777</th>
<th>1851</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td>Jesus</td>
<td>Clare of Assisi</td>
<td>Mission Santa Clara founded by Jesuits</td>
<td>SCU founded by Jesuits</td>
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Radical Poverty

Jesus

Jesus

c.26 CE

17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Do not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’” 20 And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” 21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Mark 10:17-22

Radical Poverty

Jesus’ Followers

Jesus’ Followers

c.26 CE

7 He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. 8 He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; 9 but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. 10 He said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. 11 If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.”

Mark 6:7-11
The Mendicant (Begging) Orders

Roman Catholic religious orders who assume a corporate vow of poverty and support themselves by (work and) charitable contributions

Originally, these differed from monastic orders because they owned no property and thus had no means of production

Examples
- Carmelites (1155) – crusaders and pilgrims modeled lives on the prophet Elijah on Mt. Carmel in Palestine
- Franciscans (1210) – Assisi, in Umbria, Italy
- Dominicans (1216) – Spain/southern France
- Servites (1223) – founded by 7 cloth merchants in Florence
- Augustinians (1243) – Tuscany, Italy

Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone
Francis
1182/82-1226

Chiara Offreduccio
Clare
1194-1253

Francis of Assisi
Brief Bio
Homage of a simple man to Francis and the majores, in front of the Temple of Minerva in Assisi

Giotto, or painters in his style, 1297–1310

Francis, representing his father's cloth business, giving away his own cloak to a poor man (he began to give away a good deal of his father's merchandise, as well)

Giotto, or painters in his style, 1297–1310

Francis, praying to an image of the crucified Jesus in a dilapidated San Damiano Church, hears the figure speak to him, "Go and repair my house"

Giotto, or painters in his style, 1297–1310
Francis renouncing his inheritance (and his clothes), in order to “rebuild God’s house”

Giotto, or partners in his style, 1297–1310

Tavola (tablet) of St. Clare
Anonymous, 1283)

From bottom left, clockwise:
1. Clare receives an olive branch on Palm Sunday, 1211 (age 17)
2. Clare runs away from home to Portiuncula (now in Saint Maria of the Angels), where Francis and his brothers meet her
3. Francis clothes her in his simple habit
4. She clings to an altar to prevent her father from dragging her home
5. Clare’s sister Agnes resists her father, whose knights beat her and try to drag her home
6. The miracle of the loaves in the presence of Pope Gregory IX
7. Final moments of her life
8. Her death and funeral, celebrated by Pope Innocent IV (1253 CE)

Violence & Radical Poverty

• Form groups of 3-4 students
• Choose one person to write the group responses on a sheet of paper.
• Introduce yourselves to each other; write all the names on the top of the sheet.
• One one side of the room, respond to the question:
  1. List several specific examples of violence that Clare faced throughout her life.
• One the other side of the room, respond to the question:
  2. In what way was radical poverty an effective response to that violence? How did it undermine violence?
What violent episode was Clare facing at this moment, depicted in the statue on the Mission façade?

Clare of Assisi
The Praiseworthy Exchange

To her friend Agnes

Therefore, you have cast aside your garments, that is, earthly riches, so that instead of being overcome by the one fighting against you, you will be able to enter the kingdom of heaven through the straight path and the narrow gate.

What a great and praiseworthy exchange: to receive the hundred-fold in place of one, and to possess a blessed eternal life.

1LAg 29-30

How does her letter echo the gospel passages we began with?

Responses to Violence in Our World

What are some effective strategies you have used or seen used to counter violence?

If you can't think of any, consider strategies you've used or seen used against violence that haven't worked, and try to identify why they failed.