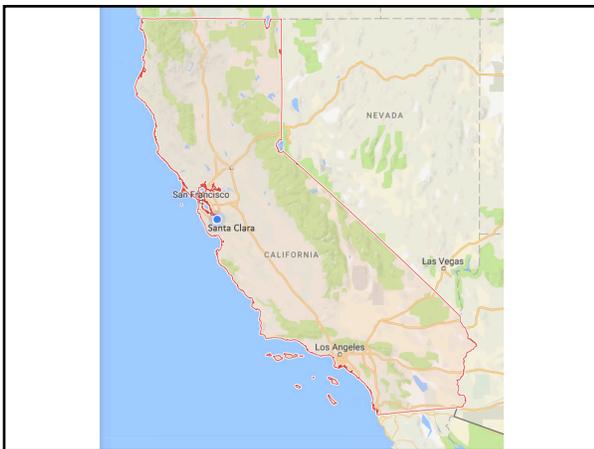


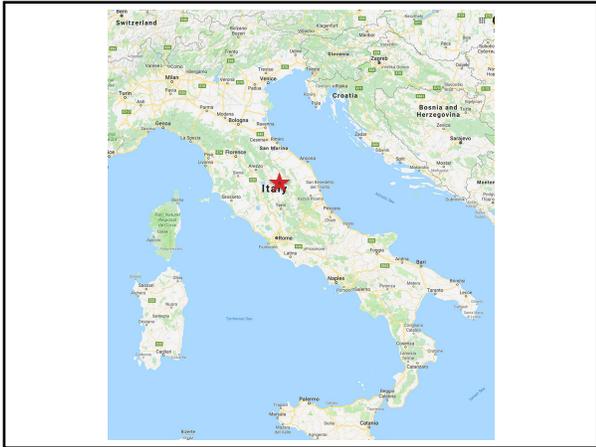
Class 1b
Life as a Sacred Text:
Clare of Assisi

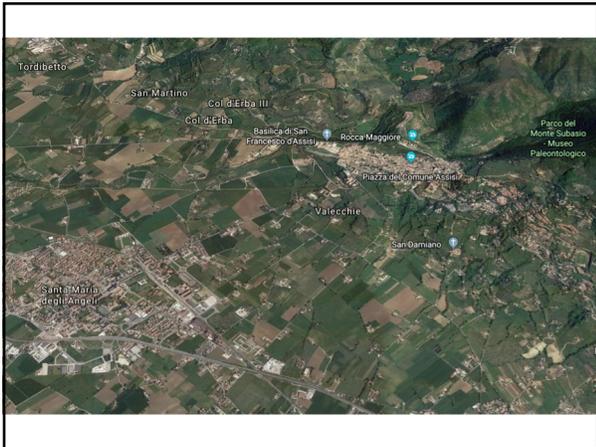


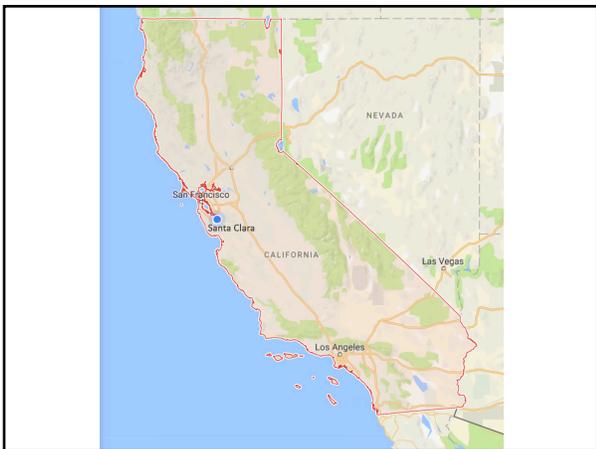
Outline

- Clare in our context
- Religion and contemplation
- Violence as Clare's context
- Radical poverty as a response to violence
- Responses to violence in our world









Clare and Our Context

6 BCE–28 CE 1194–1253 1777 1851 2017–2019

Jesus Clare of Assisi, friend of Francis, the founder of the Franciscans Mission Santa Clara founded by Franciscans SCU founded by Jesuits You enroll at SCU

Radical Poverty

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 other.'" 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

Quandary
Michael Belk, «Journeys with the Messiah»

Radical Poverty

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, "Wherever 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

Two Disciples on the Road
Providence Lithography Company, 1901

Jump Forward to the Middle Ages

The Crusades



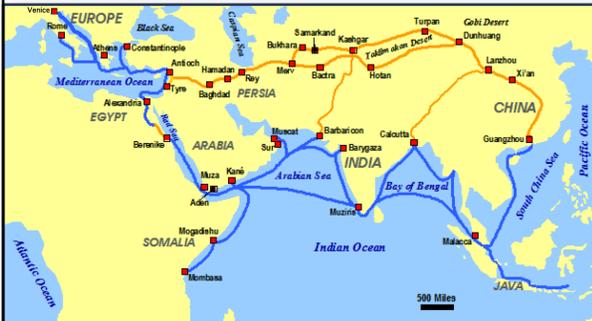
Gothic Cathedrals



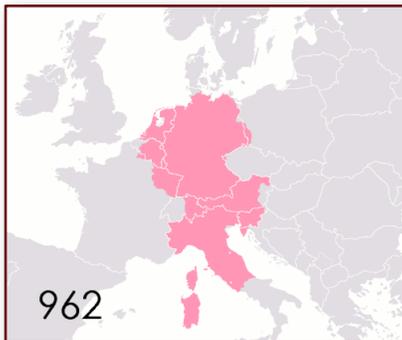
Urbanization



Global Trade



The Holy Roman Empire



The Holy Roman Empire c.1155-1268

Prague,
Kingdom
of
Bohemia

Assisi

The Mendicant (Begging) Orders

c.1150-1250 CE

- 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 (1233) – founded by 7 cloth merchants in Florence
 - Augustinians (1243) – Tuscany, Italy

Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone
Francis
1181/82-1226

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

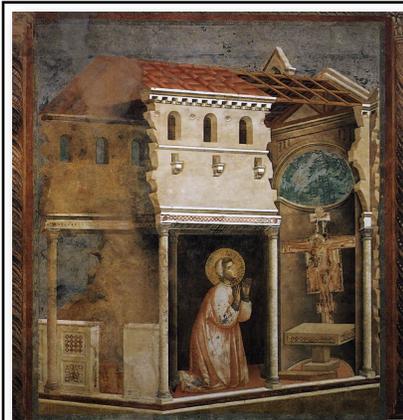
Giotto, or painters in his style, 1297-1300



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)

c. 1202, age 20

Giotto, or painters in his style, 1297-1300



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, 1297-1300



Francis renouncing his inheritance (and his clothes), in order to "rebuild God's house"

c. 1205, age 23

Giotto, or painters in his style, 1297-1300

Christian Traditions Associated with Francis

- Nativity scenes



Christian Traditions Associated with Francis

- Nativity scenes



Hipster Nativity
Casey and Corey Wright,
2016 (\$130)

- Stations of the Cross



Christian Traditions Associated with Francis

- Stigmata





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 the Portiuncola (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)



Icon by Sr. Roberto Cusack, OSF

Clare's 4 letters to Agnes of Prague

Religion and Contemplation

Clare to her friend Agnes

Place your mind before the mirror of eternity!
 Place your soul in the brilliance of glory!
 And transform your entire being
 into the image of the
 Godhead Itself
 through
 contemplation.



Clare of Assisi

On Poverty and Riches

To her friend Agnes



Clare

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?



What violent episode was Clare facing at this moment, depicted in the statue on the Mission façade?

Violence & Radical Poverty

- Form groups of 3 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?

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.
