



INSTITUTE OF THE POOR **OF JESUS CHRIST**



DON'T LOSE

SIGHT OF YOUR

STARTING POINT

SAINT NOVENA CLARE

“EMBRACE THE POOR CHRIST LIKE A POOR VIRGIN”



D: IN NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A: AMEM!

FIRST DAY |

COMMENTATOR: CLARA KNEW ABOUT THE COMMOTION IN ASSISI. THE RICH, AMBITIOUS AND BRILLIANT YOUNG MAN, SON OF A MERCHANT AND KING OF NIGHTS OUT AND SUMPTUOUS PARTIES, SUDDENLY TOOK A TURN IN HIS LIFE, WHICH UNTIL THEN HAD BEEN BASED ON LUXURY, PLEASURES AND THE FRIVOLITIES OF THE WORLD. SOME CALLED HIM CRAZY, OTHERS ECCENTRIC. CLARA ALLOWED HERSELF TO BE QUESTIONED. FOR HER, THE NEW DIRECTION OF FRANCIS' LIFE HAD BECOME A THORN IN THE SIDE OF QUESTIONS. FRANCIS SPOKE OF GOD AND WITH GOD; THUS BECOMING A REFLECTION OF CHRIST, OF HIS GOSPEL AND OF THE LIVING MESSAGE OF AN IDEAL.

ASSEMBLY: BUT THE SERVANT OF GOD REMAINED WITH THE CHAPLAIN FOR A LONG TIME; HIS FATHER FINALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND RAN FURIOUSLY TO THE CHURCH. HEARING THE THREATS OF THOSE WHO WERE LOOKING FOR HIM AND REALIZING THAT THEY WERE APPROACHING, FRANCIS HID IN A SECRET CAVE; BEING STILL NEW IN THE SERVICE OF CHRIST, HE DID NOT WANT TO FACE HIS FATHER'S WRATH. HE REMAINED IN HIDING FOR SEVERAL DAYS, CONTINUALLY BEGGING GOD WITH MANY TEARS TO FREE HIM FROM THE HANDS OF HIS PERSECUTORS AND TO ALLOW HIM, IN HIS GOODNESS, TO FULFILL THE DESIRES THAT HE HIMSELF HAD INSPIRED. FINALLY, HE FELT OVERWHELMED WITH JOY, BEGAN TO ACCUSE HIMSELF OF BEING FEARFUL AND COWARDLY, LEFT HIS CAVE AND COURAGEOUSLY HEADED FOR ASSISI. WHEN HIS FELLOW CITIZENS SAW HIS EMACIATED FACE AND TRANSFORMED SPIRIT, THEY SAID HE WAS CRAZY, PERSECUTED HIM, THROWING STONES AND MUD AT HIM, AND COVERED HIM WITH INSULTS, AS IF HE WERE A MADMAN, A LUNATIC. BUT THE SERVANT OF GOD, INSENSITIVE AND UNSHAKABLE, IGNORED ALL THE INSULTS AS IF HE HAD HEARD NOTHING. UPON HEARING THE COMMOTION, HIS FATHER IMMEDIATELY RAN TO HIM IN ORDER TO OPPRESS HIM EVEN MORE, NOT TO PROTECT HIM. WITHOUT ANY COMPASSION, HE DRAGGED HIM HOME, REPRIMANDED HIM AS MUCH AS HE COULD, BEAT HIM AND FINALLY PUT HIM IN PRISON. ALL THIS, HOWEVER, MADE HIM MORE RESOLUTE AND DETERMINED TO CARRY OUT HIS PLANS, REPEATING THE PHRASE FROM THE GOSPEL: "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO SUFFER PERSECUTION FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" (MATTHEW 5:10), (LARGEST LEGEND 2:2).

LET US PRAY

O GOD, WHO IN YOUR MERCY LED SAINT CLARE TO A LOVE OF POVERTY, GRANT, THROUGH HER INTERCESSION, THAT, FOLLOWING CHRIST IN POVERTY OF SPIRIT, WE MAY MERIT TO CONTEMPLATE YOU ONE DAY IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM. THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN!

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI, PRAY FOR US!



| SECOND DAY

D: IN NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A: AMEN!

COMMENTATOR: FRANCIS IS HAPPY, AND SINGING, HE FOLLOWS THE POOR AND HUMBLE CHRIST. THE GOOD NEWS DEEPLY TOUCHED CLARE'S SENSITIVE SOUL, WHICH FELT IN UNISON WITH FRANCIS'. SHE NEEDED TO MEET WITH HIM. FRANCIS NEEDED TO KNOW THAT WITHIN CLARE, THE FLAME OF THE NEW IDEAL OF EVANGELICAL LIFE WAS LATENT. IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF AN INDESTRUCTIBLE FRIENDSHIP, WHOSE BOND WAS THE PUREST AND MOST GENUINE LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST.

ASSEMBLY: HEARING ABOUT FRANCIS, WHOSE NAME WAS BECOMING FAMOUS AND WHO, AS A NEW MAN, WAS RENEWING WITH NEW VIRTUES THE PATH OF PERFECTION SO ABANDONED BY THE WORLD, SHE WANTED TO SEE AND HEAR HIM. TO THIS END SHE WAS MOVED BY THE FATHER OF SPIRITS (HEB 12:9), WHO LED THEM BOTH ALONG DIFFERENT PATHS. IN FACT, THE FAME OF SUCH A GIFTED GIRL AWAKENED IN FRANCIS THE DESIRE TO SEE HER AND TO TALK WITH HER. DRIVEN BY ZEAL FOR THE KINGDOM, HE NURTURED THE HOPE OF SNATCHING THIS NOBLE PREY FROM THE WICKEDNESS OF THE AGE (GAL 1:4) AND DELIVERING HER TO HIS LORD (LEGEND OF SAINT CLARE, 5).

LET US PRAY

O GOD, WHO IN YOUR MERCY LED SAINT CLARE TO A LOVE OF POVERTY, GRANT, THROUGH HER INTERCESSION, THAT, FOLLOWING CHRIST IN POVERTY OF SPIRIT, WE MAY MERIT TO CONTEMPLATE YOU ONE DAY IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM. THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN!

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI, PRAY FOR US!



D: IN NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A: AMEN!

COMMENTATOR: THE DISCOVERY OF POVERTY AS AN EVANGELICAL VALUE, AS AN INNER LIBERATION, AS AN IMITATION OF THE POOR CHRIST, TOUCHED CLARE'S HEART. SHE WANTED TO BE POOR AND SAW POVERTY AS A CONDITION FOR FOLLOWING THE MASTER WHO SAID: "GO, SELL EVERYTHING YOU HAVE, GIVE TO THE POOR AND FOLLOW ME." SAINT CLARE FOLLOWED THIS IDEAL TO THE LETTER, TOGETHER WITH FRANCIS. THE GREAT STRUGGLE OF HER LIFE WAS TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE POVERTY SHE HAD CHOSEN.

ASSEMBLY: AFTER THE MOST HIGH HEAVENLY FATHER, BY HIS MERCY AND GRACE, DEIGNED TO ENLIGHTEN MY HEART TO DO PENANCE ACCORDING TO THE EXAMPLE AND TEACHING OF OUR BLESSED FATHER FRANCIS, SHORTLY AFTER HIS CONVERSION, WITH SOME SISTERS WHOM GOD HAD GIVEN ME SOON AFTER MY CONVERSION, I PROMISED HIM VOLUNTARY OBEDIENCE, AS THE LORD HAD GRANTED US BY THE LIGHT OF HIS GRACE THROUGH HIS ADMIRABLE LIFE AND TEACHING (TESTAMENT OF SAINT CLARE, 24-26).

LET US PRAY

O GOD, WHO IN YOUR MERCY LED SAINT CLARE TO A LOVE OF POVERTY, GRANT, THROUGH HER INTERCESSION, THAT, FOLLOWING CHRIST IN POVERTY OF SPIRIT, WE MAY MERIT TO CONTEMPLATE YOU ONE DAY IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM. THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN!

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI, PRAY FOR US!



| FOURTH DAY

D: IN NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A: AMEM!

COMMENTATOR: CLARE, THE FIRST FRANCISCAN, WAS A YOUNG WOMAN OF NOBILITY. YOUNG, BUT MATURE ENOUGH TO RESPOND TO THE BOLD PROPOSAL OF DONATION AND SURRENDER THAT FRANCIS' RADICAL APPROACH PROPOSED TO HER. SHE SURRENDERED HERSELF TO THE POOR CHRIST AS A POOR VIRGIN. CLARE'S TRUST IN THE FATHER WHO CARES FOR THE "BIRDS OF THE AIR" AND THE "LILIES OF THE FIELD" WAS BOUNDLESS. SHE FACED ALL KINDS OF ADVERSITY IN DEFENSE OF HER RIGHT TO LIVE THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, POOR AS SHE UNDERSTOOD HIM.

ASSEMBLY: WHY FURTHER INSISTENCE? FOLLOWING THE REQUESTS OF THE MOST HOLY FATHER, WHO ACTED IN HER AS A MOST FAITHFUL AND SKILLFUL MEDIATOR, THE VIRGIN WAS QUICK TO GIVE HER CONSENT. SHE QUICKLY FELT ATTRACTED BY ETERNAL JOYS, WHOSE FLAVOR FAR SURPASSES WORLDLY PLEASURES. SHE BURNED WITH THE DESIRE TO ATTAIN THEM AND LONGED, OUT OF LOVE, FOR SUPREME UNION. INFLAMED BY THE HEAVENLY FIRE, SHE LOOKED UPON THE VANITY OF EARTHLY GLORIES WITH SUCH CONTEMPT THAT NO WORLDLY ATTRACTION FILLED HER HEART (LEGEND OF SAINT CLARE, 6).

LET US PRAY

O GOD, WHO IN YOUR MERCY LED SAINT CLARE TO A LOVE OF POVERTY, GRANT, THROUGH HER INTERCESSION, THAT, FOLLOWING CHRIST IN POVERTY OF SPIRIT, WE MAY MERIT TO CONTEMPLATE YOU ONE DAY IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM. THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN!

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI, PRAY FOR US!



D: IN NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A: AMEM!

COMMENTATOR: ON MARCH 19, 1212, PALM SUNDAY, IN THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT RUFINUS, THE BISHOP DISTRIBUTED THE BLESSED PALMS. CLARE WAS “MODESTLY WITHDRAWN.” IT WAS THE DAY AGREED UPON WITH FRANCIS FOR THE EXECUTION OF HIS AUDACIOUS PLAN TO SERVE GOD IN THE POVERTY AND HUMILITY OF JESUS CHRIST AND HIS MOST HOLY MOTHER. IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, IN AN ACT OF COURAGE AND STRENGTH, CLARE FLED HER HOME.

ASSEMBLY: IN THIS WAY SHE LEFT HER HOME, HER CITY AND HER FAMILY AND HURRIED TO SAINT MARY OF THE PORZIUNCOLA. THE BROTHERS WHO WERE CELEBRATING THE SACRED VIGILS AROUND THE ALTAR WELCOMED THE VIRGIN CLARE WITH LIGHTED TORCHES. THERE SHE FREED HERSELF FROM THE FILTH OF BABYLON (DT 24:1) AND REPUDIATED EVERYTHING THAT WAS WORLDLY. RENOUNCING ALL ADORNMENTS, SHE ALLOWED THE BROTHERS TO CUT HER HAIR (LEGEND OF SAINT CLARE, 8).

LET US PRAY

O GOD, WHO IN YOUR MERCY LED SAINT CLARE TO A LOVE OF POVERTY, GRANT, THROUGH HER INTERCESSION, THAT, FOLLOWING CHRIST IN POVERTY OF SPIRIT, WE MAY MERIT TO CONTEMPLATE YOU ONE DAY IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM. THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN!

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI, PRAY FOR US!



| SIXTH DAY

D: IN NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A: AMEN!

COMMENTATOR: THE FAMILY DOES EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO BRING THE YOUNG RUNAWAY BACK HOME; THEY USE FORCE AND VIOLENCE, THEY TRY TO PERSUADE HER WITH ADVICE AND PROMISES, BUT CLARA IS UNYIELDING. CLARA'S CONVICTION SHOULD BE A GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL THOSE WHO, OVERCOMING THE PERSUASIONS OF THE "WORLD" AND THEIR OWN INTERESTS, REMAIN IN OPTION ONE.

ASSEMBLY: USING FORCE AND VIOLENCE, DISSUASIVE ADVICE AND EMPTY PROMISES, THEY TRIED TO DISSUADE HER FROM SUCH A HUMILIATING SITUATION, SO AT ODDS WITH HER CONDITION AND UNPRECEDENTED IN THE SURROUNDING AREA. BUT CLARE, HOLDING ON TO THE ALTAR CLOTHS AND UNCOVERING HER TONSURED HEAD, REAFFIRMED HER WILL TO NO LONGER BE DRAWN AWAY FROM THE SERVICE OF CHRIST. THE OPPOSITION OF HER FAMILY INCREASED HER COURAGE AND THE PERSECUTIONS INCREASED THE STRENGTH OF HER LOVE. AND SO, DESPITE BEING THWARTED FOR A LONG TIME ON THE PATH OF THE LORD AND HER RELATIVES OPPOSING HER CHOICE OF HOLINESS, HER SPIRIT DID NOT WEAKEN NOR HER FERVOR DIMINISH. ON THE CONTRARY, AMID INSULTS AND CONTEMPT, SHE RENEWED HER HOPE, UNTIL HER RELATIVES DISCOURAGED HER INTENTIONS AND LEFT HER IN PEACE (LEGEND OF SAINT CLARE, 9).

LET US PRAY

O GOD, WHO IN YOUR MERCY LED SAINT CLARE TO A LOVE OF POVERTY, GRANT, THROUGH HER INTERCESSION, THAT, FOLLOWING CHRIST IN POVERTY OF SPIRIT, WE MAY MERIT TO CONTEMPLATE YOU ONE DAY IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM. THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN!

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI, PRAY FOR US!



D: IN NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A: AMEM!

COMMENTATOR: SAN DAMIANO IS A CONVENT OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF ASSISI. THE RUINED LITTLE CHURCH WAS RESTORED BY FRANCIS. THE POOR AND HUMBLE LITTLE CONVENT ENCHANTED CLARE'S HEART AND WAS QUICKLY FILLED WITH YOUNG VOICES SINGING THE PRAISES OF GOD DAY AND NIGHT.

ASSEMBLY: SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, SHE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE CHURCH OF SAINT ANGELO IN PANZO. BUT SINCE SHE DID NOT FIND THE TRANQUILITY SHE DESIRED THERE, AND FOLLOWING FRANCIS' ADVICE, SHE FINALLY MOVED TO THE CHURCH OF SAINT DAMIAN. THERE HER SOUL ANCHORED IN A SAFE PLACE AND NO LONGER HESITATED ABOUT CHANGING PLACES, NOR DID SHE HESITATE BECAUSE OF THE CRAMPED SPACE OR FEAR THE SOLITUDE. THIS IS THE CHURCH THAT SAINT FRANCIS RESTORED WITH SUCH ENTHUSIASM AND TO WHOSE CHAPLAIN HE GAVE MONEY FOR ITS RECONSTRUCTION. THIS IS THE CHURCH WHERE FRANCIS RETREATED AND IT WAS THERE THAT DURING PRAYER HE HEARD THE VOICE COMING FROM THE CRUCIFIX SAYING: "FRANCIS, GO AND REPAIR MY CHURCH WHICH, AS YOU SEE, IS IN RUINS". CLARE SHUT HERSELF UP INSIDE THIS CRAMPED PLACE, OUT OF LOVE FOR HER DIVINE SPOUSE. PROTECTING HERSELF FROM THE STORMS OF THE WORLD, SHE IMPRISONED HER BODY THERE FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE (LEGEND OF SAINT CLARE, 10).

LET US PRAY

O GOD, WHO IN YOUR MERCY LED SAINT CLARE TO A LOVE OF POVERTY, GRANT, THROUGH HER INTERCESSION, THAT, FOLLOWING CHRIST IN POVERTY OF SPIRIT, WE MAY MERIT TO CONTEMPLATE YOU ONE DAY IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM. THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN!

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI, PRAY FOR US!



EIGHTH DAY

D: IN NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A: AMEN!

COMMENTATOR: CLARE'S LETTERS ARE LIKE AN INEXHAUSTIBLE SPRING OF WATER. THEY CAN BE FILLED WITH POVERTY AND HUMILITY, WITH LIVING FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD, WITH VIRGINITY, WITH JOY, WITH DEEP CHARITY, WITH INTERCESSORY PRAYER, WITH TRANSFORMING CONTEMPLATION OF THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST... AT PENTECOST IN 1234, NEWS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE: A WOMAN OF ROYAL BLOOD, PRINCESS AGNES OF PRAGUE, HAD TAKEN THE HABIT OF THE POOR SISTERS. CLARE WROTE HER A LETTER THAT IS VERY RELEVANT TO US TODAY.

ASSEMBLY: WHOEVER LOVES TEMPORAL THINGS LOSES THE FRUIT OF LOVE, BECAUSE ONE CANNOT SERVE BOTH GOD AND MONEY; EITHER ONE WILL HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER, OR ONE WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER (MT 6:24). YOU KNOW THAT IN THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN A CLOTHED MAN AND A NAKED MAN, THE FORMER IS AT A DISADVANTAGE, BECAUSE THE LATTER EASILY GRABS HIM AND THROWS HIM DOWN. SO TOO, NO ONE CAN ENJOY LIFE IN THIS WORLD AND PARTICIPATE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST, BECAUSE "IT IS EASIER FOR A CAMEL TO GO THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE THAN FOR A RICH MAN TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" (MT 19:24). THAT IS WHY YOU DESPISED CLOTHING, THAT IS, THE RICHES OF THIS WORLD, SO THAT YOU WOULD NOT BE DEFEATED IN THE STRUGGLE AND MIGHT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BY THE NARROW WAY AND THE NARROW GATE (CF. MT 7:14). IT IS TRULY A WONDERFUL AND PRAISEWORTHY EXCHANGE TO RENOUNCE TEMPORAL GOODS AND PREFER ETERNAL ONES, TO LOSE WHAT IS EARTHLY IN ORDER TO DESERVE WHAT IS HEAVENLY, TO RENOUNCE ONE THING IN ORDER TO GAIN A HUNDRED AND TO POSSESS THE BLESSED LIFE FOREVER (CF. MT 19:29). THEREFORE, HOLY AND VENERABLE SISTER, I BEG YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN, FOR THE LOVE OF CHRIST, TO PERSEVERE IN HIS HOLY SERVICE, PROGRESSING UNCEASINGLY IN VIRTUE, SO THAT HE WHOM YOU SERVE WITH ALL THE STRENGTH OF YOUR MIND MAY DEIGN TO GRANT YOU THE REWARD YOU DESIRE. (I LETTER OF SAINT CLARE TO AGNES OF PRAGUE, 25-32).

LET US PRAY

O GOD, WHO IN YOUR MERCY LED SAINT CLARE TO A LOVE OF POVERTY, GRANT, THROUGH HER INTERCESSION, THAT, FOLLOWING CHRIST IN POVERTY OF SPIRIT, WE MAY MERIT TO CONTEMPLATE YOU ONE DAY IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM. THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN!

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI, PRAY FOR US!



D: IN NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A: AMEN!

COMMENTATOR: CLARE FOUND HERSELF ON HER BED OF PAIN, SURROUNDED BY HER SISTERS, PRIESTS AND SPIRITUAL BROTHERS. AT ONE POINT, SHE SAID SOFTLY: “GO, HOLD MY SOUL, FOR YOU HAVE A GOOD GUIDE FOR THE PATH. HE WHO CREATED YOU LOVES YOU TENDERLY, AS A MOTHER LOVES HER BELOVED CHILD!” SHE SPOKE TO HER SOUL, AND THUS ADDED: “BLESSED BE YOU, LORD, FOR HAVING CREATED ME!” THESE WERE HER LAST WORDS.

ASSEMBLY: AS HE TURNED HIS GAZE, PIERCED WITH GRIEF, TOWARD THE ENTRANCE, HE SAW A MULTITUDE OF VIRGINS DRESSED IN WHITE AND CROWNED WITH GOLDEN DIADEMS. AMONG THEM ONE STOOD OUT. SHE WAS OF DAZZLING APPEARANCE, AND HER DIADEM, WHICH ENDED IN THE SHAPE OF A CENSER WITH MANY HOLES, RADIATED SUCH SPLENDOR THAT THE DARKNESS OF NIGHT INSIDE THE HOUSE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO BRIGHT DAY. SHE WENT FORWARD TO THE BED WHERE THE BRIDE OF CHRIST LAY, BENT OVER HER AFFECTIONATELY AND EMBRACED HER TENDERLY. THE OTHER VIRGINS APPROACHED, CARRYING A CLOAK OF SPLENDID BEAUTY, AND HASTENED TO COVER CLARE’S BODY WITH IT AND ADORN HER BED. BLESSED WAS THIS EXODUS FROM THE VALLEY OF MISERY, WHICH FOR HER SIGNIFIED ENTRY INTO THE BLESSED LIFE. NOW, IN EXCHANGE FOR THE AUSTERE EARTHLY FAST, SHE PARTOOK OF THE TABLE OF HEAVENLY DELICACIES. IN EXCHANGE FOR HER EARTHLY GARMENTS, PERISHABLE LIKE ASHES, SHE IS BLESSED IN THE CELESTIAL KINGDOM AND CLOTHED WITH THE MANTLE OF ETERNAL GLORY (LEGEND OF SAINT CLARE, 46).

LET US PRAY

O GOD, WHO IN YOUR MERCY LED SAINT CLARE TO A LOVE OF POVERTY, GRANT, THROUGH HER INTERCESSION, THAT, FOLLOWING CHRIST IN POVERTY OF SPIRIT, WE MAY MERIT TO CONTEMPLATE YOU ONE DAY IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM. THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN!

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI, PRAY FOR US!



NOVENA SAINT CLARE



INSTITUTE OF THE POOR **OF JESUS CHRIST**