

Eucharistic Miracle of SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI

ITALY, 1240



The History of Saint Clare, Virgin, tells of various miracles performed by Saint Clare. There are episodes of multiplications of loaves, of bottles of oil that appeared in the convent when there was none before. But Clare performed the most famous of the miracles in 1240, on a Friday in September, in which she turned away an attack by Saracen soldiers who had broken into the convent cloister by showing them the Sacred Host.



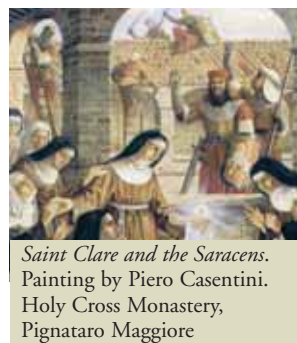
Saint Clare and the Assault on Assisi, Giuseppe Cesari (1568-1640).
Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg



Ancient depiction of the Miracle of Saint Clare



Saint Clare, detail of the great Cross of Gianfrancesco dalle Croci



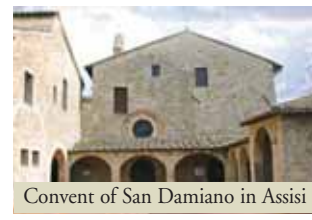
Saint Clare and the Saracens.
Painting by Piero Casentini.
Holy Cross Monastery,
Pignataro Maggiore



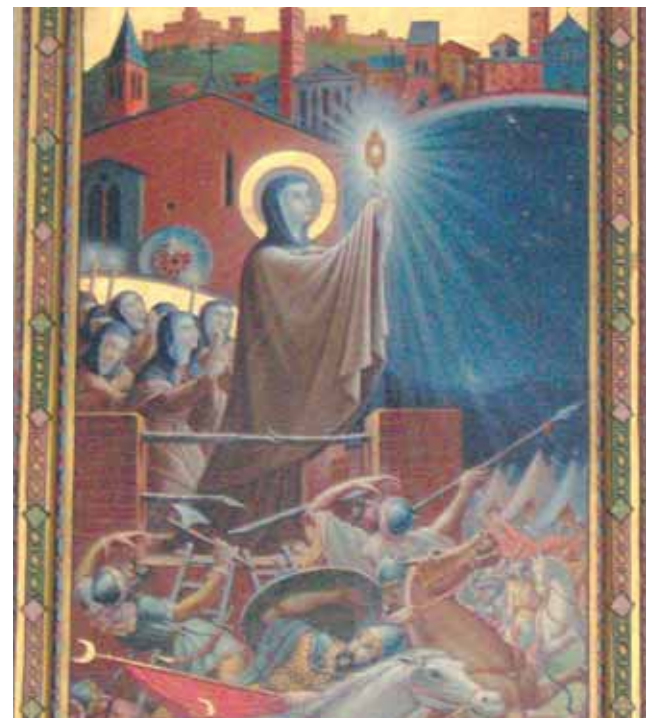
Enrico de Vroom (1587),
Miracle of Saint Clare



Urn containing the body
of Saint Clare, Assisi



Convent of San Damiano in Assisi



Icon in the Basilica of Saint Clare, Assisi. Clare's faith in the Son of God and Mary, hidden in the poverty of Eucharistic Bread, destroyed the strength of the enemies

This Eucharistic Miracle is cited in “The History of Saint Clare, Virgin,” written by Tommaso da Celano, and describes how Saint Clare of Assisi succeeded with the Blessed Sacrament in turning away Saracen troops in the pay of Emperor Frederick II of Sweden.

The history goes like this: “By imperial order, regiments of Saracen soldiers and bowmen were stationed there, massed like bees, ready to devastate the encampments and seize the cities. Once during an enemy attack against Assisi, city beloved of the Lord, and while the army was approaching the gates, the fierce Saracens invaded San Damiano, entered the confines of the monastery and even the very cloister of the virgins. The women swooned in terror, their voices trembling with fear as they cried to their Mother, Saint Clare.

Saint Clare, with a fearless heart, commanded them to lead her, sick as she was, to the enemy, proceeded by a silver and ivory case in which the Body of the Saint of saints was kept with great devotion. And prostrating herself before the Lord, she spoke tearfully to her Christ: ‘Behold, my Lord, is it possible you want to deliver into the hands of pagans your defenseless handmaids, whom I have taught out of love for you? I pray you, Lord, protect these your handmaids whom I cannot now save by myself.’ Suddenly a voice like a child’s resounded in her ears from the tabernacle: ‘I will always protect you!’ ‘My Lord,’ she added, ‘if it is your wish protect also this city which is sustained by your love.’ Christ replied, ‘It will have to undergo trials, but it will be defended by my protection.’ Then the virgin, raising a face

bathed in tears, comforted the sisters: ‘I guarantee you, daughters, that you will suffer no evil; only have faith in Christ.’ Upon seeing the audacity of the sisters, the Saracens took fright and fled back over the walls they had scaled, unnerved by the strength of she who prayed. And Clare immediately admonished those who heard the voice I spoke of above, telling them severely: ‘Take care not to tell anyone about that voice while I am still alive, dearest daughters.’”