

San Damiano Part 2

When rebuilding San Damiano, Francis prophesied that it would become a monastery for women who would be known as Ladies.

This the Infirmary of the Poor Clare's from the outside.



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This an outside view of the Dormitory that housed 50 women.



This the refectory. These are the original tables and were in use until about 30 years ago. The friars who now occupy the monastery put fresh flowers at Clare's spot every

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day.



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The original refectory was larger than this. Some of the alcoves have been walled off.



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The choir where the sisters said prayer.



The staircae leading up to the infirmary.

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This is only a portion of the infirmary. The rest was walled off and this was turned into a chapel.



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The sick sisters hear mass when this wood door in the floor was opened. The door is directly over the altar.



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Where Clare slept in the dormitory. Again the friars keep fresh flowers here.



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The rest of the dormitory. The wood beams would have been seen from the church before Francis put in a vaulted ceiling. The window is the original window of the church. It is larger because it is so high off the ground that it wasn't a safety issue. The door was added later when the sisters stayed there. You can see in the floor the top part of the rose window. The rest is below in the Church.

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The original church entrance. Francis lowered the floor of the church. The entrance is now off to the right where you descend about 12 steps.

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The inside of the church as it is today. The cross is a replica of the original which is in a chapel in Santa Chiara. Since Francis put in a vaulted ceiling, the cross is too big for the area. The sisters were moved up to Assisi after Clare died because the bishop feared for their safety. Clare turned the Saracens away by holding the little box of the Eucharist in full sight of the invading troops. With Clare gone, it was feared that none of the other sisters had Clare's saintly powers and were in jeopardy.



The sisters spent their entire life in the enclosure which consisted of the infirmary, the dormitory and the refectory. They did not have fireplaces or any heating in the infirmary or dormitory. They prayed seven times a day.

What is the contemplation? How does the contemplative dimension affect your life? Can you find a place of solitude where you can encounter God without distraction?

How is the virtue of loving charity practiced in your local community and/or among your family and friends?

Do you work and live your life with the attitude of loving service?

What role does the Eucharist play in your spiritual growth?

How can you bring the healing power of Jesus to those in need?

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