

You are invited to attend Dinner and Evening of Reflection at OLA Convent

The Embrace of Radical Poverty: Clare of Assisi's Unconventional Response to a World of Violence



**March 20, 2012
Dinner 5:15 pm
Presentation 6:30 pm**

Clare of Assisi lived in a world full of violence. She encountered violence within the dynamic of her own family, her hometown of Assisi was at war with neighboring cities, the papacy was in violent conflict with the Holy Roman emperor, and Christendom itself was engaged in the violent throws of the crusades. This lecture will examine Clare's response to this world of violence by focusing on key episodes in her life: Clare's peaceful resistance to her family's violent opposition to her adoption of a Franciscan lifestyle, her heroic role in the defense of Assisi as the city faced attack by enemy forces, and her insistence on embracing a simple life of absolute poverty in spite of papal opposition to her attempts to do so. Conclusions will be drawn as to the transformation Clare experienced through her encounters with violence as well as the insights Clare might offer regarding an appropriate Christian response to the violence of our own world.

About the Presenter:

John Kruse, Ph.D., is an historical theologian with expertise in Franciscan spirituality and the office of the papacy. He is an Associate Professor of Theology at Neumann University, where has served since 2006.

RSVP to Sister Mary Ann by March 10, 2012 at 610-358-4270 or mccarthur@neumann.edu