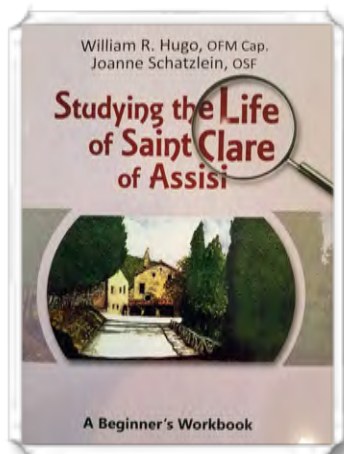


# BOOK REVIEW

## *Studying the Life of St. Clare of Assisi: A Beginner's Workbook*



### ST. CLARE STUDY DAY HELD IN DETROIT'S SOLANUS CASEY CENTER

St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity in Detroit, Michigan and the Solanus Casey Center co-sponsored a St. Clare Study Day on August 10, 2019. It was a Franciscan day of study and reflection on the life and spirituality of St. Clare of Assisi. Capuchin Bro. Bill Hugo, co-author of a new book on studying the life and writings of St. Clare using the primary sources, facilitated the discussion on this vital saint in the Franciscan tradition. There were about 100 Franciscans in attendance and most were Seculars from surrounding fraternities in Divine Mercy Region.

Bro. Bill shared with us the importance of studying St. Clare. She was a strong leader, prolific writer and most of all a sister of St. Francis. We get to know St. Francis at a deeper level through St. Clare. He continued with the history of the medieval women monasteries. After lunch we studied the Letters to Agnes, which included St. Clare's plan for prayer. The first three stages of prayer gaze, consider and contemplate were important and made imitation possible. Clare's fourth step imitation (transformation) is the final step of prayer. Clare made imitation part of her prayer and not just the



result

of the prayer. The addition of this fourth step without question is credited to St. Clare. Bro. Bill's new book contains all the concepts presented in much greater detail.



The day concluded with the Vigil Mass for St. Clare. The liturgical music and musicians were a highlight of the day filling the chapel with Franciscan music and joy. A wonderful day it was for all.

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The text used for the Study Day, *Studying the Life of St. Clare of Assisi: A Beginner's Workbook* by William R. Hugo, OFM Cap. and Joanne Schatzlein, OSF (New City Press, 2019), is available directly from the publisher [www.newcitypress.com](http://www.newcitypress.com) or from amazon.com.