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THE
APOSTOLICALL
CONFIRMATION
OF THE RULE

which our Holy Father Saint
Francis gaue unto our Ho-
ly Mother S. Clare.

INNOCENT Bi-
shop, Seruâc of the
Servantes of God,
vnto our beloued
daughters in Iesus
Christ, Clare Abbesse, & vnto the
other Sisters of the Monastery of
A: S. Damasq

4 The Rule of S. Clare.
S. Damian at Affise, health & Apostolical Benediction

The Apostolical See is accustomed to condescend vnto all pious requests, and graciously to favour the good and holy desires of those who do propose them. And therefore, because you haue humbly required of vs to approue & strengthen with our Apostolical confirmation, the Rule, according to which you are to liue in common, in one spirit, and in the profession of most high pouerty, the same Rule hauing byn giuen you by the holy Father S. Francis, and of you received with much contentment and ioy; which Rule also our Venerable brother the Bishop of Ostia hath approued, as is more amply contayned, & declared

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The Rule of S. Clare.
red in the letters of the said Bishop conformable vnto the commandement which we gaue him, to confirme it with our Apostolical authority, committed vnto him in this part. We therfore now descending vnto your devout petition do agayne confirme by these present letters, the sayd Rule, with our Apostolical authority, inferring the tenour of the sayd letters word by word in these present letters as followeth.

Vgoline by the grace of God Bishop of Ostia & of Veletri, vnto his most deere Mother, and daughter in Iesus Christ, Clare Abbess of S. Damians at Affise, and vnto her Sisters as well present as to succeed, health and fatherly Benediction. For so much as you my dearey

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6 The Rule of S. Clare.
dearly beloued daughters in Iesus
Christ contemning the pompes &
delightes of the world , and follow-
ing the footsteps of Iesus Christ,
and of his most holy Mother, haue
chosē to remaine inclosed, to serue
God: we praising your holy reso-
lutiō, with a good will & Fatherly
affection, curteously graunte you
your demaunds and holy desires .
And we cōfirme by the Popes au-
thority & ours, for you & al those
who shal succeed you in your Mo-
nastery, the Forme & Rule of life,
of holy vniō, & of most high and
sublime pometry which the glorious
Father S. Francis hath giuen you,
to obserue as well by word as by
writing ; the which Rule is heere
vnderneath specified, as followeth.

IN

The Rule of S. Clare. 7
IN THE NAME OF OVR
LORD, AMEN.
Heere beginneth the Rule and Forme
of life of the Order of the poore
Sisters, giuen by S. Francis.

C H A P. I.

THE Rule, and forme of life, of
the Order of the poore Sisters
which the glorious Fa. S. Francis
hath instituted, is this. To obserue
the holy Ghospell of our Lord Ies-
sus Christ, living in Obedience,
without Propriety, and in Cha-
rity.

2. Clare vneworthy handmaid
of Iesus Christ, and little plant of
our most holy Fa. S. Francis, vo-
weth

A 4









14. The Rule of S. Clare,
ued into the monastery before su-
fficient age, shall haue their hayre
cutof, and their secular habit ta-
ken away, and be cloathed with
such cloth as the Religious, accor-
ding to the discretiō of the Abbesse;
and when they are come vnto fit
yeare, they shall take the habitas
the others doe, & make their pro-
bation.

12. And as well for them as
for the other Nouices, the Abbesse
shall carefully provide a mistresse
one of the discretest of the Mo-
nastery, who shall diligently in-
struct them i i modest maneris &
holy conuersation, according vnto
the forme of y our profession.

13. The same manner shall be
obserued in the admittance of the
Sisters who serue without the mo-
nastery,

The Rule of S. Clare. 15
nastery, and those Sisters may
weare shooes.

14. None may dwell within
the Monastery, except they be re-
ceaved acording vnto the forme
of your profession.

15. + I do admonish, pray & re-
quest my Sisters, for the loue of
the most holy and sweet child Ie-
sus, who was wrapped in poore
cloutes, & laid in a cribbe, & for
the loue of his holy Mother, that
they will alwayes be cleathed
with poore cloathes.

of











The Rule of S. Clare.

24

Offisience, and of the manner of spea-
king at the Speak-house, & grate.

C H A P. V.

From Complin vntill Tierce,
the Sisters shall keep silence, ex-
cept those who serue without the
monastery.

2. They shall always keep
silence in the Church, Dortour, &
in the Refectory onlywhiles they
eare. In the Infirmary it is alwayes
lawfull for the Sisters to speake
discreetly, for the recreation and
service of the sicke.

3. The Sisters may neuerthe-
les at all tyme, & in all places brie-
fly with a soft voice say such things
as are needfull.

4. It is not lawfull for the Si-
sters

The Rule of S. Clare. 25

Sisters to speak at the Speak-house,
or at the Grate without licence of
the Abbesse, or of the Vicareffe:
and those that haue leame to
speake at the Speake-house, must
not speake, but in the presence of
two Sisters, who must heare the
things spoken there.

5. None may presume to come
to the Grate except there be pre-
sent at the least three, thereunto
appointed by the Abbesse or Vi-
careffe, of the eight discreet who
are chosen by all the Sisters for the
counsayle of the Abbesse.

6. And the Abbesse and Vica-
reffe are bound to obserue this
manner of speaking, which shall
be very seldome at the Grate, but
at the gate it shall neuer be per-
mitted.

By

7. And

26 *The Rule of S. Clare.*

7. And at the Grate there shall
be put a cloth within, whieh shall
not be opened except whiles a Ser-
mon is made, or whiles they do
speake one vnto another.

8. There shall be before the
Grate a doore of wood wel furni-
shed, with two locks and bolts of
iron, which in the night, principally,
shall be locked with two keyes,
one of which the Abbesse shall
haue, & the Sacristane the other.

9. The doore shall be alwaies
shut, except whiles the diuine of-
fice is read, or for the causes aboue
mentioned.

10. Non may speak at the Grate
before the rising, or after the set-
ting of the sun, in what sort soeuer.

11. At the Speak-house there
shall alwayes be a cloth within,
which

The Rule of S. Clare. 27

which shall never be taken of.

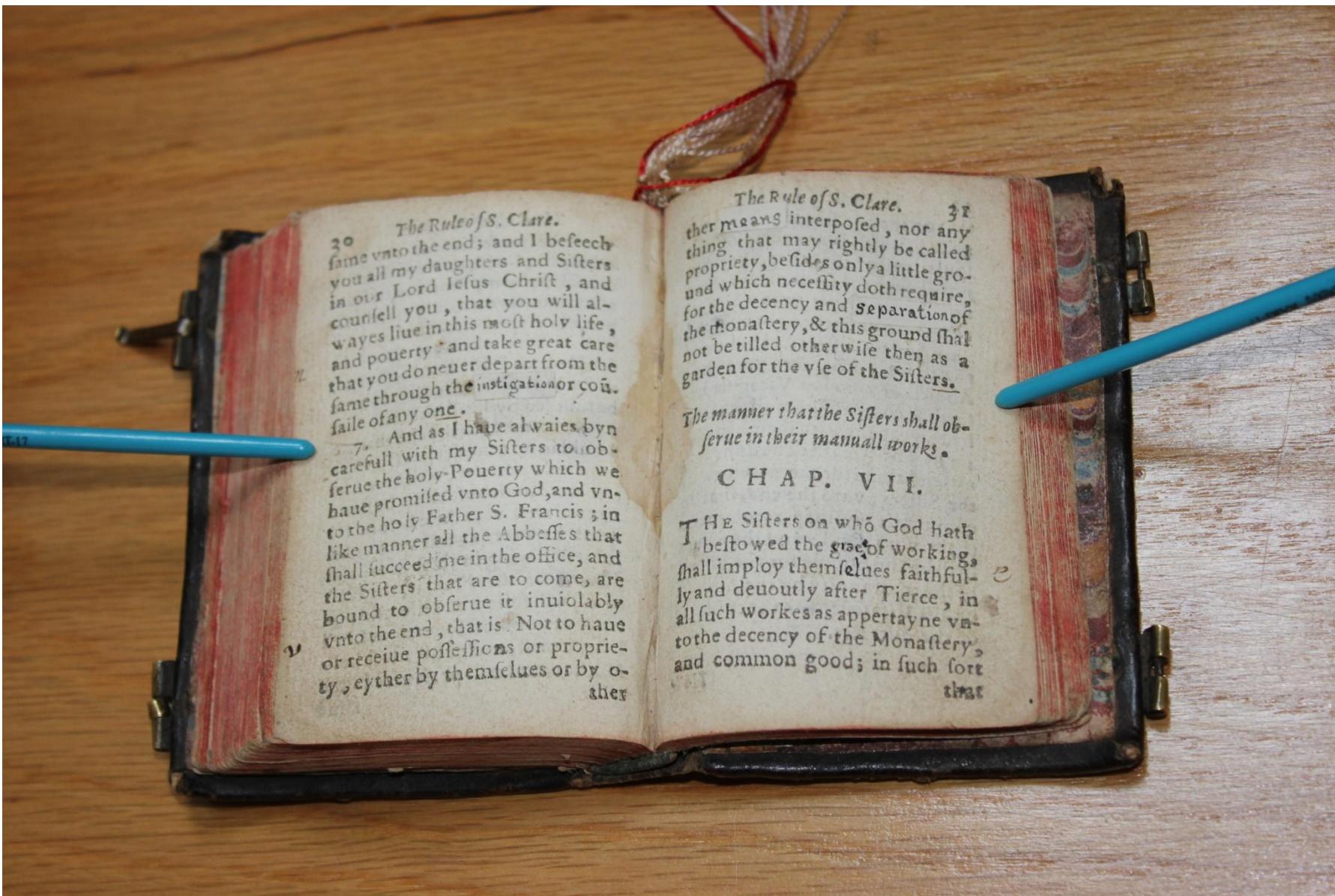
12. No Sisters may speake at
the Speake-house within S. Mar-
tins Lent, nor within the great
Lent, but only vnto the Priest
for cause of Confession, or for
some other manifest necessity,
the which shall be committed vnto
the discretion of the Abbesse, or
of her Vicareſſe.

How the Sisters may not receive a-
ny possession by themselves, or
by any person interposed.

C H A P. VI.

A F T E R that the Heauenly Fa-
ther had vouchsafed through
his diuine grace to illuminate my
hart, in such sort, that by the ex-
ample









36 The Rule of S. Clare.

Sister, even as they would be ser-
ved if they themselves were sicke,
and let them all freely declare
the one vnto the other their nece-
ssity; for if a true mother do loue
and nourish her carnall daughter,
with how greater diligence and
care ought a Sister to loue & nou-
rish her spirituall Sister.¹

9. The sicke shall lye vpon
beddes of chaffe, and haue vnder
their heads a pillow of feathers.
Those who haue need may vse
sockes & quiltes.

10. The aforesaid sicke when
* This is they are visited of those
not novv who * enter into the
necessaray Monastery, may answer
seing none briefly vnto those who
in the cases speake vnto them, with
permitted good
by the cou-
cell of Trent in the Sess. 71. c. 8.

The Rule of S. Clare.

37 good and edificatory words: the
other Sisters^t who haue leauie to
be present, shall not speake vnto
those that enter the monastery, ex-
cept in the presence of two of the
discreet Sisters, appointed by the
Abbesse or Vicaresse, who must
heare the things spoken.^t And the
Abbesse & her Vicaresse are boide
themselves to obserue this maner
of speaking.

Of Penance to be enioyned the Sis-
ters that offend: and of the
manner of dealing abroad
the Monastery.

C H A P. I X.

I F that any Sister, by the instiga-
tion of the enemy, sinne more
G3 tally

38 *The Rule of S. Clare.*

tally agaynst the forme of her
professiōn, & being admonished
therof two or three tymes by the
Abbesse or others Sisters, doe not
amend as many dayes as she hath
continued obstinate and contumacious;
so many daies shall she
eat bread & water on the ground
before all the Sisters in the Refe-
tory; and endure greater pen-
ance if the Abbesse thinke good.
In the meane time that she is thus
obstinate and contumacious, let
Prayer be made that it will please God
to lighten her hart vnto penance.

3. The Abbesse and Sisters
shall be carefull that they be not
angry or troubled at the offēces of
their Sisters: for anger & pertur-
bation doth hinder charity in the
selues and others.

3. If

39 *The Rule of S. Clare.*

+ If it happen (which God
forbid) that there arise betweene
the Sisters, in word or signe, any
contention or scandal. Let he who
gave the occasion shal presently
before that she offer vnto God the
sacrifice of Prayer, prostrate her
selfe before the others feet, not on-
ly humbly asking pardon, but al-
so intreating her deuoutly, that
she will pray vnto our Sauiour for
her, that it may please him to for-
give her.

+ let The other being mindfull
of the words of our Sauiour, who
sayth: If you doe not forgive with
your whole hart, your heauenly Fa-
ther shall not forgive you, shall free-
ly forgive her Sister all the iniury
which she may haue done her.

+ let The Sisters who serue with-

C4

out



42 *The Rule of S. Clare.*

haue renounced their owne will :
and are firmly bound to obey
their Abbesse in al things that they
haue vowed to obserue, & which
are not contrary to their profe-
sion.

43 Let The Abbesse shall be with
them so familiar , that they may
speake and deale with her, as mi-
stresse with the maid : for the Ab-
besse ought to be seruant vnto all
the Sisters.

44 I admonish and exhort my
Sisters in Christ Iesus our Lord ,
that they take heed of pride, vain-
glory, enuy, and couerousnes: that
they fly care and solicitude of the
world, detraction, murmuration,
& dissencion .

45 let Them haue alwaies besol-
licitous to conserue the vnioun of
Charity

43 *The Rule of S. Clare.*

Charity which is the band of per-
fection . Those that haue no leggning
therin not take care to learne ; but
consider that aboue al things they
ought to desire the spirit of our
Lord , & the holy operation ther-
of ; and alwayes to pray to our
Lord with a pure hart , to haue
humility and patience in sicknes
and tribulation , to loue those who
persecute , reprehend , and cha-
size them ; for our Lord sayth :
Blessed are they who suffer per-
secution for iustice , for theirs is the
Kingdome of heauen : and those
that perseuere vntill the end , shall
be saued .

of





