

ATRIUM TOUR

(23) St. Clare of Assisi Stained-Glass Window



St. Clare is traditionally depicted holding a monstrance because of a dramatic event said to have taken place around 1240, when Saracen (Muslim) soldiers attacked the monastery of San Damiano, located outside the walls of Assisi. Although she was ill, Clare had herself carried to the monastery wall, where she raised the Blessed Sacrament and prayed for God's protection. The invaders, overcome with fear, fled.

Historical accounts suggest that Clare more likely carried a smaller Eucharistic vessel, such as a pyx or ciborium, rather than a monstrance. Even so, the image of her holding a monstrance became a lasting symbol of her deep Eucharistic devotion and complete trust in God.

Writing in August 2016 about the miracles attributed to St. Clare, Gregory DiPippo explained that artists often portray her in this way because of this famous miracle. He recounts that when the soldiers attempted to scale the walls of San Damiano, Clare brought the Blessed Sacrament to a window near the attack. As she lifted it on high, the soldiers fell back from the ladder "as if dazzled," and the entire company fled.

St. Clare's memory remained closely tied to San Damiano even after her death. In 1257, construction began on the Basilica of St. Clare and the adjoining proto-monastery. In 1260, the Poor Clares transferred both her body and the original San Damiano Cross to the new basilica. Today, that cross hangs in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, formerly the Church of St. George.

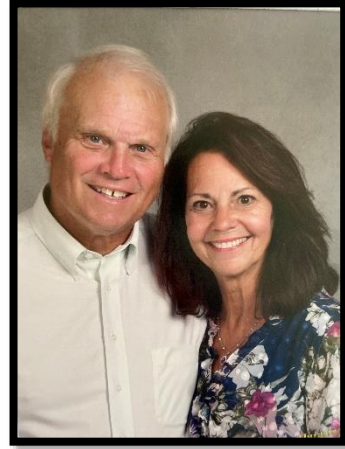
A statue of St. Clare holding a monstrance also appears among the Colonnade of Saints in St. Peter's Basilica. During pilgrimages to Italy with the Assisi Scholars, finding her statue in Vatican City and retelling this story has always been a favorite moment for students.

St. Clare's feast day is August 11.

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The window is in honor of **Ken and Becky Pitcher**. Ken is a 1977 graduate of Roger Bacon. He graduated with honors from the University of Cincinnati with a major in accounting. Ken is President and Managing Partner of his own firm. Ken's entire career has been concentrated in the area of tax law. His practice concentrates in the area of tax law at the federal, state and local levels.

Ken and Becky Pitcher have been married for over 40 years and have three adult children – Kyle (RB Class of 2004), Brian (RB Class of 2005) and Kelly. Additionally, they have five grandchildren. Ken and Becky reside in Colerain Township and are active members of Corpus Christi Church. Ken is also an active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Outside of his professional endeavors, Ken enjoys golfing, traveling with becky and playing with his grandchildren.



He credits much of his success from the Franciscan education and values he received from Roger Bacon High School.