

Clare Augustine Moore: Biographer & “Artist of Much Merit”

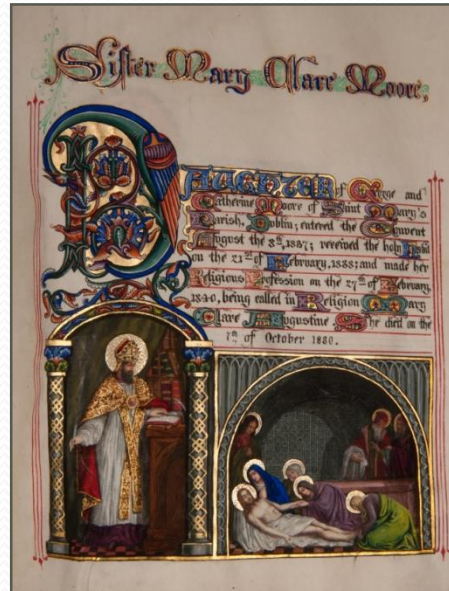
Mary Kay Dobrovolny rsm
Mercy International Association
25th Jubilee Celebration
26 September 2019

Separating out the Moore Women

Mary Clare (Georgiana)
Moore [1814-1874]



Clare Augustine
(Mary Clare) Moore
[1808-1880]



Elizabeth (Anne) Moore
[1806-1868]



Separating out the Moore Women

Mary Clare (Georgiana)
Moore [1814-1874]

Younger Sister to Clare
Augustine (Mary Clare)

Clare Augustine
(Mary Clare) Moore [1808-1880]

Older Sister to Mary Clare
(Georgiana)

Elizabeth (Anne) Moore
[1806-1868]

Not Related to Mary Clare
& Clare Augustine

Daughters of Protestant Parents: George & Catherine
At least one additional sibling, whose date of birth is
unknown

Father died in 1817 (Georgiana 3 yrs & Mary Clare 9 yrs)
1823: Mother converted to Catholicism along with
children

Daughter of Catholic
parents: James &
Catherine

Only child to survive
infancy

Father died when Anne 7
yrs

Educational Background of the Moore Women

Mary Clare (Georgiana)
Moore [1814-1874]

Well educated: first met Catherine when 14 years old & became governess to Catherine's niece & adopted cousin
Proficient in reading French & Latin

Clare Augustine
(Mary Clare) Moore [1808-1880]

Artist – not clear where or how she received training but entered community with some expertise

Elizabeth (Anne) Moore
[1806-1868]

Well educated:
possessed good knowledge of English, French & Music and had a sweet singing voice; 'acquired as much Arithmetic as was deemed necessary for young ladies at the time'

Early years in Mercy for the Moore Women

Mary Clare (Georgiana)
Moore [1814-1874]

Among 'first flock' to enter: the seven who received the habit on 23 Jan 1832 – first at Baggot St after Catherine, Elizabeth & Mary Ann's return from Georges Hill, aged 17
Takes name of her sister

Clare Augustine
(Mary Clare) Moore [1808-1880]

Met Catherine in 1829: detailed description of Catherine's physical features

Entered 8-1/2 years later (Aug 1837), aged 29

Takes name Clare Augustine, but Catherine and her sister frequently called her Sr Mary Clare

Elizabeth (Anne) Moore
[1806-1868]

Entered June 1832, aged 26

Had previously entered Sisters of Charity, but didn't persevere

Took name Elizabeth after Elizabeth of Hungary, who was renown for deeds of charity

Leadership Opportunities for the Moore Women

Mary Clare (Georgiana)
Moore [1814-1874]

Local Leader:

Cork: 1837-1839 &
June-Dec 1841

Bermondsey: 1839-
mid 1841 & end 1841-
death, with exception
of 15 mos in 1851-1852

Crimea War

Clare Augustine
(Mary Clare) Moore [1808-1880]

Artist

Mainly in Dublin area

(6 mos in Cork, 1841)

Participated in ministerial
endeavours of community

(visitation of sick poor;
teaching in a school in Cork;
teaching women art skills that
could earn income)

Elizabeth (Anne)
Moore [1806-1868]

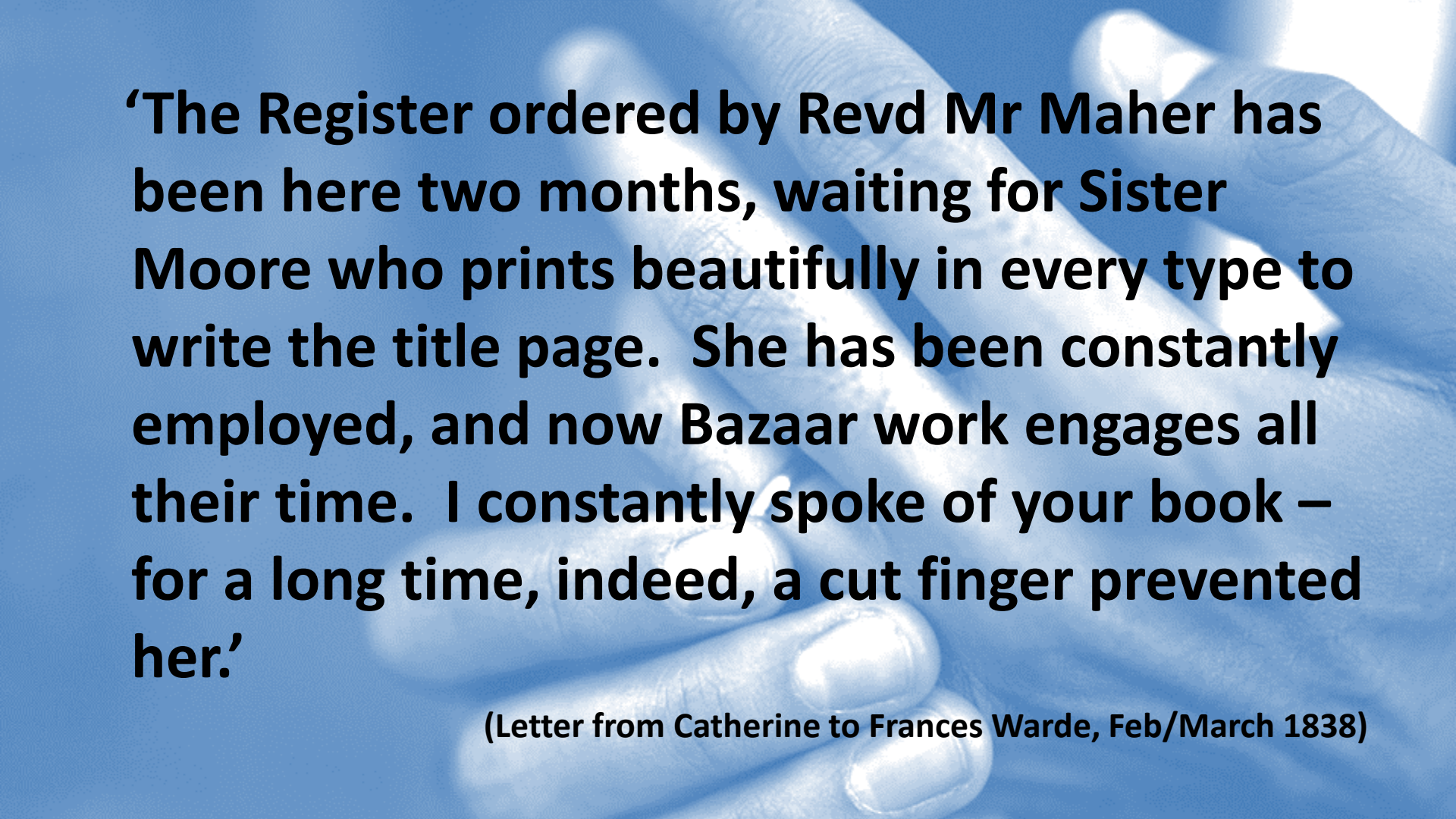
Local Leader:

Kingstown:
(beginning 2 yrs
after her profession)

Limerick: first
superior of this
foundation

My Dearest Sister Mr. Francis

This day - to say how am I am quite uneasy at not getting a few lines
Mother & Pessi say she is confined to bed - and that you wait
till she is better I trust in God it is not so - will you tell me
how she seems - and if her appetite is improving - it had not time
yet - all are well here - making great resolutions to benefit
excellent instructions we get during retreat - letters from Galway
all going on well - we have a delightful new hostland
came to the ceremony and want not so backward
Pessi and looks so nice - Sister Mary will tell
ceremony the fine my affectionate love
even your attached -
Mr. C. L.

A blue-tinted background image showing a pair of hands holding a quill pen. The hands are positioned as if writing, with the quill held between the fingers. The image is slightly out of focus, creating a soft, historical feel.


‘The Register ordered by Revd Mr Maher has been here two months, waiting for Sister Moore who prints beautifully in every type to write the title page. She has been constantly employed, and now Bazaar work engages all their time. I constantly spoke of your book – for a long time, indeed, a cut finger prevented her.’

(Letter from Catherine to Frances Warde, Feb/March 1838)



‘She [Cecilia Marmion] would have printed your Register long since – but knowing there was one could do it more fancifully, she was quite anxious to get it done so. *That one* [Clare Augustine] has more of her own ways yet than of ours – and it is not very easy to fix her to a point. She finds the duties sufficient to fill up her time, and as her constitution is strong, she is much employed in out door work. Sister Cecilia will bring our Register and print for you Friday, Saturday & Sunday.’

(Letter from Catherine to Frances, 13 March 1838)



‘The invitation is very nicely done. I think the printing remarkably good. The *Judge* thinks the etching would be exceedingly good if not so heavy, which she says gives it the appearance of a print – but I do not mind half what she says on these scientific points, which she delights in unfolding to the fools that will hearken to her. She will do anything in the Register you wish, but what is mentioned. She calls three weeks work – and she could not give that time until the bazaar is over. She is very slow.’

(Letter from Catherine to Frances Warde, 25-27 January 1839)

‘Sr Mary Clare Moore is a character – not suited to my taste or my ability to govern – though possessing many very estimable points. She teased and perplexed me so much about the difficulty of copying the two pages, that I was really obliged to give up – unwilling to command lest it should produce disedifying consequences. She said it would take the entire Lent – indeed you can have no idea how little she does in a week –as to a day’s work, it is laughable to look at it. She will shew me 3 leaves, saying, I finished these today – 3 rose or lily leaves.’

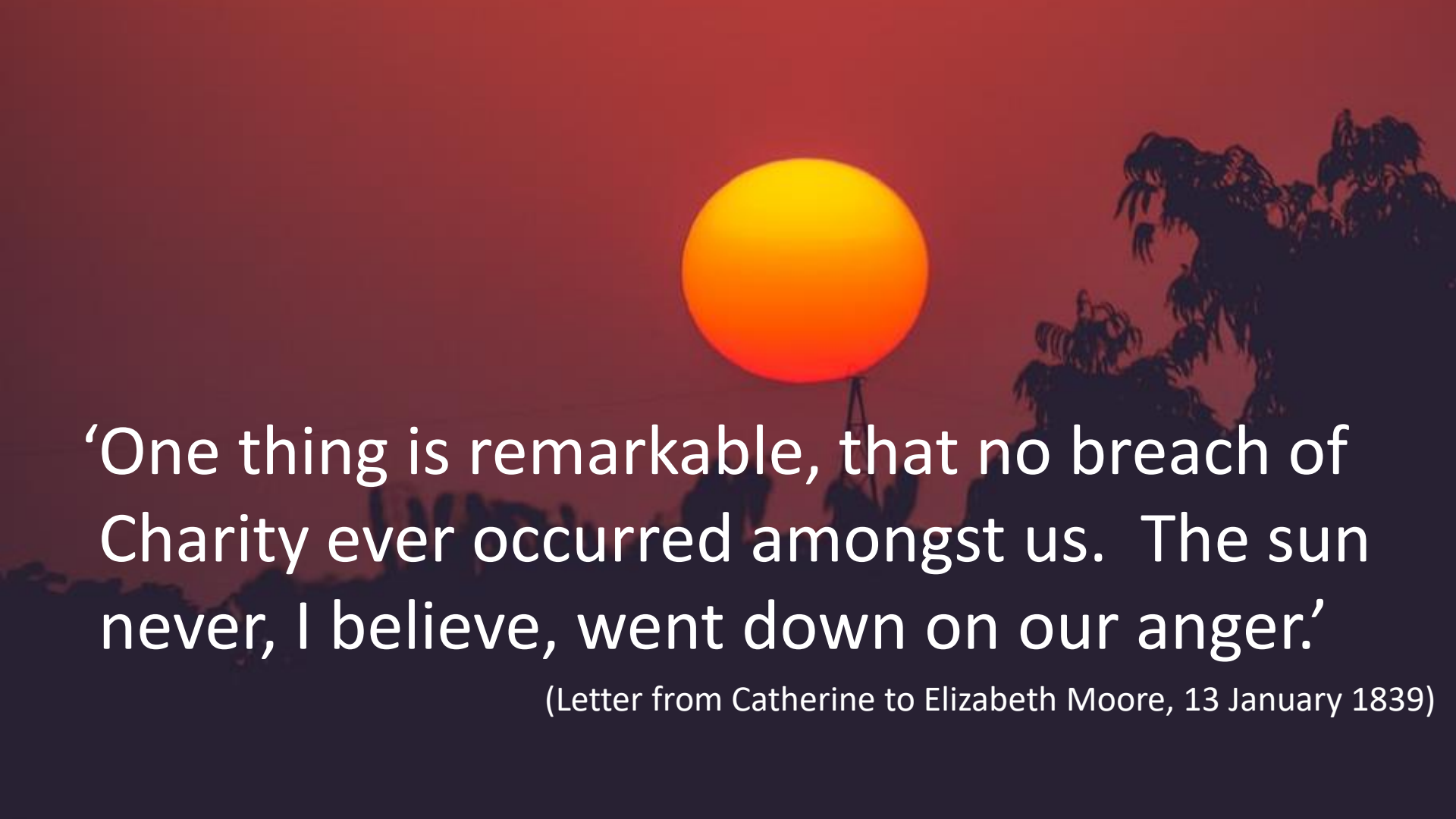
(Letter from Catherine to Frances Warde, 5 March 1841)



‘...they were summoned, and when all assembled our dear Reverend Mother humbly knelt down, and begged her forgiveness for the manner in which she had spoken to her that morning’

(Clare Moore, Bermondsey Manuscript)





‘One thing is remarkable, that no breach of
Charity ever occurred amongst us. The sun
never, I believe, went down on our anger.’

(Letter from Catherine to Elizabeth Moore, 13 January 1839)



'the foundress, who was always inclined to look at the sunny side of things and shew it to others, extolled the honesty of her little congregation....'



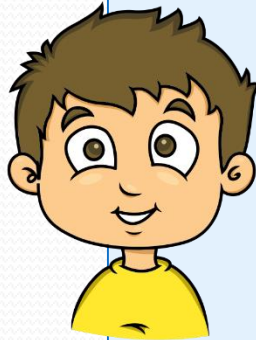
'...the business of the convent was talked of as freely as if it were a Chapter of Discreets. She was with us precisely as my own mother was with her family, or rather we used less ceremony than was used at home.'



'I believe the greatest trial of all to her were the frequent deaths of the Sisters. While she preserved her health she had a great awe or even fear of death, and she never saw the approach of a Sister's death or spoke of one who had died without great emotion. She had a really tender affection for us.'



'At Recreation she moved about the room but the sisters were not to stand up or she went off. I had a trick for keeping her. She liked to look at me drawing or working and I always contrived an empty chair I could reach without standing up and by drawing it to her I have often got her to sit half an hour at the end of the table.'



'The conduct of her nephews was most unsatisfactory. The youngest went to Australia without asking her advice or bidding her farewell and died there very soon; the two elder died of consumption brought on by reckless dissipation. She had by every means in her power striven to keep them in the right path and afterwards to reclaim them; how much she grieved for their errors few knew so well as I.'





Dziękuję

Qualities of Clare Augustine Moore

- Was able to stay true to herself and use her gifts and skills even when she didn't have full support of authorities
- Left a legacy both through her writing and her art, including an illumination gifted by the Irish Bishops to Pope Pius IX on the decree of the Immaculate Conception
- Was renown for her art within her own lifetime
- First to begin a biography of Catherine
- Able to forgive
- Able to look on another with love, admiration, affection

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