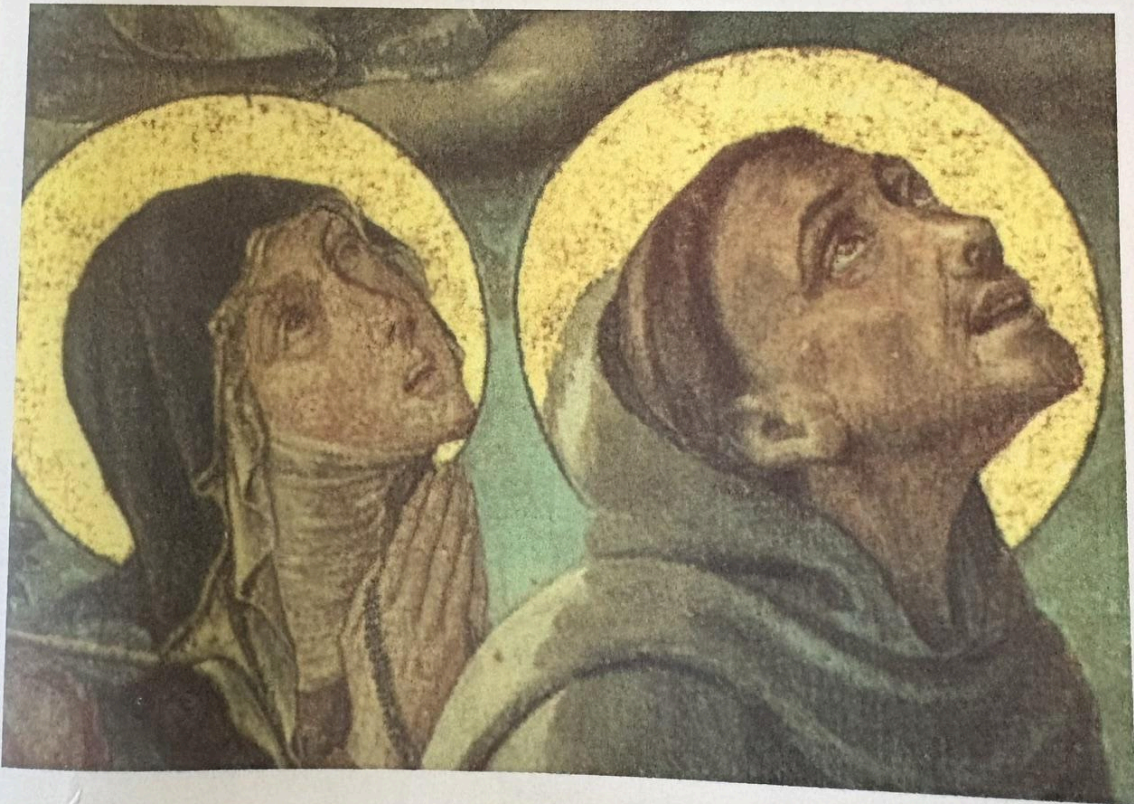


PILGRIM'S COMPANION

To
FRANCISCAN
PLACES



EDITRICE MINERVA - ASSISI



PRAYER

THE SAN DAMIANO CRUCIFIX: A PRAYER

- All:** Jesus, Our Lord and Brother, as we begin again to rebuild your house, enlighten the darkness of our hearts, give us true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity. Give us sensitivity and knowledge, Lord, that we might live your holy and true command.
- Women:** Mary, our sister and mother, as you stand beneath the cross of your son, help us rebuild the house of our own dignity and equality in your church, so that we might carry your son through love, and like you, give birth to him by holy acts, that shine as an example and model to others.
- All:** All you holy Angels, protect and sustain us as we rebuild God's house.
- Men:** John, our brother in what it means to love, as you stand beside Mary, the mother of Jesus, help us rebuild the house of our relationships with women, by becoming true spouses ourselves, of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who included women in his ministry, women who were faithful and stood beneath his cross, when all the Apostles but you, fled from fidelity to relationship.
- All:** All you holy women and men, intercede for us as we rebuild God's house.
- Women:** Mary Magdalene, true lover of Jesus, help us rebuild the house of our relationship through love that forgives, as we are forgiven, through a deep, virginal love of Him, whose feet you washed with your hair. Help us to forgive those who would exclude us from touching, equally with men, the same Jesus in his Body, the Church. Help us to be there, when those



- All:** All you holy angles, protect and sustain us as we rebuild God's house.
- Men:** Our brother, the anonymous Roman Centurion, whose son was healed by Jesus, help us rebuild the house of faith even in the midst of war, that destroys the very sons and daughters whom Jesus healed. Help us to not be cowardly, but like the true soldier you were, keep faith, speak up against death and destruction, believe that Jesus can still heal sons and daughters of war's destruction.
- All:** All you holy men and women, intercede for us as we rebuild God's house.
- Women:** Mary, mother of James, help us rebuild the house of humility falling into ruin through pride, that makes some want places of honor at the right and left hand of Jesus. Help us stand, like you, in that place beneath the cross, abandoned by your son James, when leadership called him to walk the way of the cross, and watch his God die at the hands of violent and power-obsessed men.
- All:** All you holy Angels, protect and sustain us as we rebuild God's house.
- Men:** Our brother, the Centurion's son, standing behind your father, help us rebuild the house of compassion that sees and responds to those like you, who suffer and die because of our lack of faith. Help us to see and believe, as your father did, that faith still heals, that faith does not give up, that faith is obedient to the healing power of Jesus.
- All:** All you holy men and women, intercede for us as we rebuild God's house.



Women: Little rooster, almost hidden near the knee of Jesus, help us rebuild the house of betrayal, by recalling how you crowed when Peter had betrayed Jesus three times. Help us to have courage and crow, when Jesus is betrayed outside and inside his church. Help us rebuild the house of joy as well, a new dawn in the church, where men and women together, crow aloud, the resurrection of Jesus from the bondage of old restrictions and heavy burdens placed on God's people.

All: All you holy Angels, protect and sustain us as we rebuild God's house.

Men: Longinus, brave centurion who pierced the side of Christ with a lance, and proclaimed aloud, Truly this was the son of God, help us rebuild the house of courage, to proclaim God's presence even when God seems dead, when violence destroys what has been built up by holy men and women, when God's body is pierced by rape and pillage, murder and genocide and war. Help us to be brave and say aloud, Truly this is God's own Body that you have violated.

All: All you holy women and men, intercede for us as we rebuild God's house.

Women: Anonymous man, member of the Sanhedrin, help us rebuild the house of reconciliation, by standing with those who do not believe what we believe, with men, perhaps, whom we see as the enemies of our own faith, whom we believe are trying to destroy religion as we understand it to be. Help us be reconcilers by being there, even in the enemy's camp, when humanity's collective sins can only stand and watch, as the God betrayed, lies helpless



- All: All you holy Angels, protect and sustain us as we rebuild God's house.
- Men: All you anonymous men, whose faces are erased beneath the feet of Jesus, help us rebuild the house of remembrance. Let us not forget those who have gone before us, those whose names we've ceased calling upon, whose faces are blurred by our reliance on the wisdom of our own times, and our preoccupation with the present. Help us to be grateful for what we've been given.
- All: All you holy women and men, intercede for us as we rebuild God's house.
- Women: Jesus, our spouse, as you ascend to God, your mother and father, help us rebuild the house of contemplation by gazing upon this crucifix preserved by our sister Clare. Help us once again to see and respond to love overflowing.
- All: All you holy Angels, protect and sustain us as we rebuild God's house.
- Men: Lord Jesus, our brother, as you ascend to your father and mother, help us rebuild the house of our love. May the power of your love, Lord Jesus, fiery and sweet as honey, wean our hearts from all that is under heaven, so that we may die for love of your love, who died for love of our love.
- Women: Amen. So be it.
- Men: Amen. So be it.
- All: Loving God, our mother and father, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done ...