

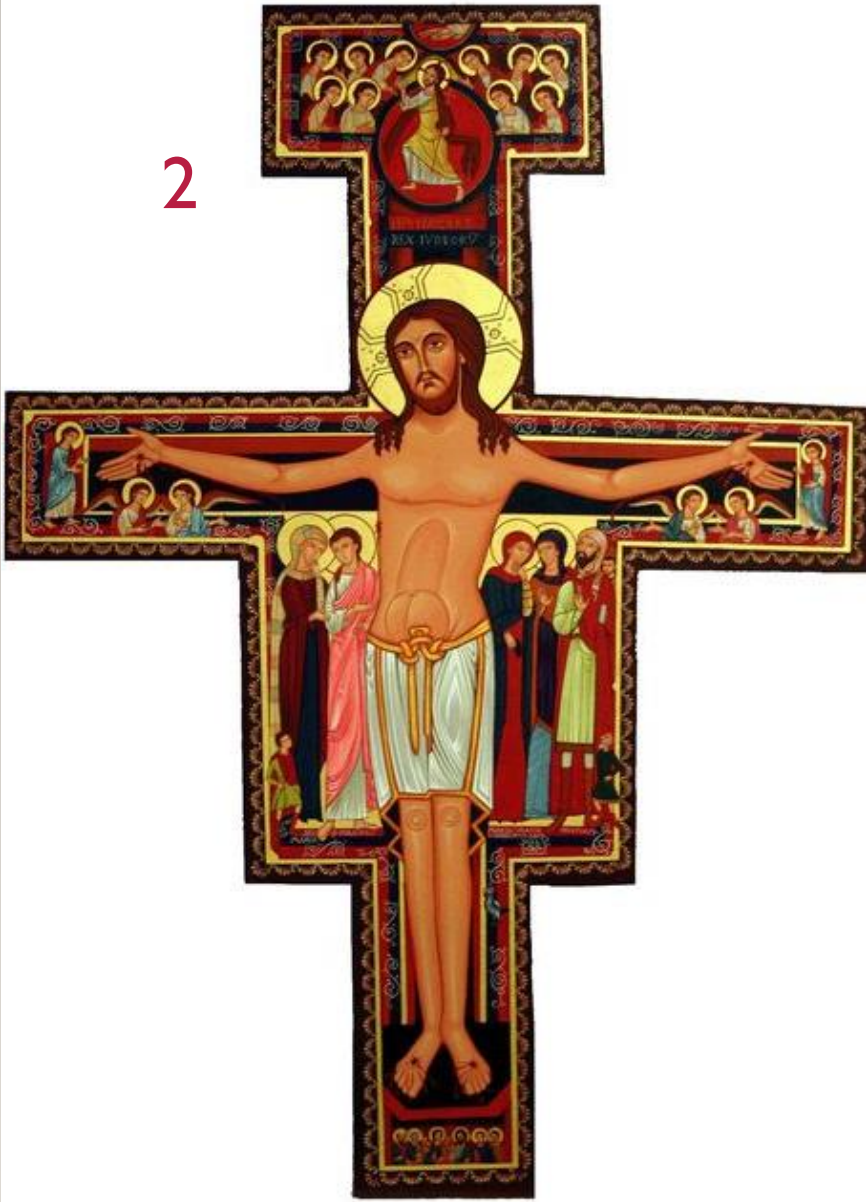


THE CROSS OF SAN DAMIANO

AND THE LORD SAID:”....REBUILD MY CHURCH”



2



THE CROSS

3

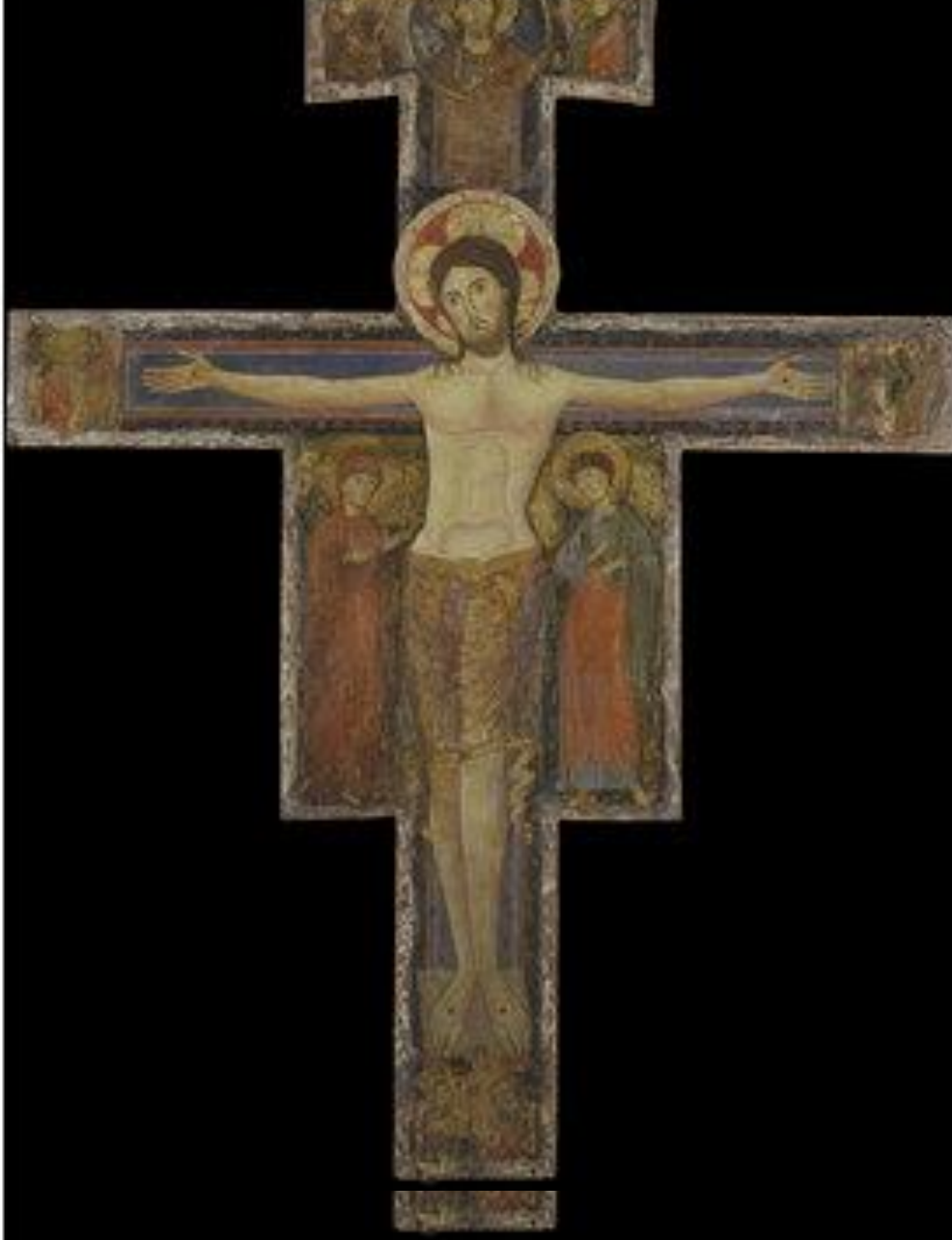
All...

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.

Amen.....



4



The Cross of Alberto Sotio
(or Sozio) in Spoleto 1187



5



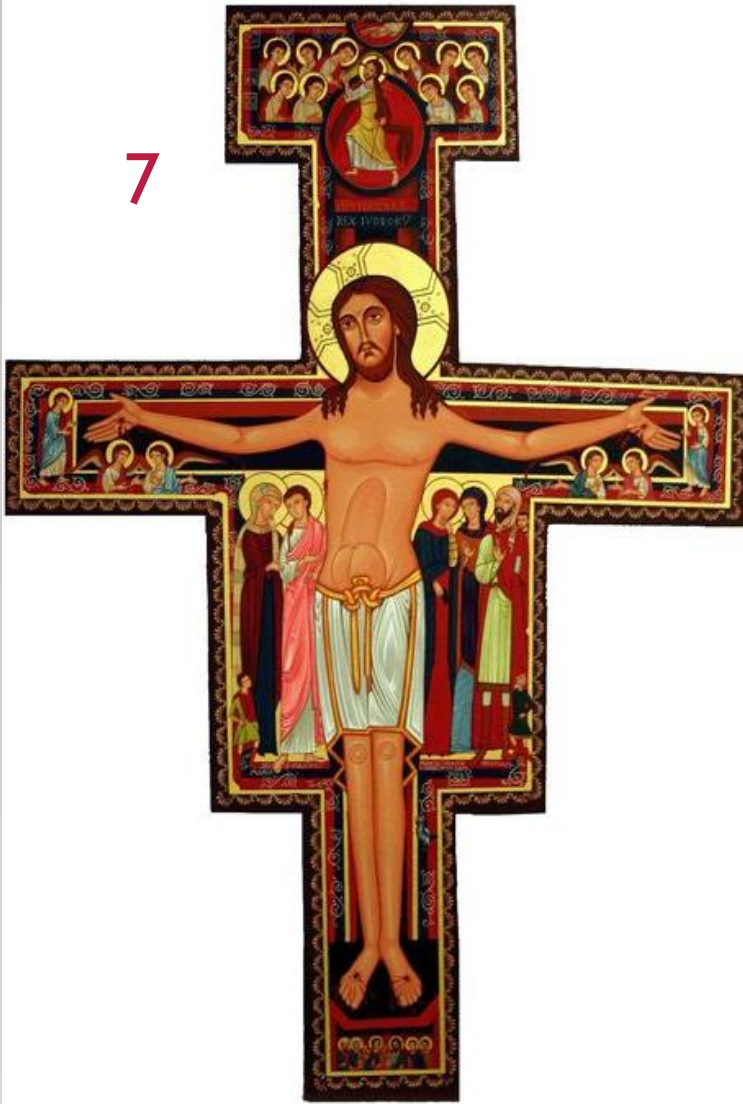
6

Christ is depicted twice. There are 33 figures. Light dominates the scene.*
Christ stands upright, His eyes are open, His chest and neck look strong.
His feet rest on a black square.



** John 1:5; 8:12 I am the Light of the World, Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*

7



The border around the entire Cross suggest a crown of leaves- the vine or the tree of life ---

John 15:1

8

I am the vine, you are the branches...John 1:5



9

His hands are not nailed.
There is no crown of thorns.
instead a Halo.



The Ascension of the
Lord



10

His garments are of gold, symbol of Royalty and Victory. His red scarf is a sign of Dominion and Kingship. He holds a thin scepter. He is getting out of a red Medallion



The Father gives Christ a benediction. The Angels welcome Him into Heaven.



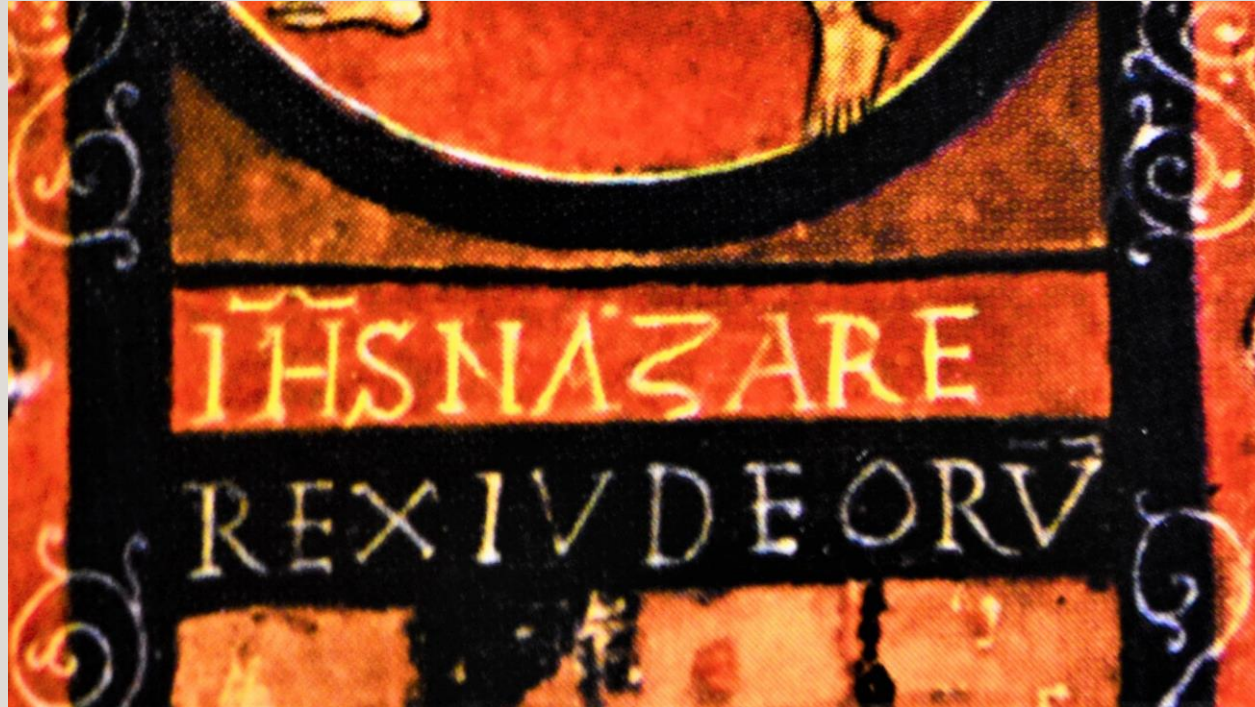
Further down
there is an
Inscription....



12

John 19:19

The Inscription reads: IHS
first three letters of
JESus....NAZARE is a
shorthand for
NAZARENE....REX is
KING....IVDEORU is for
IUDERUM...



Jesus the
Nazarene.
King of the
Jews.

13

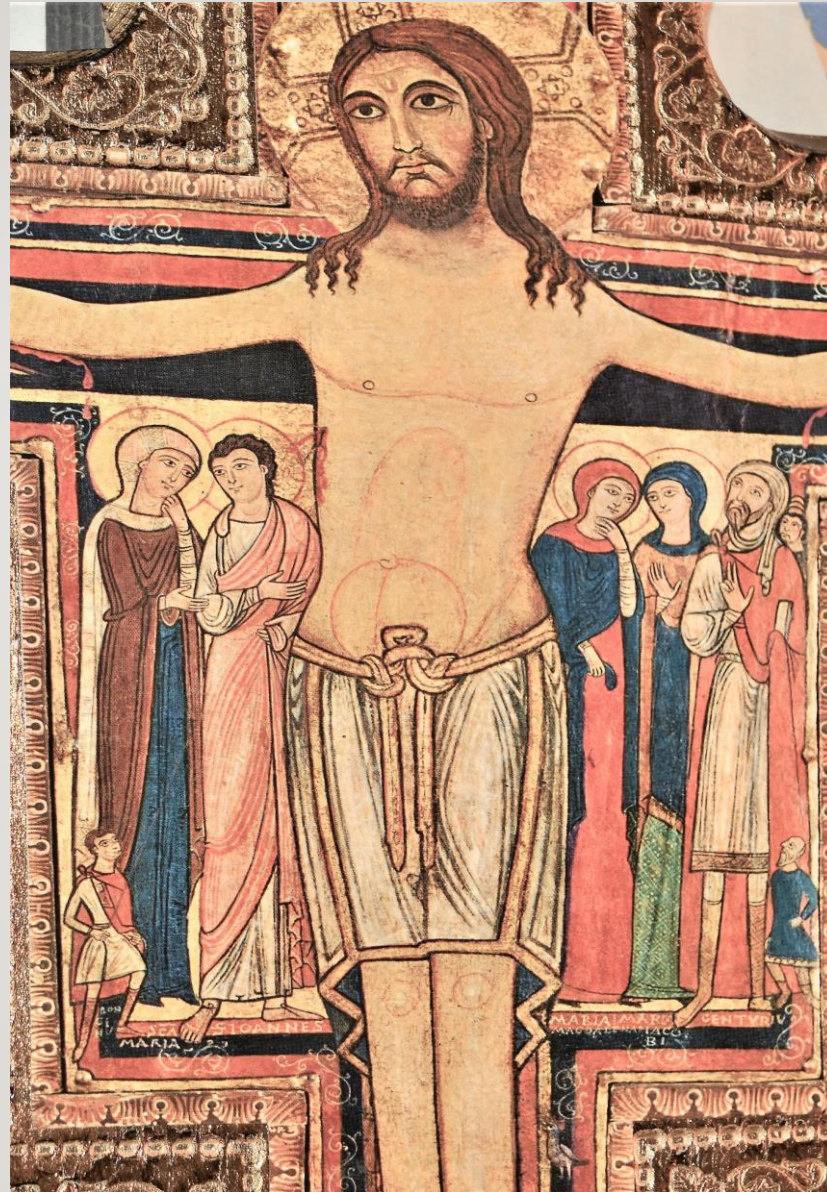


So far, Christ is standing. is aware of His surroundings, is alive, is not nailed, He has a halo instead a crown of thorns. A bleeding wound is seen on the right side

14

On His right Mary, His mother, with
Saint John the Evangelist.

“..Woman, behold your Son... and to
the disciple:... “behold your Mother”
(John 19:25- 27)



15

Mary's mantle is white, meaning victory. (REV 3:5 "...The victor will thus be dressed in white) Her right hand shows she is accepting John.



The dark red under Her mantle indicates love. The inner gown is purple...The Ark of the Covenant (Ex 26: 1-4)

16

Mary Magdalene has her hand on her chin indicating she has a secret...: He is risen...Mary Clopas admires Jesus, as indicated by the gesture of her hand.



The Centurion holds a piece of wood (he built Synagogues and made crosses). Jesus healed his son (servant, or ...?) (portrayed behind the Centurion's left shoulder).The soldier shows three fingers, indicating the symbol of the Trinity. (See Luke 7:1-10, Mark 15:39)

17

And, this is Longinus...Saint Longinus...the soldier, blind of one eye, who pierced the side of Christ with a lance. Some of the blood of the Lord fell on the soldier's bad eye and he recovered the sight



John 19:34, 37



Jesus went to Capernaum. A Centurion had a sick slave, and about to die. He sent elders of the Jews to ask Jesus to save the life of the slave. And Jesus went to him, yet the Centurion sent friends to tell Him: "Lord do not trouble yourself, I am not worthy you to enter under my roof...but say the word and my servant be healed..." (Luke 7: 1- 10)

19

John 19:28-30...Jesus said: "I thirst". There was a vessel filled with common wine. They put a sponge soaked in wine in a sprig of hyssop and into His mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine He said : "It is finished" And bowing His head He handed over the spirit.



Tradition names Stephen as the soldier giving Jesus the sponge soaked in vinegar,,



20



Now let's go to these two areas:



21

The right hand of the Lord, bleeding without nails. The Good Thief, Dismas who went to Heaven, and two Angels astonished discussing the scene they are witnessing (John 20:12). In the background, the rectangle representing the tomb..



22



The left hand, also bleeding. Two Angels explain what they see...and the thief of the left...that did not go to Heaven.

23

Time has erased the clarity of the Saints at the bottom. Scholars postulate are Saint Damian, Ruffin, Michael, John the Baptist, Peter, and Paul.



24



Now, look carefully...there is a little bird, likely a rooster recalling the denial of Peter. The rooster also proclaims the new dawn of the Risen Christ.. the true light (1 John 2:8)...and yet I do write a New Commandment to you, which holds true in him and among you. For the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

In Summary:

1. Painted by an unknown Serbian artist in the 12th century
2. It measures 190x120x12 cm.
3. In 1257 Poor Clares took the crucifix, and preserved it for 700 years, to make it public in 1957. (Ever since in the Basilica of Saint Clare of Assisi.
4. Perhaps there is a preceding painting: the Cross of Spoleto.
Painted by Alberto Sotio (or Sozio)
5. The Crucifix portrays Francis' love for Mary, Her Faith, as well as the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ.
6. There are 33 figures in the icon. Two figures of Christ. One Hand of the Father, Five major figures. Two smaller figures. Fourteen angels. Two unknown by His hands, One small boy. 6 unknown at the bottom, and one rooster.

A final reflection

Pray as Francis did before The Cross of San Damiano. Honor Mary saying the Crown of the Seven Joys,. Many of your problems will disappear. You will learn how suffering and joy may, and will, coexist, as it was with Mary.

Finally, we say: Holy Mary Mother of God. You trusted God with your whole life when you said “Let it be done on me”, Show us how to give birth to Christ in a world so in need of His love and forgiveness. Amen

Thank you all

