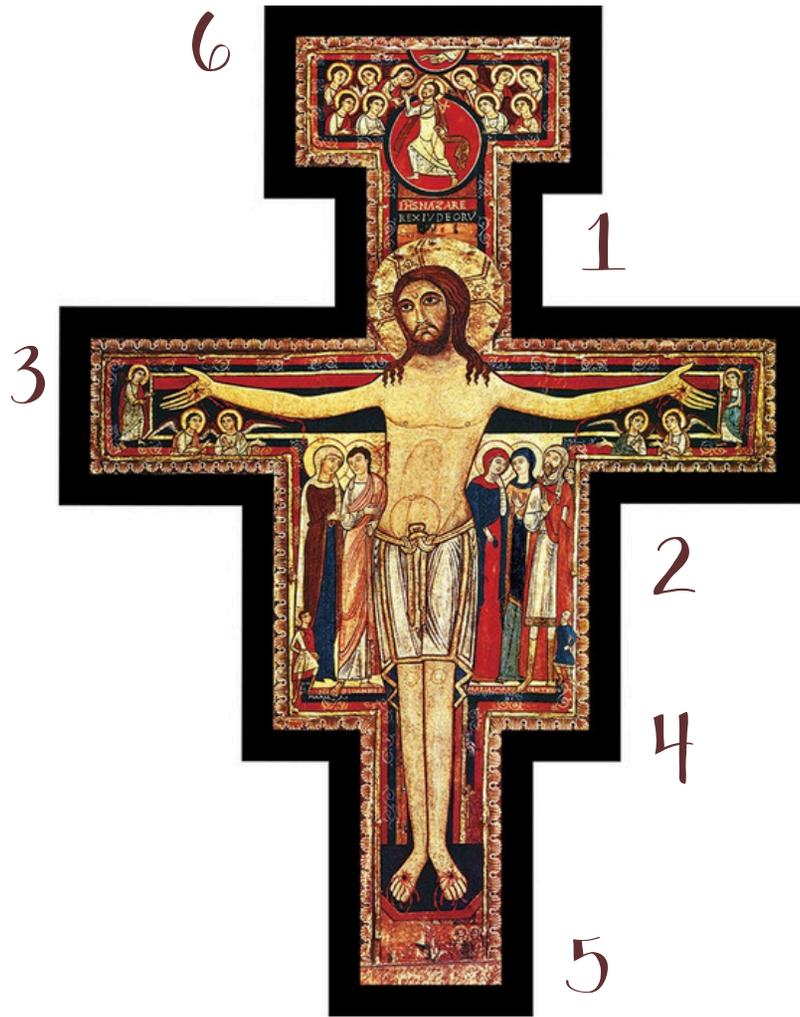


Symbolisms in the Cross



Prayer of St. Francis before the Cross of San Damiano

Most High, Glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me true faith, certain hope and perfect
charity, sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may
carry out Your holy and true command. Amen.

- 1 Christ is the dominant figure and he is shown both wounded and resilient. He projects life in a divine nature and stands resolutely, despite the nail piercings in his hands and feet.
 - 2 Flanking Jesus on either side are the five witnesses of the crucifixion. On the left: the Virgin Mary and John the Baptist. On the right: Mary Magdalene; Mary, Mother of James; and a Centurion who had asked Christ to heal his son. The son's image peeks over the Centurion's shoulder.
 - 3 At both ends of the the crossbar are six angels, marveling over the event of the crucifixion.
 - 4 Two smaller figures represent witnesses of the crucifixion. On the left, Longinus, the name of the soldier who pierced Jesus with a lance. On the right: Stephaton, who offered Jesus the wine-soaked sponge.
 - 5 Six faded images at the foot of the cross are believed to be the six patrons of Umbria: St. John; St. Michael; St. Rufino; St. John the Baptist; St. Peter and St. Paul.
 - 6 At the top of the cross, in the red circle, Jesus is dressed in his regal garments, carrying the cross as a triumphant specter to the heavenly courts, represented by the 10 angels who greet him. Above that, the Hand of God reaches down, blessing his son.
- Also noteworthy:** the cross is bordered in golden scallop shells, an ancient symbolism of baptism; his loin cloth is white to show purity but bordered in gold, the sign of a king. A small figure to the right of Jesus' calf is believed to be a rooster, representing Peter's denial.