



**St. Francis is known as the man who was most like Christ**, “*the first after the only one*”, the universal brother, a man of peace and reconciliation, the *Poverello*, the lover of the poor, the troubadour of creation. It is true. Francis of Assisi, however, was first and foremost a mystic, a real contemplative, enamoured with the poor and crucified Christ. Francis was not only a man who prayed, but, as his biographer Thomas of Celano says, he was “*a man become prayer*”. The presence of God transfigured him until He made him “*another Christ*”.

## **The Prayer before the Crucifix at 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.