



**The little
church of
San Damiano**



**Hung in church over the alter... no Blessed
Sacrament...sacred object for prayer**



Not a parish...neglected



**Giotto (Upper Basilica of St. Francis)
(1297-1299)**



From the cross Francis hears the words *“Go repair my house, Francis, which you can see is falling into ruins.”*

Francis interprets this literally, and prepares a dwelling for Clare and her sisters.



Original Artist Unknown

**Clare begins
her order of
the Poor
Ladies at
San Damiano**

**She is the
first woman
to write her
own Rule.**

**Clare prays before the crucifix
here all her life (over 40 years)**



Among all the other gifts we have received and continue to receive daily from our benefactor, the Father of mercies, and for which we must express the deepest thanks to our glorious God, ***our VOCATION is a GREAT GIFT.***

Testament of St. Clare



In 1257 the Poor Clares leave San Damiano for safety inside the walls of Assisi. They take the Crucifix to the Church of San Georgia in Assisi.



Basilica of St. Clare, Assisi



1957 ...
first
public
view over
the altar

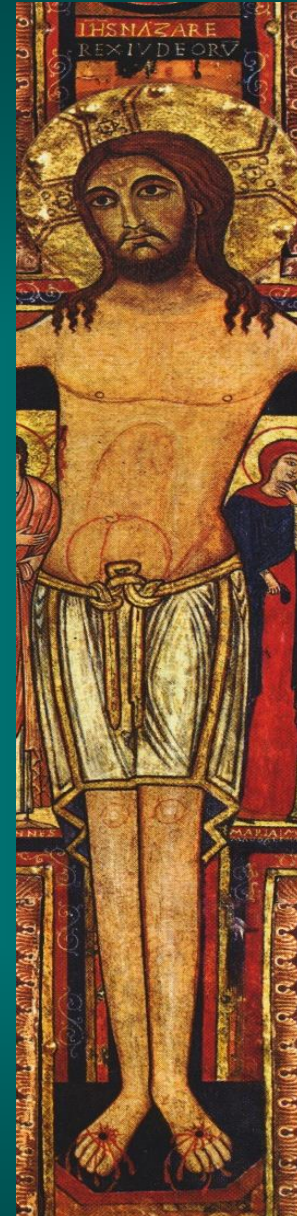
San Damiano Cross

- 6' 10" (2.1 m.) high
4' 3-1/2" (1.3 m.) wide
- Painted on cloth
glued to walnut wood
- Early 12th century
(ca. 1100-1125?)
- Serbian monks living in
Umbrian Valley



The Figure of Jesus

1. Stands *upright* not nailed to the cross
2. Eyes – *open* ... looks with compassion on world
3. Is *alive* ... victorious over death – eternal
4. Wears *gold* loin cloth – vestment of High Priest, victim



Black rectangle
behind the figure
of Christ: *empty
tomb* (Jn 20:1-18)

Red stripe across
the top: God's
LOVE is victorious
(Jn 10:17)





**Sea Shells surrounding the
entire cross**

Eternity, beauty and endurance –
*A mystery of unconditional love
revealed.*



Calligraphy scrolls: *“I am the Vine, you are the branches.”* Jn 15:5

The Inscription



Jesus Nazarenus Rex Judaeorum – INRI

“From Nazareth?” said Nathanael “Can anything good come from that place.” (Jn 1:46)