

# Prayer of St. Francis Assisi before the Crucifix

**"Most High glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness of my heart.  
Give me right faith, sure hope and perfect charity.  
Fill me with understanding and knowledge  
that I may fulfill your command."**

## **Prayer Note – The Image makes a difference**

Excerpt from blog post by Jack Wintz, OFM. Access full text at <https://blog.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit/saint-francis-prayer-before-the-crucifix>

**If you look closely at the body of Christ, as painted on this cross, you will see that it is neither a bloody body nor one twisted in anguish. Rather his body is quite luminous, as if it were already his risen body, radiating the fullness of God. Instead of a crown of thorns, moreover, Christ's head is surrounded by a glorious halo. And his body with outstretched arms appears to be ascending to heaven. In short, the image clearly suggests that it represents Jesus rising into glory.**

**If, indeed, this was the image of Christ which Saint Francis was pondering as this prayer arose in his heart, it makes perfectly good sense that Francis would address Jesus as "Most high glorious God!" For all signs of glory are there.**

**O glorious God of overflowing love, enlighten the darkness of our hearts!**

