



Morning

It is first to be considered that the glorious St Francis, in all the acts of his life, was conformed to Christ the Blessed. And that even as Christ, at the beginning of his mission, chose twelve apostles who were to despise all worldly things and follow him in poverty and in the other virtues, so St Francis in the beginning chose for the foundation of his order twelve companions who were possessed of nothing but direct poverty . . . And even as those holy apostles were, above all, wondrous in their holiness and humility, and filled with the Holy Spirit, so those most holy companions of St Francis were men of . . . saintliness.



Evening

Now Bernard, when he beheld these most devout acts of St Francis . . . was moved and inspired by the Holy Spirit to change his manner of life . . . The priest . . . took the book and, having made the sign of the holy cross, opened it three times in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . 'If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all that you have and give to the poor and follow me.' . . . Then St Francis said to Bernard, 'Behold the advice that Christ gives us. Go, therefore, do faithfully what you have heard, and blessed be the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has deigned to reveal to us the gospel life.'