



Using the Pilgrimage Cross at Liturgy

One of the most popular ways to utilize the Pilgrimage Cross will surely be in the context of a liturgical celebration.

Consider these suggestions as you plan your liturgy.

- A few weeks before the cross is scheduled to arrive, use the "Pilgrimage Cross Bulletin Announcement" to appropriately communicate with your parish family the importance of the cross' visit. If you are in a school, use the same announcement over the public address system to alert young people and teachers about the cross' significance.
- Make an announcement before Mass using the "Introducing the Cross to your Parish" as a guide. Have one of the young people make this announcement to show how much your parish advocates for young people.
- A week or so before the liturgy, have young people write their prayers on small pieces of paper and invite them to place them in a basket or on pieces of paper that can be made into a chain. Be sure to give a quick glance to the prayers to make sure no young people in your community are crying out for help.
- Be sure to include your pastor in the preparation of the cross' visit. Suggest that all clergy concelebrate the Mass where the cross will be used.
- The cross is meant to be on pilgrimage. It should be carried whenever appropriate. Therefore, have young people from your parish carry the cross in as part of the procession. Be sure to read the "Guidelines for Use" for more instructions on carrying the cross.
- During the Preparation of the Gifts, have one of the young people - or one of the regular Sunday ushers - place the basket of prayers (or the prayer chain, if you made one) before the cross.
- Add a petition in the Prayers of the Faithful, calling to mind the prayers and intentions of your parish or school's young people.
- Invite the presider to make mention of the cross in his homily as a sure sign the parish is in touch with the needs of young people. It would be very distracting for the cross to be carried in to Mass and then never mentioned.
- Find out where the cross is going next. Invite young people from that parish or school to attend your liturgy. Then, at the end of liturgy, have your young people carry the cross half way down the aisle and hand it over to the young people of the next parish or school, who will carry the cross out of the building. See "Guidelines for Use" for more information on handing the cross off to another groups. *[Please note, if your group is receiving it from another group, have their young people hand off the cross to your youth at the beginning of liturgy.]*
- If the cross is not leaving your parish for a day or two, consider leaving the cross in place at the end of liturgy to allow others to come forward to pray before the cross.



Pilgrimage Cross Bulletin Announcement

To be used in the weeks leading up to the arrival of the cross in your parish.

The diocesan Pilgrimage Cross will be in our parish next weekend/on the weekend of N.

This cross, a replica of the World Youth Day Cross given to young people by Pope John Paul II in 1984, is traveling throughout the Diocese of Wilmington as a reminder to all, especially young people, of our dependence on the cross for our salvation. This cross was constructed by young people on the diocesan youth leadership team and was blessed by Bishop Malooly at the One Spirit, One Church conference in March 2009. Each Palm Saturday, hundreds of young people carry the cross with Bishop Malooly through the city streets of Wilmington.

The cross will continue to travel around the diocese until the next pilgrimage on March 31, 2012.

May this cross be carried throughout our diocese as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity and as a challenge to us all to stand firm in our conviction, steadfast in our faith, and rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.

If appropriate, you could also include:

At the end of liturgy, the young people from our parish will hand the cross over to the young people from N. parish (or they will receive it from...at the beginning of liturgy).

Or

This week when the young people gather (insert day, time, etc.), they will use the cross in their meeting.



Introducing the Cross to your Parish or School

This could be read just prior to the start of the liturgical celebration in which the cross is to be used, or at another appropriate time.

On Easter Sunday, 1984, Pope John Paul II presented a simple wooden cross to the young people of the world.

On the cross was this inscription: "My dear young people; At the conclusion of the Holy Year, I entrust to you the very sign of this jubilee year: the "Cross of Christ!" Carry it throughout the world as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity and announce to everyone that only in the death and resurrection of Christ can we find salvation and redemption."

Since that day, thousands of young people around the world have heeded the challenge of John Paul and have carried the cross around the globe. What started in Rome in 1984 has spread to World Youth Day celebrations in Argentina in 1987, Spain in 1989, Poland in 1991, the United States in 1993, the Philippines in 1995, France in 1997, returning to Rome for the jubilee year in 2000, then on to Canada in 2002, Germany in 2005 and Australia in 2008. On Palm Sunday this year, the young people from Australia presented the cross to St. Peter's Square in Rome to young people of Spain, host of the next World Youth Day in 2011.

The original cross has been carried by hundreds of thousands and has visited a myriad of locations, even making unscheduled stops along the way, once being carried through the streets of New York City to Ground Zero in February 2002.

In February 2009, the members of the Diocesan Youth Leadership Team constructed a replica of the World Youth Day cross. This diocesan cross was first used in diocesan ministry on March 1, 2009 at the high school One Spirit, One Church conference, where it was blessed by Bishop Malooly. In March 2010, more than 400 youth and adults joined the Bishop in prayer and song as we carried this cross through the streets of Wilmington during he inaugural youth pilgrimage. More than 700 youth and young adults gathered in 2011.

This week (weekend, today, etc.) this Pilgrimage Cross is in our parish (school).

Insert here any information about how the cross will be or has already been used in your community (i.e., "On Monday, the young people from our parish will gather in prayer before the cross" or "Last week, the young people of our parish received the cross from the young people of N. parish")

You might also include if the cross will be handed off from/to another group at the beginning or at the end of liturgy.

The cross will makes its way around the diocese in anticipation of the next youth pilgrimage on Saturday, March 31, 2012.

May this cross be carried throughout our diocese as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity and as a challenge to us all to stand firm in our conviction, steadfast in our faith, and rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.