

The Story of Artistic Crosses

We are a Catholic Home schooling family from just north of Lake Charles, La. As a Stained Glass Artist, I have been making windows and doors for homes and churches for 22 years. We have gone through hard times as well as prosperous ones. We can see the hand of God guiding and teaching us.

These crosses began 2 years ago when our son Joshua went to Rome for a 30 day Formators Course with the Legionaries of Christ. In order to raise the money, our family made crosses out of scraps of glass left over from windows built for churches by our studio.

Since then our son has decided to enter the Seminary and become a Priest. Beginning in August 2005, we started making crosses to help support his ministry. This time we made a web site and selected 15 different color combinations in 2 styles. We were ready to publish the web site when we learned that there was a mandatory evacuation for all of Calcasieu Parish.

On September 22, 2005, Hurricane Rita made landfall as a Category 3 storm. We watched the news from our hotel room in Northern Arkansas. We returned home 4 days later to discover severe damage to our work shop. We had 63 crosses laid out ready for casting. The whole back wall of the shop was ripped out leaving tools and machinery damaged and lost. Not one cross was moved.

With no power, we began repairs and clean up. Using a generator, we published the web site. It was a full 2 months before we could resume making the crosses. The crosses were more than a fundraiser now, they were necessary for us to have money to live. This was a difficult time for us. We learned valuable lessons about being thankful and grateful for how God has provided for us and how much He loves and cares for us.

The night before Thanksgiving Day, Theresa Schmitt from KPLC TV told our story on the news. That night we got phone calls for 2 solid hours, around 60 phone calls. Since then we have been making and selling the crosses to many people who also suffered damage from the Hurricane. We have heard many stories of faith and how difficult this disaster was for many people. They have told us that they appreciate the crosses because they are hand made here locally. We have also heard that the black roofing sand used in the casting of the crosses, symbolizes the many roofs that were damaged in the storm.

We can see the light of Christ in the hearts and minds of people who tell us how the gift of this cross inspires Christ in a world that so desperately needs Him.

May the light of Christ shine in you, as it shines through the colors in this cross.

God Bless You,
Frank, Eva, Joshua, Mary, Levi & Esther Thompson.