

## **IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS**

The two most significant beams of wood in all of human history.

Death that leads to life.

A crown of thorns that becomes a crown of glory.

A pierced heart that heals all hearts. Humiliation that ushers in dignity.

A voice crying in anguish that leads to voices singing in praise.

**A paradox.**

### **THE SAVING POWER OF THE CROSS**

**PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11**

### **THE REDEMPTIVE MISSION OF THE CROSS**

**GALATIANS 2:19-20**

### **THE EVANGELICAL CALL OF THE CROSS**

**I CORINTHIANS 1:18-25**

***The saving power of the Cross...*** one of the most common pieces of jewelry is that of a cross hanging from a necklace. Has it become merely an adornment or do we really “get” what that cross stands for? Salvation. Forgiveness. Reconciliation. Atonement. Love. Healing. Freedom. Hope. Promise. Two beams of wood with great POWER.

***The redemptive mission of the Cross...*** “*The redemptive value comes instead from the fact that the innocent Jesus, out of pure love, entered into solidarity with the guilty and thus transformed their situation from within. When a catastrophic situation such as that caused by sin is taken upon oneself on behalf of sinners out of pure love, then that situation is no longer under the sign of opposition to God. On the contrary, it is under the sign of docility to the love which comes from God, and therefore becomes a source of blessing...*” - St. Pope John Paul II

***The evangelical call of the Cross...*** at the conclusion of Mass many Catholics still hold the tradition of leaving the church by dipping their fingers into a font of holy water and signing themselves with the sign of the Cross. Though the Mass may be “formally” concluded, our mission is only beginning when we walk out the door.

**The Cross of Jesus Christ.**

**A paradox indeed. A paradox unparalleled.**