

The Powerful Symbol of the Cross

Part 1: Signs and Symbols Chart

Sign	Symbol
One meaning	Many meanings (multivalent)
No interpretation needed	Requires interpretation
Static (unchanging) meaning	Organic (living and changing) meaning
Presentation / appearance does not change	Presentation / appearance can evolve / change
Means the same thing to all people	Means different things to different people

Part 2: Journal Entry

- Describe or draw the cross or crucifix you chose.
- Why are you attracted to this cross or crucifix?
- What unique meaning does it convey to you? For example, what does it tell you about life, love, God, Jesus, faith, suffering, hope, and so on?
- *(Complete after the conversation with your partner)* What is one interesting point that emerged from discussion with your partner?

Part 3: Homework

Design your own cross or crucifix, choosing one of the options below. How would you represent what this multivalent symbol means *to you*? Symbolize your own struggles, your own pain, and your own hope of resurrection. In other words, express your own experience of the **Paschal Mystery**.

Option 1 (preferred): Actually draw or design your cross or crucifix. On the back, note if you are envisioning it to be made of a particular material (like clay, wood, gold, silver, and so on) and explain any part of your design that your teacher might not recognize.

Option 2: Write a *detailed* description of your cross or crucifix, including its appearance (including the material it would be made of), its size, and how it would symbolize your own unique experience of the Paschal Mystery.

