

The Serra KCK Candle and Crucifix



The Candle

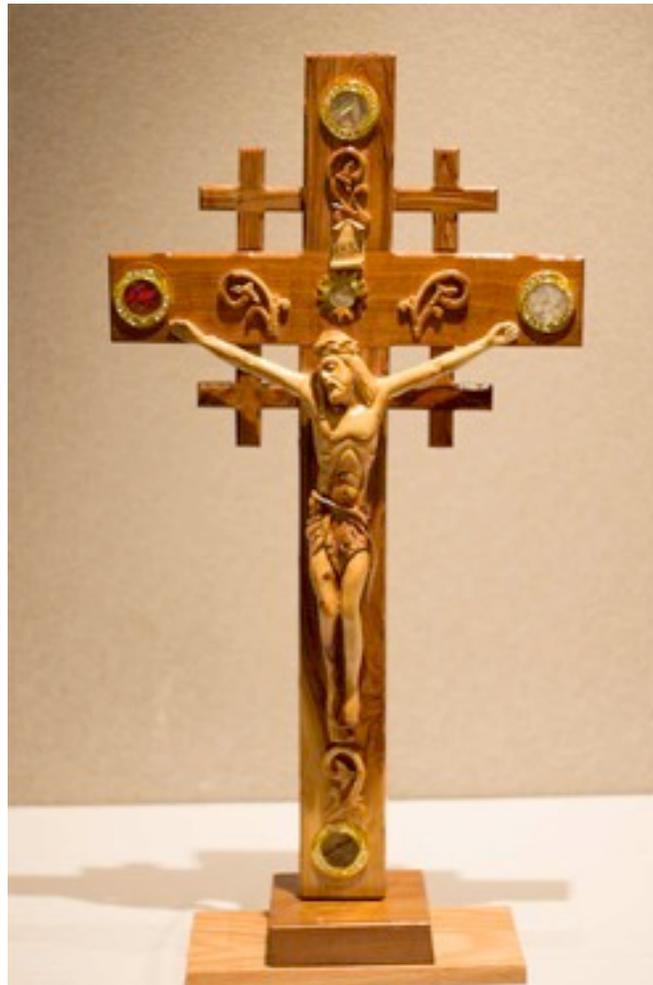
We know that when 2 or 3 meet together in the name of Christ He is there in our presence. His presence constrains us to hear others with patience and respect, to act with humility and share freely.

In 2012, then President Robert Luchi brought a small candle from home to his first meeting with the Serra Board he said, while lighting it, that he brought it to symbolize to him in a more concrete way all that is in the paragraph above, or, as he put it, "to help me control my sometimes unruly Italian temper". At the beginning of the next meeting of the Board he asked the President-elect, Jerry Fladung to light the candle and give a short invocation. This practice has continued at each meeting of the Board to the present day.

But the practice has broadened to initiate each of our regular meetings by lighting a candle with a reflection, now commonly, a reflection on the Mass readings of the day and how the reading apply to each of us as we go about our daily lives. The small

candle brought in from home was later replaced by a larger one donated to our Club by Rick Wiseman of Porter Funeral Homes. The one in the photograph is from 2014.

The Crucifix



This crucifix was presented to the Serra Club of Kansas City in Kansas by President Jerry Fladung. Jerry travelled to the Holy Land with a group from the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas as was given this Jerusalem Cross by a native of the Holy Land. Jerry then gave the cross as a gift to our Serra Club. The crucifix occupied a place of honor at our regular meetings for many years. Members of our club had the privilege of bringing this beautiful olive wood crucifix into their homes between regular meetings where it provided an apt centerpiece for our prayer and reflection. To protect the cross from damage during its travels (thus the name “traveling crucifix”) Fritz Vertz had a wheeled case constructed by a local craftsman. Despite great care the crucifix was damaged and repaired on at least two occasions and was officially retired in 2018. A smaller crucifix of metal now serves as the Club’s crucifix during our regular meetings.

The five crosses symbolize the five wound of Jesus. There are 5 receptacles contain objects commonly found in the Holy Land: dried olive leaves, stones, dried flowers frankincense and Holy Land soil.

This 2018 Serra KCK traveling crucifix replaced the original Cross donated by Jerry Fladung.



Photo courtesy of Gary DeHaemers