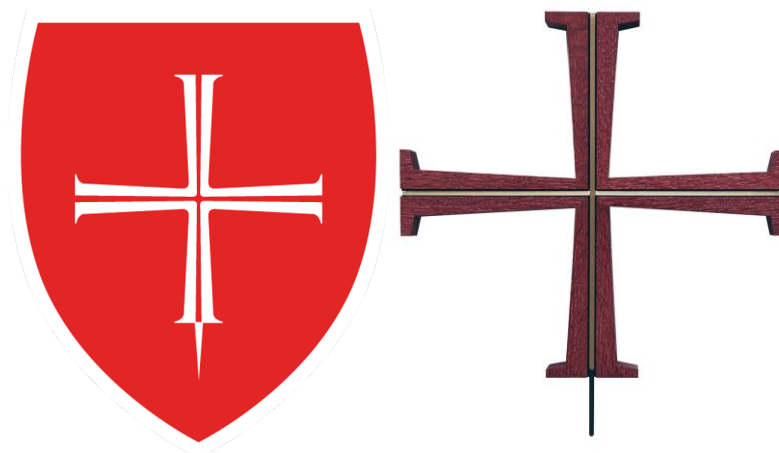




Benedictine Bits

The Saint John's Cross



Why is the Saint John's Cross different from other crosses? For starters, the cross is hand-crafted from wood harvested from our own forest by artisans in our own woodworking shop. As indicated by Saint John's Abbey Woodworking, the Saint John's cross "is divided in the center allowing light to emerge in symbolic reference to the resurrection of Jesus, an inseparable part of his death on the cross. In this rendition, a brass insert in the center of the cross depicts that light. The point at the base refers to the use of the cross in liturgies where it is carried in procession."

The design was developed by a Benedictine oblate of Saint John's Abbey, Frank Kacmarcik. His cross design became the recognized symbol for the entire Saint John's community. From the pews in the Abbey church to the college and university crest, this identifying symbol is a trademark for our campuses. This symbol emphasizes the spiritual heritage of the Catholic Benedictine tradition by focusing on the cross, reminding us of Christ and to live by His example.