

LARGEST OUTDOOR CROSS IN THE CHICAGOLAND AREA

On November 20, 2016, on the Feast of Christ the King, Fr Anthony blessed a 28 foot cross that rises tall alongside St Stanislaus Kostka Church in view of hundreds of thousands of *pilgrims* who everyday travel north and south on the Kennedy Expressway.

The that cross adorns our scared property was designed and made by a father and son, Jesse and Robert Ibarra, and together with their families, is a gift given, not only to St Stanislaus Kostka, but to the people of Chicago. This is a reminder and witness to the hope in victory that is ours, if we humbly set our eyes on Jesus, crucified and risen from the dead.

As Christians we claim victory in the battle when we look to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The cross is the primordial symbol of our victory because on the cross, Jesus gave the definitive blow to the enemy, showing us that Jesus spared himself nothing of what we suffer, but precisely through the cross has given us the means to rise anew into the glory and light of life lived to the full. This is a paradox to be sure. Suffering, both personal and societal, holds the hidden grace of bringing us into solidarity with suffering humanity and inspires in us compassion and empathy. The Christian witness in suffering is to remind others that we are never really defeated.

