

# Christian Crosses O & M Manual

## Adopt a set of Coffindaffer's 3 Crosses

<http://www.christiancrosses.org>

Dedicated to the Risen Jesus Christ

### **Adopt a set of Coffindaffer's 3 Crosses**

I know that many are called by the Holy Spirit to do something with the roadside Crosses. Be the first in your area to adopt a set of Coffindaffer's 3 Crosses. It is simple, pretty easy, relatively inexpensive and a very Faith filling rewarding Christian experience. So just do it. This seems like a lot of instruction that most of you really don't need but I am praying that a lot of youth groups take on this project. This is a great confirmation project. Plan ahead because most of the Crosses are not easy to get to and you don't want to have to run back to the house for something.

Although we may all be of different denominations, we all have the same belief in Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a Christian thing. The nails are in the location of where Jesus hands and feet were nailed through, they represent the pain and suffering that our lord endured for our sins and us.

Remember that Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and the apostle that he loved stood at the foot of the original Golgotha or Calvary Cross over 2000 years ago, right about where you are standing now. They watched Jesus suffer and die for us.

I consider the earth that the 3 Crosses sit on to be ***Holy Ground***

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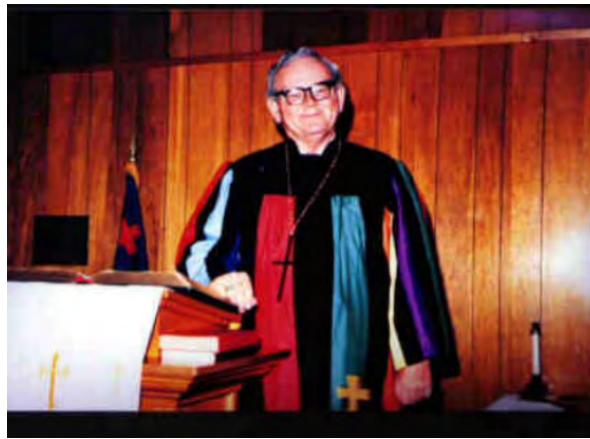


**Items Needed:**

Good Christian attitude and a willingness to work with The Holy Sprit (Listen) and he shall fill your heart and mind.



A lot of the 3 Crosses are not easy to get to.  
Remember, the middle Cross is 25' tall, 22' above the ground.



Rev. Bernard Coffindaffer was a great man of great Faith. He was touched by the Holy Spirit and gladly invested his fortune in the Lord. He wanted us to remember that our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and died for us on the Cross for our sins. At the height of his work on earth he had 5 to 7 crews, planting clusters of three Coffindaffer Crosses all over America, mostly in the east, and in two foreign countries. He was a listener and then did something about it. We can all learn from Rev Coffindaffer to listen to our hearts and minds and then do something about it. Driving down the road and passing a set of Crosses he has brought peace and remembrance to our lives. The sets of 3 Coffindaffer Crosses are for all to enjoy. Say a prayer or make the sign of the Cross or do something to acknowledge our Lord as you go by.

On January 27, 1935, in Craigsville, West Virginia, approximately 100 miles southeast of Charleston, a child of West German ancestry was born. His father died early on and his mother died with cancer when he was ten years old, leaving him an orphan. Despite his very difficult circumstances, he graduated from high school at the age of fourteen and served six years in the U. S. Marines with duty In the Pacific, Iwo Jima, and Nagasaki, Japan. He graduated from the University of Charleston with a degree In Business. The name of this remarkable man was Bernard Coffindaffer, the founder of the nonprofit Crosses of Mercy - Cast Thy Bread, Inc.

Rev. Bernard Coffindaffer died of a heart attack in 1993. We should all say a prayer for his loved ones he left behind. Rev Coffindaffer's wife June, his two daughters, his brother and all his loved ones. We pray that the Lord will guide them and provide for them until they join him in heaven.

When he returns, Jesus will find Faith on earth.



The Original 3 Coffindaffer Crosses.  
Flatwoods exit of Interstate 79, WV

## Adopt a set of Coffindaffer's 3 Crosses

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I consider the earth that the 3 Crosses sit on to be **Holy Ground**

The Coffindaffer's 3 Crosses were planted in the USA and around the world, in remembrance of our **Lord Jesus Christ**. Rev. Bernard Coffindaffer spent over 3 million dollars planting clusters of Crosses, but Rev. Coffindaffer died at 68, Friday, Oct 8, 1993 of a heart attack at his home in Craigsville, WV. Since the Crosses were built for Jesus. Jesus now owns the Crosses. But they are on people's property. So I always ask permission from the property owners.

### Permission to work on the 3 Crosses

Items need are:

Good Christian attitude and a willingness to work with The Holy Sprit (Listen) and he shall fill your heart and mind.

I have never been turned down. I always go to the nearest house and ask permission to work on the Crosses. They always say, sure or I don't care. So I go work on the Crosses. Some times the property owner will say they are not sure if the Crosses are on their property or their neighbors. I get permission from the neighbor too. Some times they says, "I sure do wish they would move those thing" Jesus owns them and he will move them when he is ready.

Say a prayer.

Take pictures, before and after for your church paper, local newspaper, or posting on-line.





## Weed Eater or grass trimmers

Weed Eater or grass trimmers Items needed Check List		
Check	Item	Description
	Weed eater Or hand grass trimmers	Just pulling the weeds with your hands is OK but difficult, Most of those weeds around the Crosses a pretty big and strong.
	Back brace	If needed
	Water or something to drink	
	<p><b>Say a prayer.</b> Lord, bless all of those who have helped trim around your Cross today. Your will shall be done. Bless all of those who saw a need and listened to their hearts and did something about it. When you return, you shall find Faith on earth. Bless all those who have helped and all those who will enjoy the sight of these trimmed around Crosses. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen</p>	

Weed eat or trim around the Cross-bases. This needs done a couple times a year.



## Cleaning The Crosses

<b>Cleaning The Crosses Items needed Check List</b>		
<b>Check</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Rope, weight on the end	
	Towel	To tie to both ends of the rope
	Bucket of soapy water	For washing
	Bucket of clean water	For rinsing
	Grass trimmers or weed eater	Trim the grass
	Stepladder	Is nice
	Try not to lean a ladder against the Crosses.	
	Remember, the middle Cross is 25' tall, 22' above the ground.	
	<p><b>Say a prayer.</b> We wash these Crosses in remembering that Jesus washed away our sins by dieing on the Cross for us. May he wash away our sins now and cleanse our hearts. Bless all those who have helped and all those who will enjoy the sight of these washed Crosses. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen</p>	

Trim around the Crosses. A lot of time the Crosses don't need new paint but only need cleaning. Tie the rope to both ends of the towel and wash the Crosses with soapy water. Back and forth and back and forth, just like shinning your shoes but up to 22' in the air. This works really well and gets all that road grime off the Crosses. The crosses will shine for another year or two. Rinse them off with the clear water or let the next rain do that.



## Straightening the Crosses

<b>Straightening the Crosses Items needed Check List</b>		
<b>Check</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Rope, weight on the end	To throw over the top and pull the Cross straight
	Wedges	Wooden wedge work well
	Hammer	To pound in the wedge
	Concrete	May be needed
	Level	Is helpful
	Remember, the middle Cross is 25' tall, 22' above the ground.	
	<p><b>Say a prayer.</b> We straighten these Crosses as we try to straighten our lives and we remember to help others who need a straighter path Bless all who have helped today and all those who are caring for your Crosses, Bless all those who will enjoy the sight of these Crosses. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen</p>	

I always carry wooded wedges with me. About 12" long, homemade out of a piece of 2 x 4. Through a rope around the x where the Crosses meet and pull it straight or just push it straight and hammer the wedge in. Rocks work well too. If the Cross is leaning really bad and has created a big hole, I would wedge it then dump a bag of concrete in the hole (Thanks to my brother Gary for this tip). You can just put the concrete in dry; it will soak moisture out of the ground. The next time it rains for sure. Pack or hammer the dirt. I straightened a set of Crosses 15 years ago and they are still straight.





## Trim and Clear over hanging branches

<b>Trim and Clear over hanging branches. Items needed Check List</b>		
<b>Check</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Something to cut the branches	Chain saw or a handsaw will do or a tree branch pruner or branch clippers or hand pole saw or a battery sawzall or battery skill saw.
	Rope, weight on the end	
	Stepladder	
	Do the work safely	
	Safety glass	Are a good idea
	Back brace	If needed
	Water or something to drink	
	<p><b>Say a prayer.</b> Lord, bless all of those who have helped trim around your Cross today. Your will shall be done. Bless all of those who saw a need and listened to their hearts and did something about it. When you return, you shall find Faith on earth. Bless all those who have helped and all those who will enjoy the sight of these trimmed around Crosses. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen</p>	

Do the work safely. Trim the branches that are hanging over the Crosses or even branches that look like they will be growing over the Crosses soon. Then try to hull away the trimmings.







## **Painting**

This seems like a lot of instruction that most of you really don't need but I am praying that a lot of youth groups take on this project. This is a great confirmation project.

Good Friday Painting by Confirmation Group

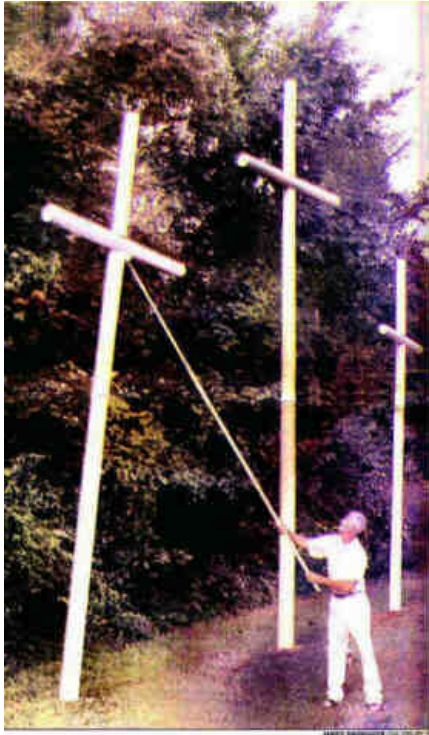
<http://www.christiancrosses.org/GoodFridayPainting.htm>

### Painting Items needed Check List

Check	Item	Description
	1 Gallon <b>Soft Gold</b> Paint	Glidden Fortis 450– 6407V Semi Gloss one gallon Soft Gold for the middle Cross, about \$40.00 to \$50.00 per gallon and it cleans up with soap and water.
	1 Gallon Light <b>Afton Blue</b> Paint	One gallon of <b>Afton Blue</b> for the two outside Crosses
	Long painter’s extension pole or swimming pool extension pole	Or I use a swimming pool pole & and about a 4’ wooden handle threaded on one end. Attach the wooden pole to the swimming pool pole with at least 2 screw staggered, be careful not to crack the wooden pole. Wedge something in to the swimming pool pole at the wooden pole connection so it has little wiggle. I suggest you do this before you get on site.
	Stepladder	Is helpful, if you want to carry it. Six or eight foot step ladder & someone to hold the step ladder
	(2) 3 inch rollers with handles,	Buy good long haired rollers to get into the cracks and crevices. A cheap spongy roller works OK but not real well. I used lamb’s wool rollers. Or buy thick medium priced roller and discard them when finished.
	(2) Rolling pans and (2) liners,	Makes the clean up easier. or you can paint from the can
	(2) Brushes	A cheap brush is fine, I use camel hair and use it over and over again
	Wet rag	In a plastic bag, bucket of water is even better, to wipe any paint splatters or on you
	Camera or cell phone	To take pictures for your church paper, local newspaper, or posting on-line.
	Flat head screw driver	Flat head screw driver to open the paint can
	Hammer	Hammer to close the paint can
	Phillips screw driver	Phillips screw driver to tighten the screws in the pole
	6 or 8 plastic bags	To put the used rollers and brushes paint pans in when you are done
	Bag or box	To carry your things. I usually made 3 trips from the car to the Crosses, two trips if my son Andy was with me.
	Safety glass	Are a good idea
	Back brace	If needed
	Check list	Take a check list
	Water or something to drink	
	<p><b>Say a prayer.</b> This is the best! I’m sure the Holy Spirit will touch you. We painted these in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in remembering that he died for US on the Cross for forgiveness of our sins. We remember that Jesus rose on the third day. As the song goes, Jesus Christ has risen today, Alleluia! Bless all of us who have listened to the Holy Spirit and have done your will, have taken action and helped care for your Crosses Bless all those who have helped and all those who will enjoy the sight of these newly painted Crosses. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen</p>	

Pick out a really good paint. I cannot stress this enough, purchase a really good exterior paint. I suggest Devoe Glidden ICI paints, **Glidden Fortis 450- 6407V Semi Gloss** one gallon **Soft Gold** for the middle Cross & one gallon of **Afton Blue** for the two outside Crosses, about \$40.00 to \$50.00 per gallon. I suggest a water-based paint so it is easy to clean up. I used this paint on a set that I painted about 10 years ago and they still look good with a cleaning every year or two. If you purchase a cheap paint they will need repainted in a few years. Sherwin Williams called it **Autumn Gold** and **Angel Blue**.

**Paint at 1/2 price, It doesn't hurt to ask.** I went to the local ICI Devoe Glidden paint store and told the salesperson (Regina) that I was going to paint the 3 Coffindaffer Crosses on Faith road. She said, "I drive by those 2 Crosses all the time, they need painted." She sold me the really good paint for 1/2 price. It doesn't hurt to ask, Just do it. Other places Sherwin Williams paint was 25% off, others charged me full price.



William was a professional painter and he had a long painter's pole.



Be Safe

I will attach the 4' wooden handle with 2 wood screws onto the swimming pool pole through the hole already in the pole. Then screw the 3" roller onto the threaded end of the wooden pole and you are ready to go.

Trim around the Crosses weed eat, trim or pull the grass away from the base before you start painting the base. This will keep the grass from getting into your nice new paint job. Also cleaning the Crosses first is best. Remember, the middle Cross is 25' tall, 22' above the ground.

By myself, I can paint a set of Coffindaffer's 3 Crosses in about 2 ½ to 3 hours or with the help of my twelve year old cuts the time. Just have to think ahead, plan and do it. I would start with the main middle Cross, paint it, then the 2 outside Crosses. Be sure to paint the very top, paint the ends of the Cross real well and few extra times, the ends will soak in the paint. Be sure to get the top of the post parallel to the ground, this is the main wear point. You can use a brush to get the base of the Crosses, try not to get the brush in the dirt. After the first coat take a break, it's OK. By this time the middle Cross may still be a little bit tacky but I was always am able to start the second coat. I recommend 2 coats of paint.

Take pictures with a camera or cell phone for your church paper or local newspaper. Send the pictures to your local newspaper. They may print them. Or now a days post them on-line.



## Paint

I recommend

ICE – DEVOE – Glidden Paint

**Glidden Fortis 450– 6407V Semi Gloss** one gallon **Soft Gold** for the middle Cross, , about \$40.00 to \$50.00 per gallon.

One gallon of **Afton Blue** for the two outside Crosses.

This paint cleans up with warm soap and water.

Their best Acrylic Semi-Gloss Exterior Enamel

This paint lasts much longer but is a little more expensive, but worth the money. I painted a set of Crosses in 2003 and they still good.

Glidden Fortis 450 information

[http://www.gliddenprofessional.com/gliddenProProducts?other=x&platform=Durability&pnameNoTrade=Fortis\\_450](http://www.gliddenprofessional.com/gliddenProProducts?other=x&platform=Durability&pnameNoTrade=Fortis_450)

Glidden Fortis 450 Technical Data Sheet

<http://duspec.com/DuSpec2/document/DocumentDisplayController.htm?documentId=933899>

### **Dulux PAINTS**

**SOFT GOLD** 30YY 64/331  
6407-0110 White Tint Ba 6407-0110 Dulux Fortis  
BLK 0 P 3 LFY 1 P 16 4/15/03  
YOX 2 P 35 Gallon

**AFTON BLUE** 70BG 68/163  
6407-0110 White Tint Ba 6407-0110 Dulux Fortis  
BLK 0 P 2 4/15/03  
TBL 0 P 30 Gallon

The Crosses are made Of California Douglas Fir and are set in pea gravel and sand.

Try not to lean or climb them. They weigh approximately 400 # each.

They need 2 coats of paint. It will take 2 gallons of paint - one blue, one gold

**It was Coffindaffer's plan for workers to revisit each site for straightening and painting every two years...**

## Sherwin Williams

I recommend buying a paint that is equal to the **Glidden Fortis 450-6407V Semi Gloss**, a paint that cleans up with soap and water.

One Gallon

One Gallon

### **Gold Paint: Autumn Gold**

### **Blue Paint: Angel Blue**

BASE: B54T1O4

BASE: B54101

7969-99993

7907-99993

#### **MIXED WITH:**

#### **MIXED WITH:**

Umber: N 1 - 8/32

B 1 -Black: 1 /6 and 1/128

Maroon: R 2 - 1/32

L1 -Blue: 1/64 and 1/128

W 1 White: 2 Y - 24/32

G 1 - Green: 1/32 and 1/64

Y 1 Yellow: 25/32 and 1/64

Y 3 - Gold: 8 Y – 23/32

## Wal-Mart Formula:

I recommend buying a paint that is equal to the **Glidden Fortis 450-6407V Semi Gloss**, a paint that cleans up with soap and water.

### **Wal-Mart Formula:**

### **Wal-Mart Formula:**

One Gallon Gold Paint:

One Gallon Blue Paint:

One Gallon of either

One Gallon of either

Accent Base or Light Base

Accent Base or Light Base

Mixed With: B: 4; C: 9Y16; KX:  
1Y20; V: 18.

Mixed With: B: 18; C: 18; D: 6.

## Adding Lights

Adding lights is nice. Adding some solar light should be relatively inexpensive. Or add a few strings of lights like pictured below.





## **New Crosses**

This is something that I have never had success at. Every attempt has been a dead end. The original sawmill has shut down. I cannot find any sawmill interested in making or even quoting Crosses 25' tall. Sara Abraham from <http://www.crossesacrossamerica.com/> has someone in Florida that is willing to or has made them but the freight kills the deal every time. I read somewhere that the middle Cross weighs 400 lb. I could use some help in this area. I think that a set of Pressure Treated Crosses or treated with a log preservative would be great and withstand the elements of time. Maybe a log home manufacturer could make them. I need some help with this.  
Say a prayer.

# Crosses Per State

A total of 1864 clusters of crosses were planted

**Funded by the late Bernard Coffindaffer:**

**Crosses Pictures from**

[www.christiancrosses.org](http://www.christiancrosses.org)

<http://www.christiancrosses.org/Gallery.htm>

Alabama – 74	Kentucky – 94	North Carolina – 106
Arizona – 19	Louisiana – 7	Ohio – 158
Arkansas – 26	Maryland – 60	Pennsylvania – 62
Colorado – 1	Michigan – 12	South Carolina – 45
Delaware - 1	Mississippi – 156	Tennessee - 87
District of Columbia –6	Montana - 1	Texas – 9
Florida – 225	New Jersey - 1	Virginia – 131
Georgia – 144	New Mexico –1	West Virginia – 352
Indiana - 80	New York – 2	Wyoming – 2
Kansas - 1		

# Dimensions

(1) Middle Cross:

Main post OAL is 25 feet, 7" diameter pole  
 Notched 1/3 of its thickness 4 feet from the top  
 Cross post OAL is 8 feet, 7" dia.  
 Notched 1/3 of its thickness centered  
 Two nails are 6 inches from end  
 One nail 5' down from center line intersection  
 Color: Autumn Gold

(2) End Crosses:

Main post OAL is 20 feet, 6" diameter pole  
 Notched 1/3 of its thickness 4 feet from the top  
 Cross post OAL is 7 feet, 6" dia.  
 Notched 1/3 of its thickness centered  
 Color: Angel Blue

