

# The Cross of 9/11

As the horror and lingering disbelief over the events of Sept. 11, 2001, settled on the nation the day following the terrorist attack, a retired firefighter name Frank Silecchia struggled through the wreckage at Ground Zero looking for survivors.

The unimaginable devastation made it increasingly clear that none would be found, and the pervasive gloom deepened with each hour.

Then the courageous volunteer stumbled on a scene forever etched in his mind. In a small clearing in the debris, a ray of sunlight penetrated the dust and struck an upright iron beam with a crossbar. It was a sheared steel beam shaped like a cross.



His photograph of the scene appeared in New York newspapers in the days to follow, and a solemn sense of reverence and hope came to many who saw it. Many viewed the crossed metal as a Christian cross and felt its survival was symbolic – a symbol of faith, hope and healing.

One minister at the site said that when a family of a man who died in the attacks came to the cross shrine and left personal effects there, “It was as if the cross took in the grief and loss. I never felt Jesus more.”

The cross was eventually moved to St. Peter’s Catholic Church on Oct. 5, 2006 and placed on the Church Street side of the building, between Barclay and Vesey streets, bearing a plaque which reads, *The Cross at Ground Zero – Founded September 13, 2001; Blessed October 4, 2001; Temporarily Relocated October 15, 2006. Will return to WTC Museum, a sign of comfort for all.*



On July 23, 2011, the cross was moved back to Ground Zero and lowered into the National September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial and Museum.

On this anniversary of that horrific day – 17 years later – how does the cross of Christ and the Christ of the cross bring you healing and hope?

Christ died so that we might have salvation from the punishment due us for our sins, and that we could have eternal fellowship in heaven with Him through faith in our risen Lord.

That is the Christ of the cross that counts!

*He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed (1 Peter 2:24 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter