

Bright symbols of hope

After learning about El Salvador's civil war and the gang violence that is common in some areas of El Salvador, you might expect El Salvador's religious art to be sombre. Not at all!

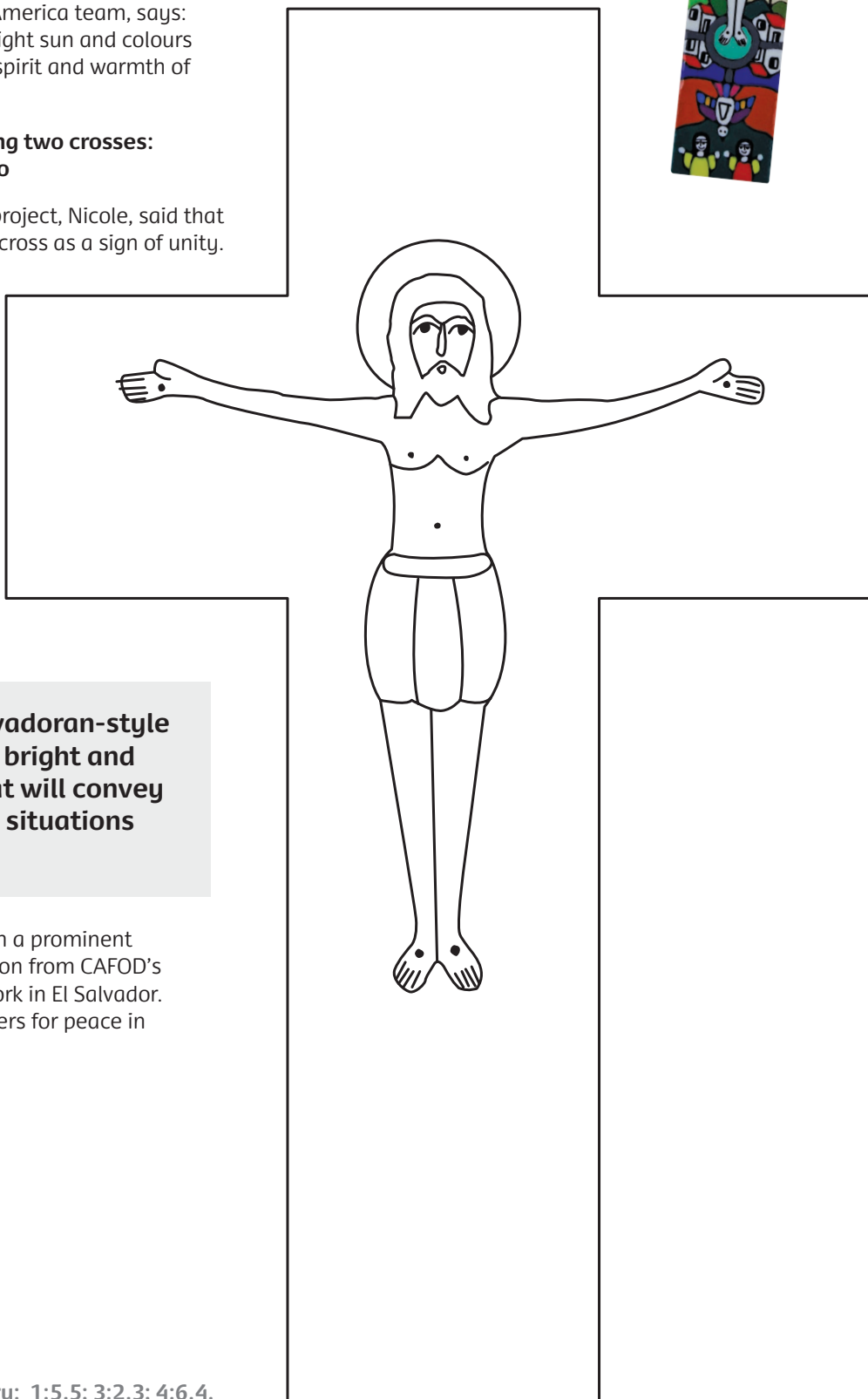
Salvadorans have a tradition of producing very colourful crucifixes. The bright decorations have a figure of Jesus at the centre but also include images of the local community set in local landscape.

Clare Dixon, from CAFOD's Latin America team, says: "The bright colours convey the bright sun and colours of El Salvador but also the joyful spirit and warmth of its people."

Watch a clip of Isabel, describing two crosses:
cafod.org.uk/secondary/romero

A young person at the Saturday project, Nicole, said that lots of people are painted on the cross as a sign of unity.

- What do you think she meant by this?
- What are the links between unity and peace?
- Why is the cross a symbol of hope?



Design your own El Salvadoran-style cross. It should contain bright and appropriate images that will convey hope to people living in situations of conflict.

Display your finished crosses in a prominent place. You could add information from CAFOD's website about our partners' work in El Salvador. Invite people to add their prayers for peace in the world.

Links to RE Curriculum Directory: 1:5.5; 3:2.3; 4:6.4.