

Bishop's Coat Of Arms

Our Lady, St. Francis Xavier, St. John Fisher
 sculpted on Bishop Kearney's episcopal shield

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CHURCH LAW requires that each bishop have a coat of arms, designed according to the rules and regulations of ecclesiastical heraldry. The coat of arms or "blazon" must be different in each case, for it is to stand as a recognizable symbol of an individual bishop.

There are many cases in which a bishop is required to use this symbol of his authority. In the very ceremony of his consecration, for instance, he must present as gifts to the bishop consecrating him, two loaves of bread and two small barrels of wine, each of them decorated with the coat of arms of the newly consecrated bishop.

Each bishop's blazon occupies a shield. However, when he becomes the bishop of a definite diocese, he usually combines his own coat of arms, compressed so as to occupy the right half of the shield, with those of his diocese, compressed so as to occupy the left side of the same shield.

The arms of the Diocese of Rochester are a gold shield upon which is a red cross with a white saltire in the center, representing Our Lady. These arms were basically designed in 1837 by the late Pierre de la Roche, a well-known American heraldic expert. They resemble rather closely the arms of the ancient Catholic see of Rochester in England.

THE PERSONAL arms of Bishop Kearney consist of a black shield, on which are a surpliced human figure bearing a cross, all in gold. Im-

mediately above the arm is a silver star. The top segment of the shield, instead of being black, is blue; and it bears the monogram of Mary, surmounted by a crown, both of them in gold.

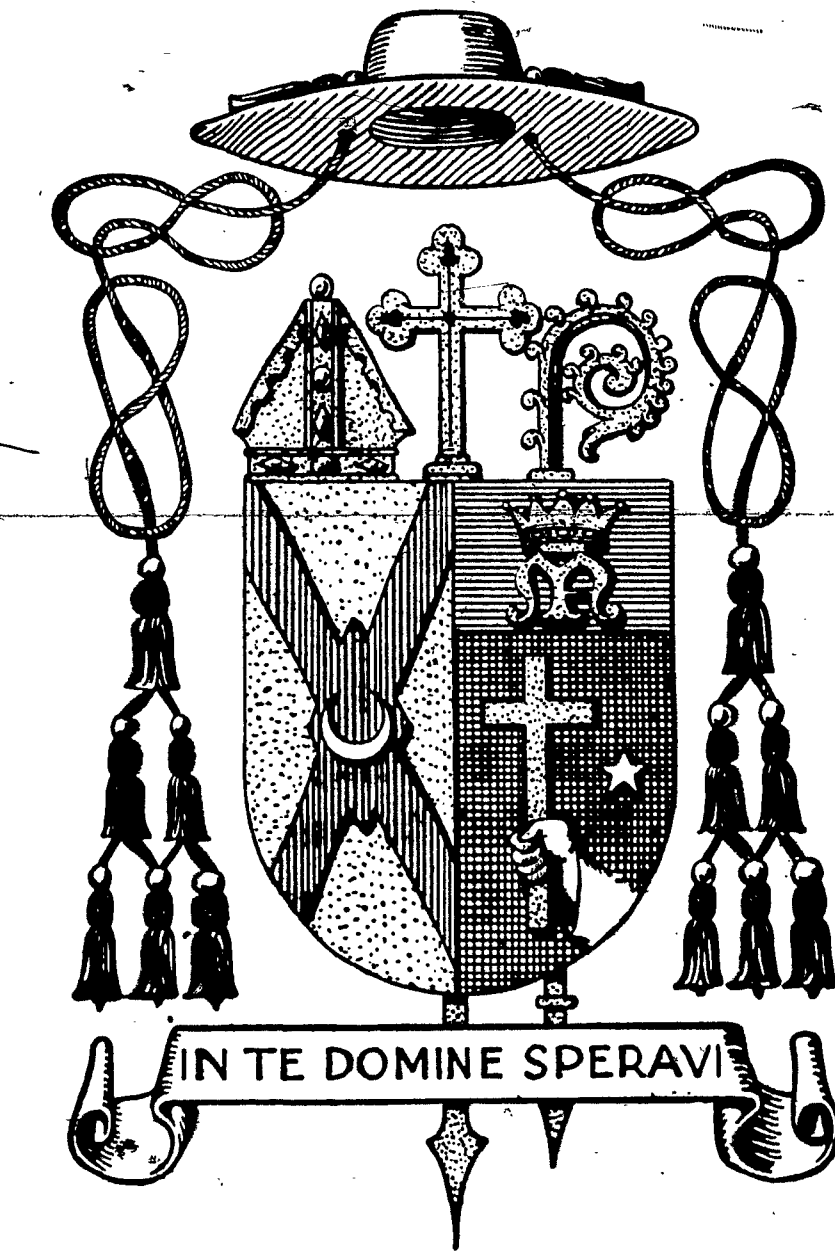
Below the blazon is the Bishop's own special motto, "In te Domine speravi" ("In thee have I hoped, O Lord").

The rest of the symbols are those which pertain to every bishop: the cross, crozier, and mitre, and the ecclesiastical hat, which, in the case of bishops, has six tassels and is green in color.

Bishop Kearney designed his own coat of arms and chose his own motto when he was named fourth Bishop of Salt Lake in 1932. Like many blazons, it embodies a reference to his previous career in the Church. Bishop Kearney, as a priest of the Archdiocese of New York, founded the parish of St. Francis Xavier in New York City. The arm with a cross represents the arm (and the apostolate) of St. Francis Xavier. The Asiatic lands which this great Jesuit missionary evangelized were groping in the darkness of paganism before he visited them. That is the significance of the black background of the shield. But into their darkness he brought the light of hope. That is the significance of the star.

The monogram of Mary represents, of course, Our Lady, Queen of Heaven, and the background is blue because blue is Our Lady's special color.

The motto, "In te Domine speravi"



Bishop Kearney's episcopal coat-of-arms.

comes from the great church hymn, the "Te Deum." It is an appropriate motto for Bishop Kearney, not only because of the sentiment which it expresses, but because it was the last sentence uttered by the dying St. Francis Xavier. By a happy coin-

cidence, too, these were the last words of St. John Fisher, martyred Bishop of Rochester, England, to whom Bishop Kearney has shown such fitting devotion since becoming Bishop of the new Diocese of Rochester-in-America.



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Offer Prayers and Best Wishes

to our beloved

Bishop Kearney

on His

Silver Anniversary