

Bishop's Coat of Arms A Link with Tradition

The creation of a Bishop's coat of arms is one of the traditional steps of preparation for assuming jurisdiction over a diocese.

Custom dating back to the 13th century demands that prelates have a coat-of-arms for use on all official documents of their office, stationery, diocesan publication, diplomas and letters. A bishop's insignia is also painted, as a sign of propriety and jurisdiction, on a panel over his throne chair in the cathedral and the main doorway of that church as well as the entrance of the chancery offices.

Bishop Hogan turned to Father Robert McNamara, historian of the diocese, and professor at St. Bernard's Seminary, and William J. F. Ryan, the nation's foremost expert on ecclesiastical heraldry, for help in creating his personal arms.

The left side of his shield displays the coat of arms of the Diocese of Rochester which were derived from the ancient See of Rochester, England. The red saltire (in the form of an X) on a silver background is called the cross of St. Patrick. It bears a crescent in its center, lunar symbol of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States.

The right side is given to the personal coat of arms of Bishop Hogan. Presentation of the arms of the diocese

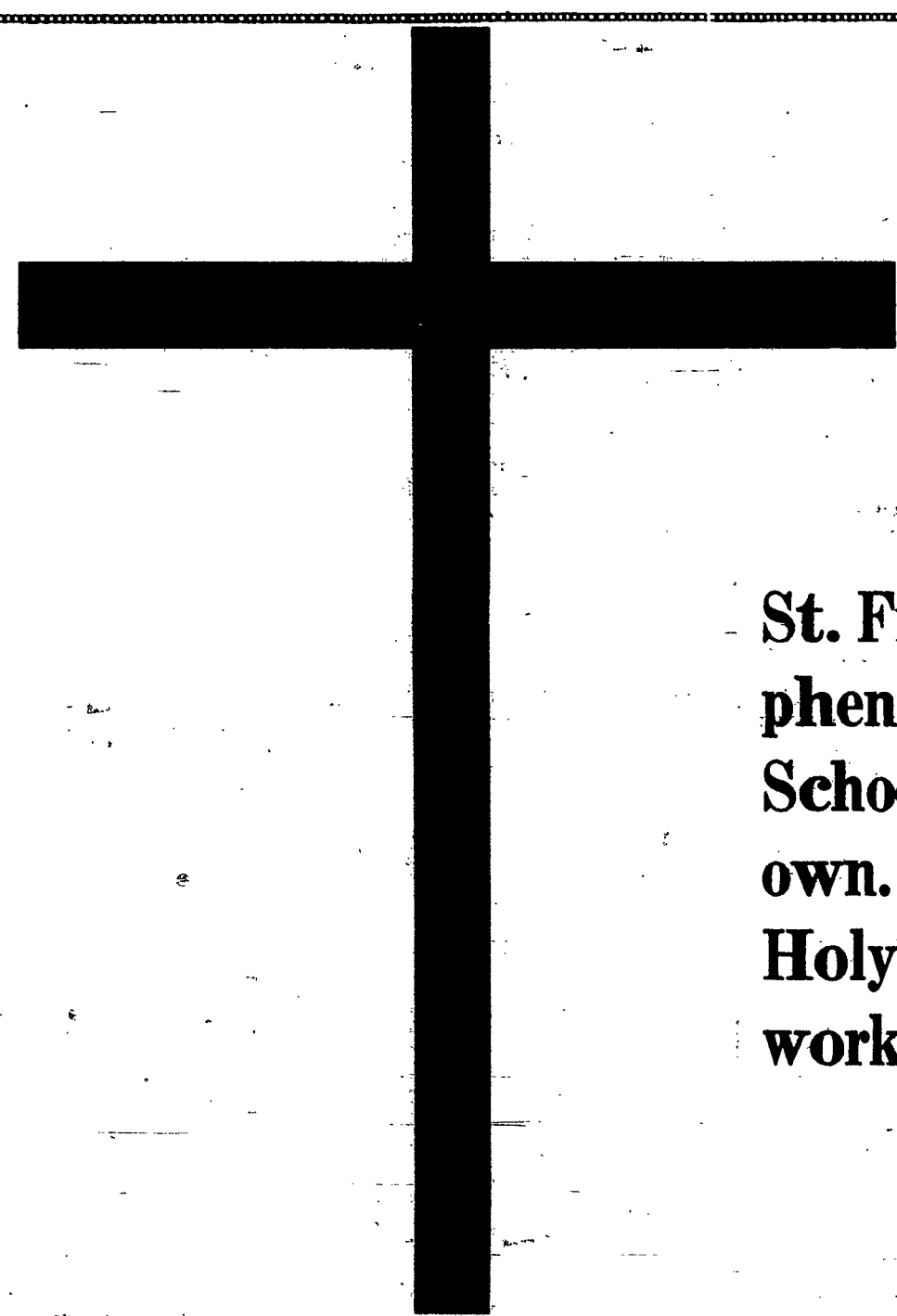
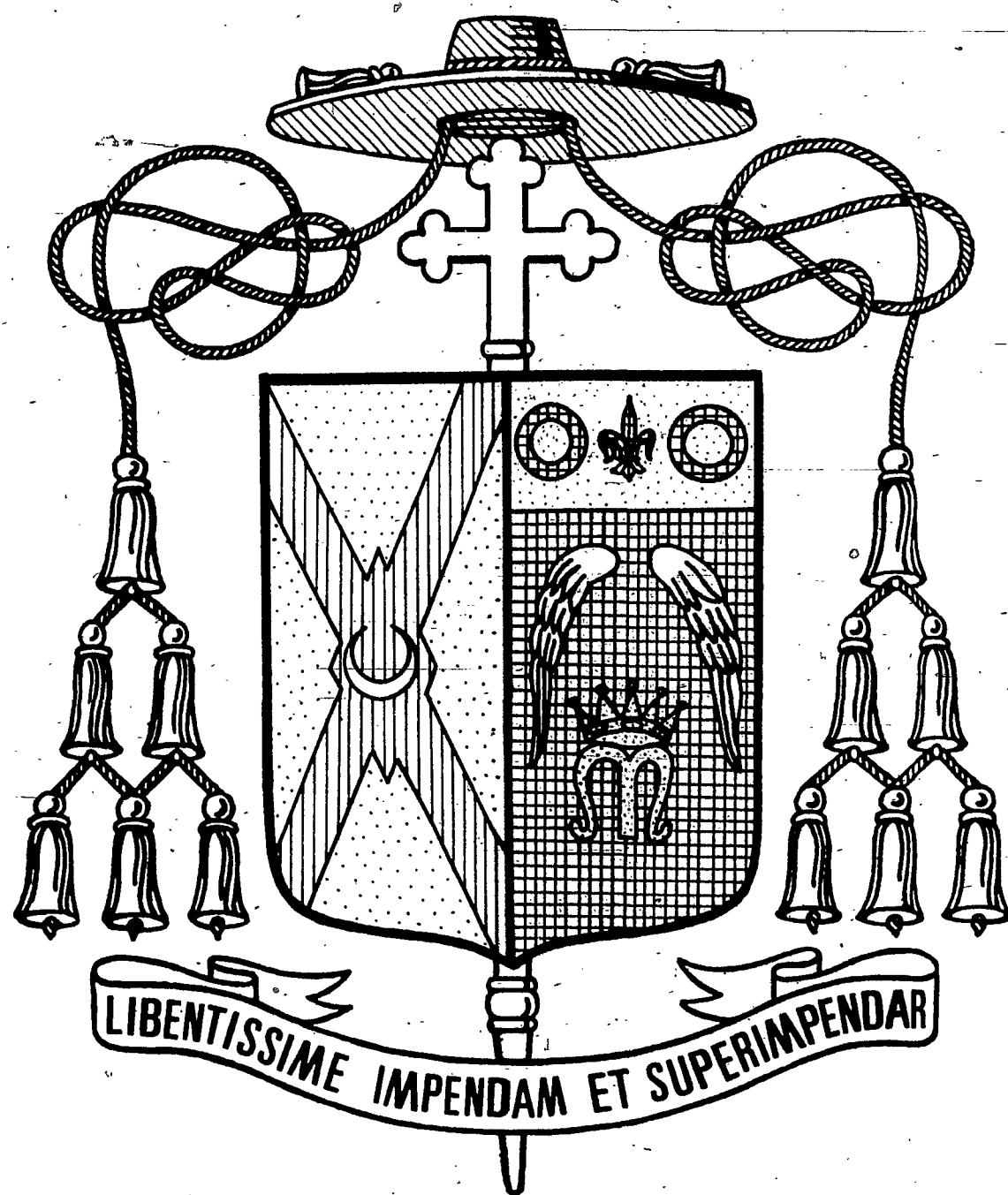
on the same shield denotes the spiritual union of the Bishop with his see.

The symbols on this side represent the Hogan family, the baptismal patron St. Joseph, the baptismal patrons of the Bishop's mother and father and brother, and Bishop Kearney who ordained Bishop Hogan and was his superior for 24 years.

The Hogan family arms from Ireland's County Tipperary are depicted as two black annulets (circles) at the top of the shield. A fleur-de-lis, the French form of the lily, honors St. Joseph, Bishop Hogan's baptismal patron.

The crowned monogram in the center of the right shield stands for the Blessed Virgin Mary and comes from the arms of Bishop Kearney. Mary is also the baptismal name of Bishop Hogan's mother. The pair of angel's wings remind the viewer of St. Michael the Archangel, the baptismal patron of the Bishop's deceased father and his brother, Father Michael.

The motto beneath the shield is taken from St. Paul's second Epistle to the Corinthians (12:15): "I will most gladly spend myself and be spent (for your souls)". This motto, taken from the seal of Becket Hall, diocesan seminary for collegians which Bishop Hogan founded in 1965, reflects the ideals and the promised program of the Shepherd of Rochester.



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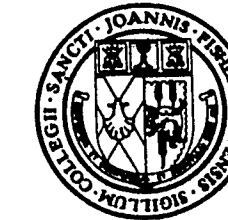
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