



Bishop Matthew H. Clark's coat of arms was devised shortly before his ordination as a bishop. The symbols on it relate both to the Diocese of Rochester and to his own life.

The left side of the shield bears the diocesan Cross of St. Andrew with a crescent in its center.

The diocesan shield was designed in the 1930s by Pierre LaRose. The St. Andrew's Cross was taken from the coat of arms of the original Diocese of Rochester in England. He "differenced" the design however by changing a scallop shell in the center to the crescent symbol of the Immaculate Conception.

On the right hand side the cross of Pope John Paul II is displayed, indicating Bishop Clark's respect for him as a man and for his office.

In the upper left of this side a crescent again appears, signifying the Immaculate Conception, the pure disciple of God's Word, the Patroness of the United States, of the Diocese of Albany, of the North American College and of the chapel at St. Bernard's Seminary.

The winged figure which appears in the lower right corner represents St. Matthew, apostle.

The name of Matthew is carried by three

generations of men in the Clark family: Bishop Clark, his father and his grandfather.

In addition, the symbol emphasizes the bishop as the successor to the apostles, and the bishop's charge to preach and live the Word of God faithfully and to witness to the Resurrection.

The banner beneath the coat of arms bears the motto: "His love endures forever," a frequent phrase in The Psalms.

The hat with the tassels simply indicates that the shield is that of a bishop.