

THE COAT OF ARMS



The design for the *Coat of Arms* of the Most Reverend Stephen J. Berg set out to achieve numerous spiritual and theological symbolisms that are important to him. The design was arrived at after several days of consultation with James-Charles Noonan Jr. – a Catholic Heraldic authority and author. The heraldic achievement of a residential bishop in the United States continues the ancient custom of impaling the bishop’s personal *Coat of Arms* with the arms of the diocese in what long ago became synonymous with the symbolic marriage between a new bishop and his new See. Just as a man and woman merge their family *Coat of Arms* into one at marriage, so too do bishops with their Sees. This was the custom of the universal church for many centuries, but today only the bishops of the United States keep to this custom. The diocese’s arms appear on the left side as one views the design and the bishop’s personal *Coat of Arms* appears on the right side.

Symbols on the Left: Diocese of Pueblo

Crenellated Lower Section: **Fort Pueblo**

Blue Wavy Line: **The Arkansas River**

Crowned Heart: **The Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Left Rose: **St. Therese of Lisieux – Patroness of the Diocese**

Right Rose: **Our Lady of Guadalupe – Patroness of the Diocese**

Symbols on the Right: Bishop Berg

Inverted “V”: **Mountain Peak – “Berg” means mountain in Swedish**

Fleur-de-lis Tip: **The Bishop’s French Heritage**

Blue: **The Blessed Virgin Mary | Bishop’s French Heritage**

Circle with Chi-Rho: **The Most Holy Eucharist**

Rays: **Abundant Grace | Jesus Christ – the Radiant Sun**

Left Palm Frond: **St. Stephen -- Martyr**

Right Palm Frond: **Farming and Horticulture**

The Externals of the Coat of Arms:

Hat: **Pilgrim's Hat | Symbolizes Latin Rite Clergy**

Red Interior: **Martyrdom**

Green and Tassels: **Ecclesiastical Rank of Bishop**

Star Sapphire on Cross: **Texas State Flower | Star of Bethlehem**

Angel Wings on Cross: **St. Cecelia – Patroness of Musicians**

The Motto:

In Church heraldry, a cleric's personal motto has always been intended to represent his personal spirituality and philosophy of life. For Bishop Berg, this symbolism is found in four simple yet powerful words.

“THY WILL BE DONE”

This comes directly from the Lord's prayer. Bishop Berg chose to render his motto in English so that it would be readily known. With this motto as his guide, Bishop Berg undertakes his episcopal ministry in the See of Pueblo.