

The Coat of Arms is based on the tradition of families or knights who have a shield that identifies to the world who they are. The symbols included on the Pope's shield show to the world the special devotions of the Bishop or Rome.



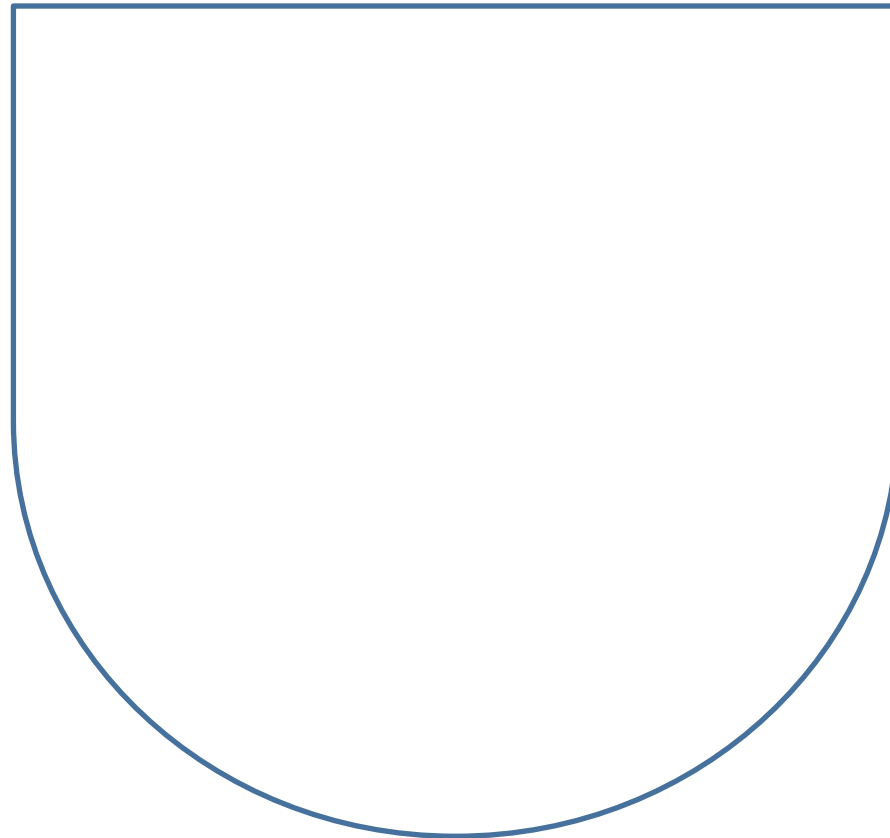
Pope Francis made only a few changes to the Coat of Arms he chose as Bishop of Buenos Aires. The mitre (Bishop's hat), crossed keys and red cord were added because they are symbols for the Pope.

The letters IHS in the blazing sun is the symbol of Pope Francis's religious order – the Jesuits.

The star on the lower left of the shield is to honor Mary, Mother of Christ and the Church. The spikenard on the bottom right is a symbol used for St. Joseph, the universal patron of the Church.

These two symbols show his devotion to Mary and Joseph, and love for the Holy Family.

Pope Francis's motto is "Having mercy, he called him." Read Matthew 9:9-13 to understand.



Design your own Coat of Arms

Use the shield above as the base for your Coat of Arms. Think about your faith and what makes it important to you. Add those things to your shield so that anyone who sees it will know how your faith is important to you. If you need ideas, think about the images you see in Church. Don't forget to add your motto in the banner below your shield – the special sentence that explains what you want others to know.