



MOST REV. ROBERT PAUL BOXIE, III
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF WASHINGTON
TITULAR BISHOP OF CATAQUAS

Blazon: Per pale Sable and Vert, a pelican in her piety Argent vulned Gules; on a chief of the fourth a crescent of the third between two tables of law Or.

Motto: DOMINE DA MIHI SAPIENTIAM

Explanation

The “pelican in her piety” is not the pelican of nature, but a mythic creature found in Christian art. The ancient legend is that a mother pelican that lacked food for her young would pluck bits of flesh from her own breast to feed them. The drops of blood are symbolic of the Eucharistic self-sacrifice of Our Lord, but they also allude to His Sacred Heart. The Bishop is a native of State of Louisiana, which displays the pelican in her piety on its seal and flag, and his home parish is Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Lake Charles.

The chief, or upper portion of the shield, shows a silver crescent, a symbol of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary seen on the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Washington.

To either side of the crescent are tables of the law in gold, to acknowledge both the Bishop’s civil legal background as well as his life under the two-fold Gospel law of love of God and love of neighbor.

The red field of the chief is the color of the Holy Spirit, who, with the Blessed Virgin as our intercessor, guides Christian followers of the law of love.

The colors of the shield – red, black, and green – refer to the Bishop’s African American heritage.

The Bishop’s motto, *Domine, da mihi sapientiam*, “O Lord, give me wisdom,” is based on Wisdom 9 and 1 Kings 3.

The coat of arms was devised by Bishop Boxie with the advice and assistance of Very Rev. George E. Stuart, Ms. Georgina Wilkinson, and Ms. Megan Novak.