



MOST REV. GARY RICHARD STUDNIEWSKI
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF WASHINGTON
TITULAR BISHOP OF JAMESTOWN

Blazon: Gules; on a pale Argent between on the dexter side three mullets of six points in pale of the second and on the sinister side three mullets of five points in pale of the second a cock Sable armed, combed and wattled of the first; on a chief Azure an eagle displayed of the second armed and membered Or, holding olive branches of the second.

Motto: SUFFICIT TIBI GRATIA MEA

Explanation

The cock or rooster is a symbol both of religious fidelity and soldierly courage. Its wakefulness, watchful care over his flock, and crowing at the dawn of each new day makes it a symbol of light over darkness and the triumph of life over death. It is a symbol of Christ Himself, the One whose coming brought the true light of the world and the One in whose resurrection we have our hope. It is a symbol also of the Church's responsibility to proclaim the new era of grace and forgiveness to a darkened world. It has been associated with the repentance of Saint Peter and his resolution to always be ready to give an account of his faith. The rooster is also a symbol in the Cursillo movement, so pivotal in the faith life of the Bishop through a personal encounter with Christ and the Church, that emphasizes personal spiritual development and presents to disciples of Christ how to become effective Christian leaders in the world.

On the dexter side (the viewer's left) are three six-pointed stars in silver, adapted from the coat of arms of Pope Pius VI, the Holy Father both when independence was declared in 1776 and when he established the American hierarchy by appointing Bishop John Carroll as the Bishop of Baltimore in 1789. On the sinister side (the viewer's right) are three five-pointed stars in silver, adapted from the coat of arms of George Washington. Both sets of stars are taken from the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Washington.

The chief, or upper portion of the shield, shows an eagle holding olive branches, all in silver. It is based on the eagle on the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of the Military Services, under which the Bishop served as a chaplain in the United States Army. It also resembles the insignia of a full colonel, the rank at which the Bishop retired after many years of service as both an airborne artillery officer and chaplain.

The elements and colors call to mind a distinctly American heraldic style.

The Bishop's motto, SUFFICIT TIBI GRATIA MEA, "My grace is sufficient for you," is from II Corinthians 12: 9.

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