



Coat-of-Arms

The archdiocesan coat-of-arms was commissioned by Bishop Joseph Elmer Ritter in 1934. Designed by Pierre de Chaignon La Rou, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, it comprises a blue cross on a gold field and the fleur-de-lis, symbolic of our faith brought here by French missionaries, including our first bishops, who were French. The fish and trident recall the Native Americans of the area, who spoke Algonquin, which means “at the place of spearing fish.” Above the shield is a bishop’s mitre, showing that the coat-of-arms is that of an episcopal see.



Logo

This symbol, or logogram, for the Church in central and southern Indiana was commissioned by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein in 1993. He asked Benedictine Father Eric Lies, an artist-calligrapher of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, to fashion a new symbol that would capture the diversity found in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Father Eric, working with Saint Meinrad seminarian David Reinhart, created a design with four stylized “views” of the archdiocese, one in each quadrant of a cross: an urban landscape, a small town, a farm, and open, hilly countryside. All four vistas are held together in unity by the cross, which touches and embraces each of them.

When Jane Lee, then director of publications and graphics for the archdiocese, began working with the design, she added an arched line around the design and thus fashioned a stained-glass window whose four panes give the viewer four glimpses of our local Church.

Blue, which has been identified with the archdiocese in the blue cross of the coat of arms, was chosen as the “official” color for the logo when it is not printed in black. The particular shade of blue used in the colored version approximates the blue color found in the stained-glass windows of the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul in Indianapolis.