

**The Coat of Arms of
His Excellency
The Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan, O.F.M. Conv., D.D.**

Titular Bishop of Lares
Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee
Bishop-Designate of La Crosse



Blazon: Escutcheon Gules with the Arms of the Franciscan Order: upon a Latin cross Sable with radiant Or, two arms in saltak, the one to dexter uncovered and the one to sinister habited Sable of the Order of St. Francis, both hands displaying the Stigmata, all Proper; at bottom, single bar of wavy Azure. Ensigned with a processional cross palewise behind the shield Or and a galero with cords and twelve tassels disposed in three rows of one, two, and three all Vert.

Motto: *Adoramus Te Christe* (“We Adore You, O Christ”)

Explanation: The Episcopal heraldic achievement, or the bishop's coat of arms, is composed of a shield, with its charges (symbols), a motto scroll and the external ornaments. The Shield, which is central and most important feature of any heraldic device, is described (blazoned) in 12th century terms, that are archaic to our modern language, and this description is done as if being given by the bearer with the shield being worn on the arm. Thus, it must be remembered, where it applies, that the terms dexter and sinister are reversed as the device is viewed from the front.

For his personal arms, His Excellency, Bishop William P. Callahan has adopted a design that reflects his personal heritage, his spirituality, and his ministry. At the center of the shield are the arms of the Conventual Franciscan Order, the religious community to which Bishop Callahan belongs. These arms show on a black cross, the crossed arms of Christ and St. Francis of Assisi, each bearing the Stigmata.

At the top of the shield are two gold fleur-des-lis. These represent Mary and Joseph, two central figures in His Excellency’s spirituality. They also call to mind Bishop Callahan’s ministry at Holy Family in Peoria, Illinois where he served as pastor from 1987 to 1994.

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The wave of blue at the bottom of the shield represents the waters of Lake Michigan, a key geographical element that links His Excellency's hometown of Chicago with Milwaukee.

The background of the entire shield is red and calls to mind the Blood of Christ that was poured out for us on the cross and brings salvation to the world. It also represents the blood of the martyrs, including that of the patron of the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where Bishop Callahan was ordained a priest in 1977 and where he served as Rector-Pastor from 1994 to 2005.

Bishop Callahan's motto, *Adoramus te Christe*, calls to mind the words of St. Francis: "We adore you, O Christ, here and in all your Churches throughout the whole world, and we bless you; because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world."

The device is completed with the external ornaments which are a gold processional cross, which is placed in back of the shield and which extends above and below the shield, and a pontifical hat, called a "gallero," with its six tassels, in three rows, on either side of the shield, all in green. These are the heraldic insignia of a prelate of the rank of bishop.