

## **Significance of The Coat of Arms**

The archiepiscopal heraldic achievement, or archbishop's coat of arms, is composed of a shield, which is the central and most important part of the design, a scroll with a motto and the external ornamentation. The design is blazoned as if the description was being given by the bearer with the shield being worn on the left arm.

The shield is divided in two parts: jurisdiction arms and personal arms. The jurisdiction arms of the Archdiocese of Omaha are represented by the green field, silver (white) fess, and the cross of The Faith. The personal arms are represented by the blue cross fleuretty with a golden (yellow) crescent, the golden (yellow) winged bull holding an open silver (white) book, and the red field.

### **Galero**

The pontifical hat includes ten tassels in four rows on either side of the shield all in green. These are the heraldic insignia of a prelate of the rank of archbishop, by instruction of the Holy See of March 31, 1969.

### **Gold archiepiscopal processional cross**

The external ornamentation with two cross members extends above and below the shield from behind.

### **Green field**

Signifies the green farmlands of Nebraska.

### **Silver (white) fess**

Across the center of the design is a silver (white) wavy bar, called a "fess". It represents the Missouri River, which forms the eastern boundary of the See City of Omaha.

### **Cross of The Faith**

Representing the cross brought to the heartland by missionaries. The black signifies the black cassocks or black religious habits normally worn by the missionaries.

**Blue cross fleuretty on a silver (white) field** Each arm of the cross ends in a *fleur-de-lis*. The silver field symbolizes the arms of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, where Archbishop Lucas served for 24 years in priestly ministry.

### **Golden (yellow) crescent**

The golden crescent to the cross fleuretty signifies the 10 years that he served as Bishop of Springfield in Illinois.

### **Golden (yellow) winged bull holding an open silver (white) book**

Honoring the Archbishop's family, whose surname is a variant of "Luke," this is

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emblematic of Saint Luke the Evangelist. The particular rendering of the winged bull comes from a presentation at the Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in Saint Louis, where Archbishop Lucas served as Rector at the time he was called to become Bishop of Springfield in Illinois.

**Red field**

The winged bull is presented on a red field to honor Saint George, the martyr.

**Motto**

Archbishop Lucas has retained the phrase “Grace and mercy,” which is taken from the Book of Wisdom (Wis. 3:9). His Excellency expresses the deep and profound Christian belief that in and through Jesus Christ, God gives to all of His Children all that they will need to sustain them on their life’s journey and bring them to full life in heaven.

**Author and designer**

Rev. Mr. Paul J. Sullivan

Deacon of the Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island