



Our Diocesan Coat of Arms

The presence of a cross in the first quadrant and the scales in the fourth is a tribute to the Syriac Archbishop, Mar Julius Alvares of Sri Lanka, who presided at the consecration of our first bishop René Vilatte in 1892. They are drawn from his crest.

The second quadrant, adorned with an anchor, alludes to the numerous voyages of Bishop Vilatte, such as the one to Colombo, Sri Lanka, for his consecration. Also, the presence of water at the location of his missions, in Ontario, Quebec and Wisconsin

The presence of the heart, in the third quadrant, underlines the role played by the Society of the Precious Blood, founded in Gardner, Wisconsin, in 1887. This religious community supplied the pastors who founded and led our parishes and missions in the Mid-West of the U.S.A. and in Canada.

The shield is surmounted by a mitre and rests upon a crossed crozier and key. These three elements are also taken from the arms of Archbishop Alvares.

The motto “Soli Deo honor et gloria (Honour and glory be to God alone)” dates back to the origin of the Christian Catholic Church and Dr. Charles Chiniquy who trained Msgr. Vilatte at St Anne, Illinois.