



Description of the Coat of Arms of The Most Reverend Edward J. Burns, Bishop of Dallas, Texas

In the right side of the shield (in the heraldic shield, right and left are exchanged from the observer point of view since we have to consider the right and the left of the soldier who holds his own shield) we find represented the **Coat of Arms of the Diocese of Dallas**; it has a **red** (Gules) field in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The **diagonal white bend** represents the Trinity River located within the diocese (the placement of the bend, from top left to bottom right, somewhat resembles the northwest-southeast direction the river takes through the state).

The **fleurs-de-lis** within the bend are in honor of Pope Leo XIII (who was Pope when the diocese was established) and are taken from his coat of arms. The fleur-de-lis is repeated three times to represent the Holy Trinity.

The **solitary star** represents Dallas and also pays tribute to Texas' nickname, "The Lone Star State". The **two swords** honor St. Paul, who is the patron saint of the first Catholic settlement in Northeast Texas.

In the left side there is the personal Coat of Arms of Bishop Burns: this part of the shield is divided in two colors:

1. The **blue** (Azure) symbolizes the separation from the worldly values and the ascent of the soul toward God, therefore the run of the Celestial Virtues which raise themselves from the things of the earth toward the sky. On this field we can see a **star** enclosed in a **rosary**, in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary whose feast is on October 7th, day of birth of Bishop Burns,
2. The **gold** (Or), the most noble metal, symbol then of the first Virtue, the Faith: indeed, is due to Faith that Bishop Burns became a "fisher of men", a service he has till now developed as a priest, a vocation director, Rector of the Seminary of Pittsburgh and as Bishop; the **net** recalls opportunely the Lord's charge to St. Peter to be a "fisher of men" and the importance of this ministry in the Diocese of Dallas. The **black** (Sable) **horn**, in heraldic shape, comes from the coat of arms of the Burns family and the three waves of **water** in **blue** (azure) want to remind the three rivers of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, where Bishop Burns comes from.