

**Coat of Arms of the Most Reverend  
Earl Boyea, S.T.B., S.T.L., M.A., Ph.D.  
Titular Bishop of Siccenna  
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit**

**BLAZON:**

In the quadrants formed by a cross Sable; eschewed to chief dexter, Or and Argent; issuant from the heart of the cross with a downward slope toward base two barlets wavy Azure to chief and Gules to base.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

The episcopal heraldic achievement, or, as it is more commonly known, the bishop's coat of arms, is composed of a shield, with its charges (symbols) and the external ornaments. The shield, which is the 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, where it applies, that the terms "dexter" (right) and "sinister" (left) are reversed as the device is viewed from the front.

For his personal arms, His Excellency, Bishop Boyea has selected a device drawn on the image of the arms of our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, for whom the bishop has great respect and admiration and the greatest of thanks for having given him the honor to serve the Church in the ministry of bishop.

Similar to the Holy Father's arms, Bishop Boyea's device contains a cross which is eschewed to the upper left (heraldically, "chief dexter"). The wood of the cross also figures as a reminder of the bishop's family name, Boyea, a woodsman. The color of the cross is Sable, the same as the color of the cross on the shield of the Archdiocese of Detroit. This black cross forms four quadrants that alternate gold (yellow) and silver (white), in the same manner as the quadrants of the Pontifical College Josephinum, which are also the colors of the flag of the Holy See. The gold quadrants also pick up the colors of the shield of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Issuant from what would seem to be the heart of the cross are two wavy bars that are blue and red. The site of the issuance is a reminder of the bishop's long association with Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. These bars signify that, while on the cross, Christ poured out for us the living waters of salvation co-mingled with the blood of our redemption, for when the soldier pierced His side with the lance immediately there flowed forth water and blood. This has long signified the sacramental life of the Church, the means of salvation for all peoples. Every deacon, priest, and bishop is dedicated to the service of God's Holy People by the faithful celebration of the sacramental life and the bishop particularly is responsible for that sacramental life.

For his motto, Bishop Boyea uses the Latin phrase, "IN MANUS TUAS." This phrase, that is taken from the portion of St. Luke's Gospel (23:46) that gives us some of the final words of Jesus on the cross, expresses the belief of all Christians that is "INTO YOUR HANDS" Lord that we must entrust our lives if we are to succeed in this life and attain life in the next.

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 by instruction of the Holy See of March 31, 1969.

by: Deacon Paul J. Sullivan

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Deacon Paul J. Sullivan, President  
P. SULLIVAN & CO.  
34 Cliff Drive  
Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882 U.S.A.  
Telephone: 401-783-3157  
Facsimile: 401-783-4168 or E.Mail: DeaconPJ@AOL.com