

**The Armorial Bearings of  
The Most Reverend Brian Joseph Dunn  
Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth, Nova Scotia**

The continuity in faith of Christ's Church, in all times and places, is embodied in the bishops, the successors to the apostles. Armorial bearings are a sign of the bond between past and present. It is customary, therefore, for an archbishop to express both his familial history and his relationship to the Church's tradition by means of a personal coat of arms.

In Archbishop Dunn's armorial bearings, the shield is divided in two sections. In the lower part, within the chevron, are found symbols representing the waters of the Atlantic Ocean which surround the island of Newfoundland and the Province of Nova Scotia. This lower part of the shield also contains the crescent moon and twelve stars, taken from the coat of arms of Archbishop Dunn's native Diocese of Grand Falls, invoking an image from the *Book of Revelation* (12:1). The symbol represents the Blessed Virgin Mary, who, as spiritual guide and Star of the Sea (*Stella Maris*), protects those who make their living from the sea.

The upper part of the shield contains the Celtic cross and two sheaves of wheat. The Celtic cross in the upper middle of the shield is the symbol of Jesus Christ, who through his Paschal Mystery has revealed God's love for the world, leading to the conviction that "Nothing will separate us from the love of God" (*Romans* 8: 39). The wheat symbolizes the Word of God, for Jesus reminded his disciples that "The seed is the Word of God" (Luke 8:11), bearing fruit in an abundant harvest. The wheat points to the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Church's liturgy and life of faith. The waters flowing through the shield also represent the waters of baptism. These symbols are reminders of Archbishop Dunn's ministry as a priest, teacher and pastor.

The colours of the shield are blue (*azure*) and silver (*argent*) or white. The blue in the chevron recalls again the archbishop's native diocese, which has blue in the shield of its armorial bearings, as does the shield of the chief of the Irish clan of Dunn. Blue is also associated with the concept of heavenly love and the unveiling of truth. White is associated with the concept of purity, holiness of life and joy.

Outside the shield, the green galero with twenty tassels along with an archbishop's cross and the pallium are the heraldic insignia of an archbishop. Finally, the motto, *Nihil nos separabit a caritate Dei* ("Nothing will separate us from the love of God") is based on St. Paul's *Letter to the Romans* (8: 39) and expresses the experience of all who share in the Paschal Mystery.