



Heraldic Achievement of  
**MOST REVEREND EDWARD M. DELIMAN**

Titular Bishop of Sufes  
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

*Argent, a Cross patriarchal gules between five roses of the last slipped vert, on a chief azure a sun rising Or.*

In designing the shield—the central element in what is formally called the heraldic achievement—a Bishop has an opportunity to depict symbolically various aspects of his own life and heritage, and particular aspects of Catholic faith and devotion. The formal description of a coat of arms, known as the blazon, uses a technical language, derived from medieval French and English terms, which allows the appearance and position of each element in the achievement to be recorded precisely.

The primary object or *charge* depicted on Bishop Deliman's shield is a Cross. The particular design of the Cross with two crossbeams — known as the *patriarchal Cross* — the arms of which are slightly concave, is also known as the Cross of Saints Cyril and Methodius. It is the central charge in the coat of arms of Slovakia, and has been used as a symbol of the Slovak nation since before the year 1000. All of Bishop Deliman's grandparents immigrated to the United States from Slovakia.

Bishop Deliman's baptismal patron, Saint Edward the Confessor, ruled as King of England from 1003 to 1066. His royal coat of arms is traditionally depicted as a *Cross flory* (that is, with its arms terminating in fleurs-de-lis) surrounded by five small birds called *martlets*. To recall Saint Edward, Bishop Deliman places the Slovak Cross on his shield amid five small charges as well. Here the charges are five roses, traditional symbols of Saint Rita of Cascia (1371-1447), an Italian Augustinian nun whose powerful heavenly intercession is widely sought in difficult and desperate need. Bishop Deliman has promoted devotion to Saint Rita for many years, after having received extraordinary help for a family member through her intercession.

Bishop Deliman has served the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as a priest since his ordination on May 19, 1973, and for 38 of those 43 years he has ministered primarily to Spanish-speaking Catholics in various parishes. The Hispanic population of the archdiocese is diverse, coming from virtually every part of Latin America, and although there is no one symbol to represent all of these cultures, many Latin American nations include the sun in their flags and coats of arms. Bishop Deliman displays a rising sun on a horizontal bar at the top of the shield (the *chief*) to recall his ministry to Hispanics in the archdiocese.

The rising sun also alludes to the fact the Bishop Deliman's ordination a bishop falls during the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy convoked by Pope Francis. In the canticle

known as the *Benedictus* (Luke 1:68-79), Saint Zechariah prophesies that his newborn son, Saint John the Baptist, will announce the salvation and forgiveness that Christ will bring “through the tender mercy of our God, when the day shall dawn upon us from on high” (v. 78). The same theme is echoed in the motto on the scroll below the shield, the first words of the Fifth Beatitude: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Matthew 5:7).

The shield itself is ensigned with external elements that identify the bearer as a bishop. A gold processional cross appears behind the shield. The *galero* or “pilgrim’s hat” is used heraldically in various colors and with specific numbers of tassels to indicate the rank of a bearer of a coat of arms. A bishop uses a green *galero* with three rows of green tassels.