

Congregational Coat of Arms (1950)

The Coat of Arms presents in symbolic form the history, the traditions and the spirit of the Congregation. It is made up of both the Heraldic Achievement and the Coat of Arms proper.

The Heraldic Achievement:

- ◆ Dove, representing the Holy Spirit, forms the crest.
- ◆ Fleur-de-lis cross recalls the motto in our ring
- ◆ Motto, *Glory to God, Honor to Mary*, is attributed to Sister Maria Ignatia
- ◆ Tassels, representing unity, are based on the four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance.

The Coat of Arms, the shield, is divided in quarters of blue and green by the Crusaders' red cross:

- ◆ Six gold roundels, symbol of travel, designate apostolic mobility.
- ◆ Fleur-de-lis in blue, French in origin, symbolizes Mary and recalls St. Julie Billiart, our spiritual mother. The three petals of the fleur-de-lis point to faith, hope, and charity, our vows, and our characteristic virtues.
- ◆ Five-pointed star and tossing waves symbolize Mary, our guiding star.
- ◆ Golden eagle represents Germany, the birthplace of the congregation.
- ◆ Lion rampant, refers to The Netherlands (Amersfoort) and Belgium (Namur).
- ◆ Lily, honors Mary Immaculate, patroness of the United States, where the Congregation spread during the Culture War.
- ◆ Flaming lamp, center of the shield, represents early Christian Rome and the heart of the congregation within the heart of the Church.

(See Mother Mary Vera's letter to the Congregation October 1, 1950.)