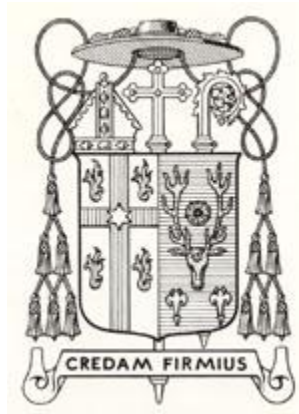


Most Rev. Reh Coat of Arms

Motto: CREDAM FIRMIUS | May I Believe More Strongly



The entire "achievement," or coat-of-arms as it is generally called, is composed of the shield with its charges, the motto, and the external ornaments. As one looks at the shield, the terms dexter and sinister must be understood contrariwise, as the shield was worn on the arm in Medieval days and these terms were used in relationship of the bearer. The dexter impalement, on the left of the viewer, bears the coat-of-arms of the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw.

The sinister impalement, on the right of the viewer, bears the personal coat-of-arms of Bishop Reh. The joining of the personal arms with the diocesan arms on the same shield bespeaks the spiritual union of a Bishop to his See, a concept also symbolized by the ring worn on the right hand of the prelate.

The Reh family is of German origin. It is not surprising that most of the German families, which bear this surname with various suffixes, display some type of a deer on their coat-of-arms, because the name in German means exactly this.

While the stag's head bespeaks the Reh family, the lilies represent Our Lady, the patroness of the North American College in Rome, where the bishop studied and was ordained to the Holy Priesthood and where he later served as vice rector and rector. The lily is the age-old emblem of the Blessed Virgin, and the frequent cognizance of St. Francis in art.

The lily, as a symbol of St. Joseph, the foster father of Our Lord, also have further significance for Bishop Reh, who as a professor at St. Joseph's Seminary in New York and later as rector there took an important role in educating priests.

The gold Orsini rose between the antlers is derived from the coat-of-arms of the Orsini family, which built and founded a convent on the Via dell'Umilta, later established as the North American College by the hierarchy of the United States in 1859. It remained as the college until 1953, when the beautiful buildings on the the Janiculum Hill became its new home. The building on the Via dell'Umilta, now known as Santa Maria dell'Umilta, is at present the site of the college graduate department. The summer home of the North American College, Santa

Caterina, in the Alban hills near Castle Gandolfo, was also once a possession of the Orsini family.

The motto, CREDAM FIRMIUS, translated "May I believe more strongly," is taken from a prayer (Oratio Universalis) composed by Pope Clement XI. A motto briefly expresses an ideal, a program of life, and the spirit of the one who selects it.

The external ornaments are composed of the pontifical hat with its six tassels on each side displayed in three rows, all in green, and the precious mitre, the processional cross, and the crosier, all in gold. These are the heraldic trappings of a prelate of the rank of bishop. Before 1870, the pontifical hat was worn at solemn cavalcades held in conjunction with papal functions.