

**The Archdiocesan Coat of Arms** was created to mark the establishment of the new Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth which took place on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and was inaugurated on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 at the Mass of Chrism.

The Coat of Arms is made up of the shield divided in 3 fields, over which is placed the precious mitre and held up by the Archdiocesan motto.

The top field contains the double-barred archiepiscopal cross on a red background which symbolizes the theological virtue of love. The cross identifies the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth as a Metropolitan See. It also connects with the coat of arms of the former Archdiocese of Halifax which was first established in 1852.

The lower field, divided in two parts, the left side of which draws from the coat of arms of St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica. The background is barry wavy symbolizing waves and evoking the seaport of Halifax. It also contains a white lily, the symbol of purity and virginity, a fitting symbol of Mary, the Virgin of the Assumption, and patron of the Cathedral and the Archdiocese.

The right field on a blue background which symbolizes the theological virtue of faith, presents a church, traditionally used to represent St. Ambrose, the first bishop of Milan and patron of the Cathedral of the former Diocese of Yarmouth, which is now the Co-Cathedral of the Archdiocese. In the upper corner is the yellow star, the Stella Maris, representing the Marian devotion and identity of the Acadian people.

The mitre refers to the pastoral solicitude of the bishop which is represented by the two ribbons (lappets) embracing the representation of the Church of Halifax-Yarmouth. The green crosses on the white and gold mitre symbolize the theological virtue of hope and allude to the efforts of the Irish Catholic community in the establishment of the Catholic Church's presence in the Halifax region.

The Archdiocesan motto, *Christus Per Crucem Pax*, may be translated as "Peace through the Cross of Christ". This is a paraphrase of Ephesians 2: 15-16, which refers to the fruitfulness of the Cross experienced as the grace of reconciliation and peace.

