



THE COAT OF ARMS OF POPE JOHN PAUL II features a gold cross set

against a blue backdrop. The cross represents the central Christian mystery of the Redemption. The vertical part of the cross has been shifted slightly to the left to make room for the majestic capital M, which reminds us of Mary's presence at Jesus' death on the cross. The motto of John Paul II, which accompanies his coat of arms and expresses his devotion to Mary, is the simple Latin expression "Totus Tuus." It means "Totally Yours!"

Located directly behind the pontiff's personal coat of arms are the symbols of papal authority: the tiara and the keys of Saint Peter. The papal tiara, or triregnum, is formed of three crowns and symbolizes the triple power of the pope, for he is father of kings, governor of the world, and Vicar of Christ. The keys, which represent those given by Christ to the apostle Peter, are crossed and tied with a cord. Since the fourteenth century, the two crossed keys have been the official insignia of the Holy See.