

COAT OF ARMS

Most Reverend Sylvain Lavoie OMI
Coadjutor archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas
Episcopal Ordination, August 19, 2005



The Colors

Green reflects newness of life, growth and hope. Gold represents the ripeness of the harvest as well as the royalty of Christ. Both colors speak of the fields and forests of Saskatchewan and Manitoba as well as Ontario. The red speaks of Christ whose body was offered on the cross, and whose blood was poured out for all, to redeem and sanctify.

The Grains of Wheat

The wheat represents Archbishop Lavoie's early farm background, as well as the bread of the Eucharist that is made up of many grains, a symbol and cause of unity.

The Trees

The evergreen trees represent the diocese of Keewatin-Le Pas that stretches across the forests of northern Saskatchewan, Manitoba and a corner of Ontario.

The Mitre and Stoles

The mitre represents the shepherding office of a bishop. The leather stoles represent ministerial priesthood exercised over 30 years predominately among the Metis and First Nations peoples. They are also calling the youth of today to the vocation of priesthood.

The Crosses

The three crosses on the mitre and stoles remind us that God is Trinitarian. The processional cross with the two transversal bars represents the office of archbishop.

The Circle and the symbols it contains

The four directions of the medicine wheel include the circle itself to teach the following message: The Word of God (bible = *kerygma*) gathers us into Community (the circle = *koinonia*) which then Celebrates (candle = *liturgia*) its life in God, and is sent out to Serve (the M with the cross, Mary, the first disciple = *diakonia*).

This symbol for Mary, patroness of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, comes from the founder, Saint Eugene de Mazenod, and represents the fact that Archbishop Lavoie is member of that religious order.

The Motto

Regnum Dei Intra Vos, "The Reign of God is Among/Within You" (Lk 17:21)

This motto highlights that Jesus came to establish the reign of God among us. Our mission as baptized Christians and as Church is to help realize that reign of God in our families, our communities and our world through lives of faith, hope and loving service.