



**The Coat of Arms of His Excellency
the Most Reverend William Francis Malooly, D.D.
Ninth Bishop of Wilmington**

The dexter impalement (side to the viewer's left but to the right of a knight behind the shield on his arm) contains the coat of arms of the Diocese of Wilmington. It was designed in 1926 by Pierre de Chaignon La Rose and is based upon the arms of the Lords de la Warr, (pronounced "ware") one of whom, Thomas West, was an early Governor of Virginia who gave his name to the River and the State of Delaware. The lion on the ancient barony's coat of arms was silver and the small crosses straight-edged. The lion on the arms of the Diocese was made gold in honor of Blessed Pius IX who founded the Diocese in 1868, and whose papal coat of arms contained a gold lion. He, in turn, had adopted it as a reference to the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah." The crosses were changed by La Rose to "bottonny fitchy" (three round knobs on the three upper extremities and a pointed base). The "bottonny" is a reflection of a feature in the coat of arms of the Lords Baltimore, who founded the State of Maryland. Wilmington is the only Diocese which covers portions or all of two states. According to heraldic writers, this "fitchy" (pointed) form of cross was used by Crusaders so they could plant their crosses in the ground for their personal devotions. The significance of the lion and "fitchy" cross is further appropriate because Christ is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah whose Church has been planted in Delaware and Maryland.

For his personal arms, seen in the sinister impalement (right side) of the design, His Excellency, Bishop Malooly, chose a design that reflected his heritage and his life as a priest, and which was adopted at the time of his calling to receive the fullness of Christ's most holy priesthood as a bishop when ordained to serve as Titular Bishop of Flumenzer and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The surname, Malooly, is Irish and is a variant of O' Mulally, in Gaelic O' Maelalaidh. This is a combination of "maol" meaning "chieftain", and "aladh", meaning "speckled" or "piebald." Between 1211 and 1611, the family produced two archbishops of Tuam and bishops of the adjacent Irish dioceses of Clonfert and Elphin. The Episcopal tradition continues. Bishop Malooly's uncle, the late Baltimore Auxiliary Bishop T. Austin Murphy ordained him in 1970.

The symbolism that is used three times on the Bishop's personal arms is a cross bottonny counterchanged, with a variation in color for difference. This is the dominant portion of the arms of the Archdiocese of Baltimore which was, in turn, taken from a quartering on the arms of the Lords Baltimore that belonged to the Crosland Family of Yorkshire, England, with whom the Calvert family intermarried in the early 17th century. The first Lord Baltimore went on to establish a colony for English and Irish Catholics, naming it Maryland ostensibly after the Catholic wife of King Charles I, Henrietta Maria, but actually after the Blessed Virgin Mary.

For his motto, His Excellency, Bishop Malooly, adopted the phrase "REJOICE IN THE LORD." This phrase from Saint Paul's Epistle to the Philippians (Phil. 4:4), which is used during the Advent season, expresses the Bishop's profound belief that, with the understanding of what Our Lord did for humankind, all men and women, in all places and at all times, have the greatest reasons to rejoice for what they have been given.

The shield is ensigned by an ecclesiastical hat having six tassels depending from the hat in three rows on each side, one, two and three, and stands in front of a processional cross extending above and below.