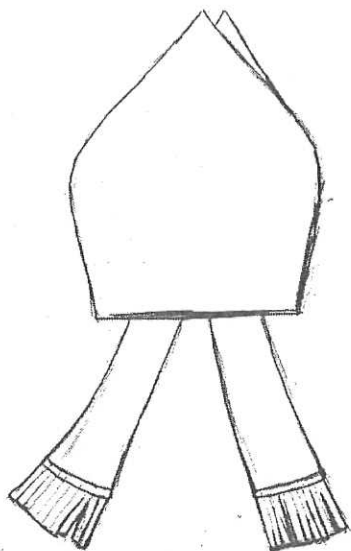


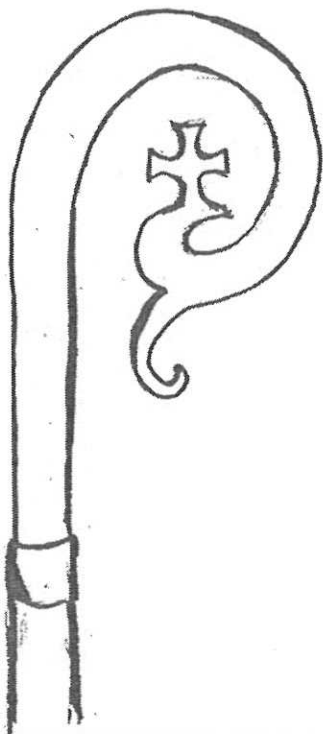
## *Sacred Symbols of a Bishop*

A bishop and archbishop wear special symbols and vestments particular to their office. The following is a short primer on their meaning, history and use.



### **The Bishop's Miter**

Originally the miter (also spelled mitre) was a simple cap made of soft material, terminating in a peak with a string on each side to fasten it to the wearer's head when traveling about. The miter's use in the Church dates to the tenth century, but it likely has roots in headgear worn by Greek athletes. It is most commonly seen in the Gothic style, with pointed peaks and two long fabric strips attached to its back. It is worn by bishops and abbots as a mark of their office and a symbol of their authority. Today, bishops are invested with a miter during their ordination ceremony.



### **The Bishop's Crozier**

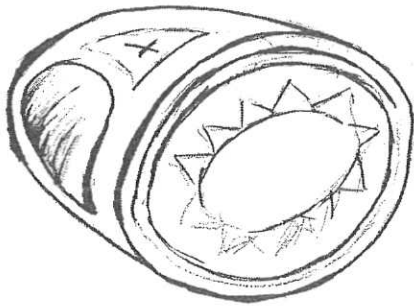
Officially known as the pastoral staff, the crozier symbolizes a bishop's pastoral authority and "Christ's love and protection for his people as a shepherd would watch over his sheep," The crozier takes its shape from the crook used by shepherds. In the 5th century, it became customary for the pope to carry a wooden staff in processions. By the 6th century, all bishops acquired the custom of carrying a staff as an outward sign of their ministry as shepherds of God's people. Today, the bishop is presented with a crozier to be used at liturgical services.

*Illustration by Maria Wiering - taken from The Catholic Spirit website:*

(<http://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/welcomearchbishop/sacred-symbols/>) The official newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

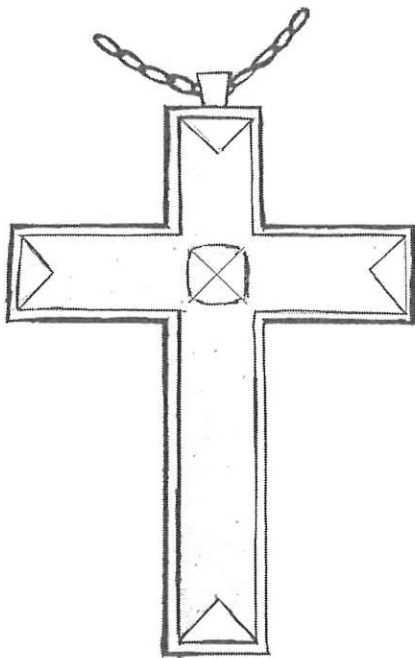
### **The Bishop's Episcopal ring**

Originally worn by the pope and known as the "Fisherman's Ring," its purpose was to link the ministry of the pope with ministry of St. Peter the Apostle. By the 11th century, all bishops adopted the custom as a reminder of their participation in the ministry of the Apostles. The ring is a sign of the bishop's faithfulness to and bond with the Church, his spouse. The material and style of the ring is the choice of the individual bishop. It is presented to him at his ordination to be worn at all time as a visible sign of this apostolic ministry.



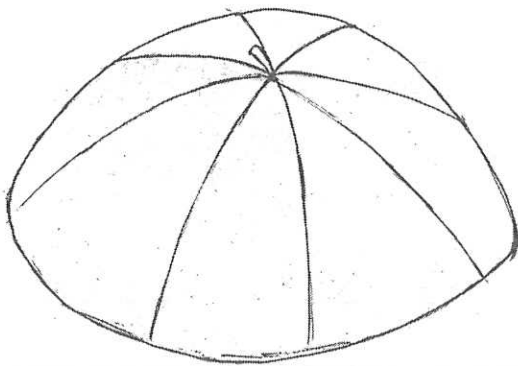
### **The Bishop's Pectoral Cross**

The pectoral cross is worn by the pope, cardinals, bishops and abbots. It is worn over the breast (*pectus*) of the wearer. The pectoral cross reflects the dignity of the office of bishop or abbot. It served originally as a reliquary of the True Cross, which encouraged the custom of wearing this cross close to the breast. The bishop assumes the cross upon his ordination and wears this cross either suspended from a ceremonial cord at liturgical services or on a chain with his clerical suit.



### **The Bishop's Zucchetto**

Also known as a "skullcap," the zucchetto is worn typically by bishops, but could be worn by priests or deacons. It was created to protect the part of the wearer's head bared by the tonsure, a hairstyle in which at least the center of the scalp is shaved as a sign of humility and piety. Archbishops and bishops wear an amaranth red zucchetto; the pope wears white. It is worn under the miter. It is worn during liturgical and some non-liturgical functions and is removed at the Holy, Holy, Holy so that the head might not be covered in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.



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