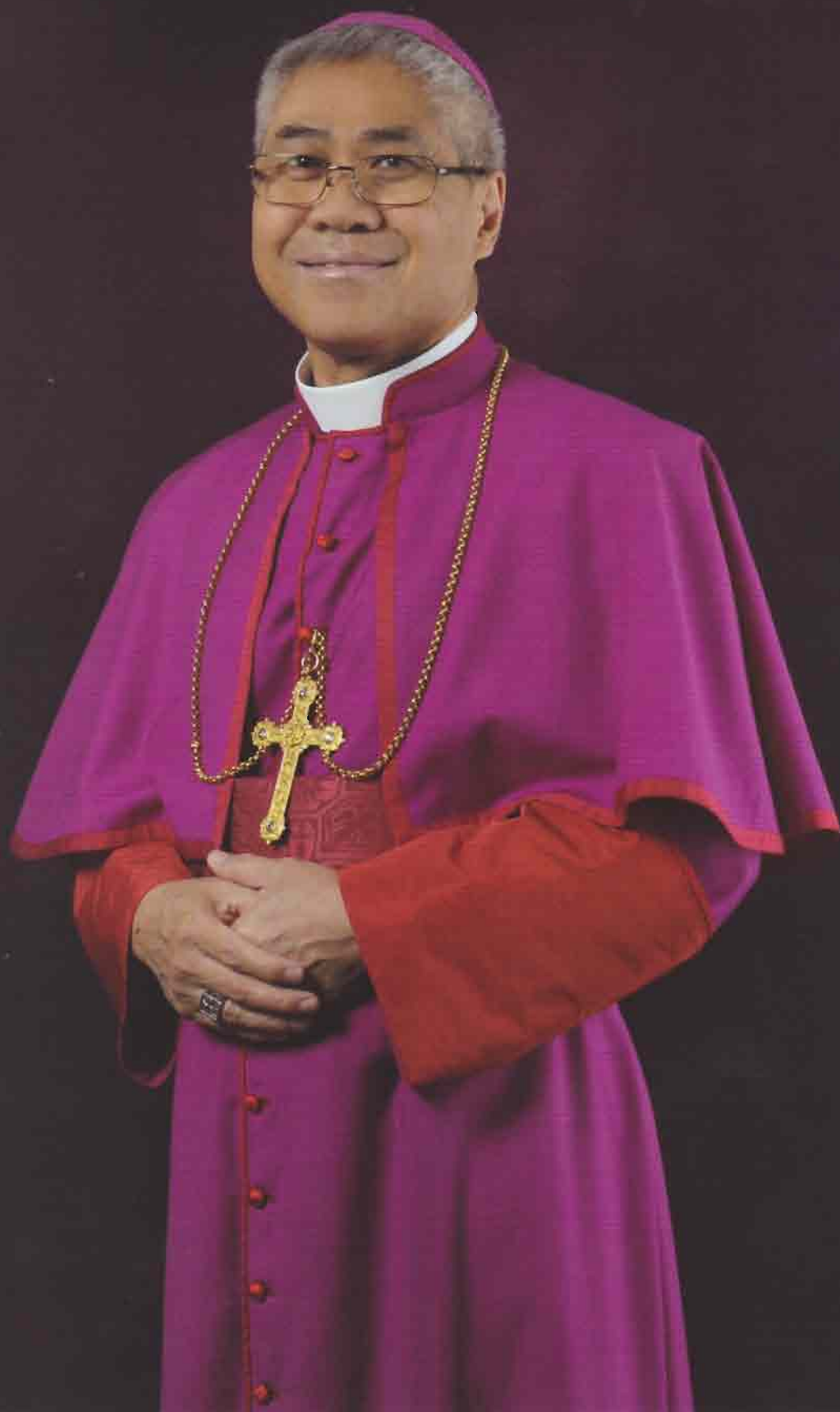
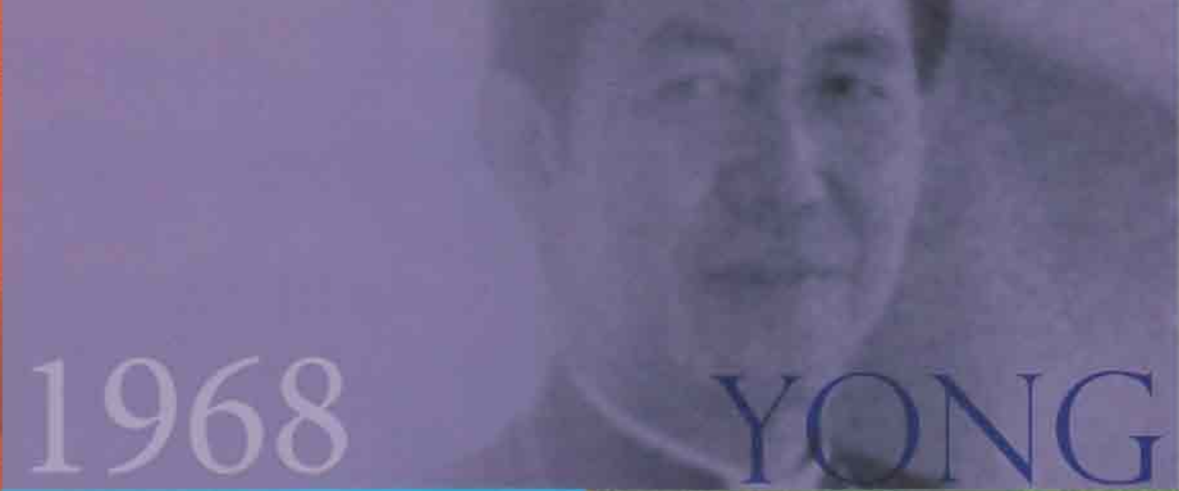
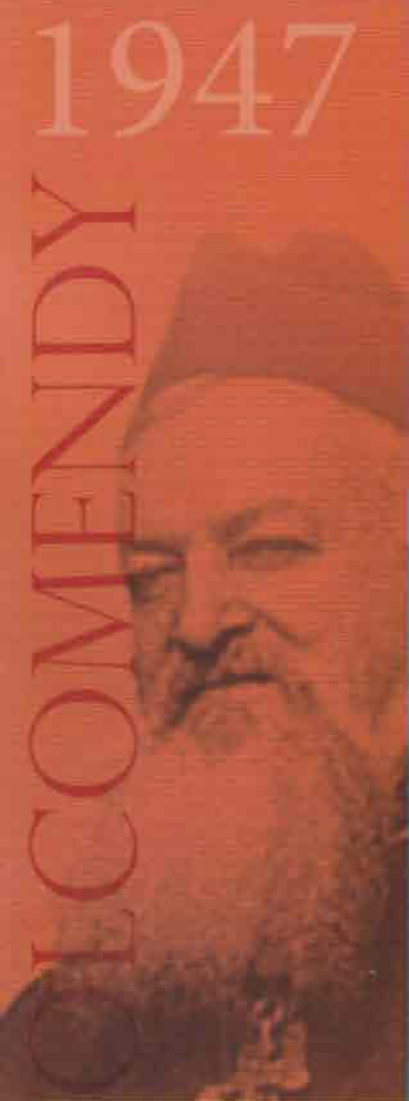


*The Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore
Celebrates the Episcopal Ordination of*
Msgr. William Goh





I WILL GIVE YOU SHEPHERDS AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHO WILL PASTURE YOU WISELY AND DISCREETLY.

JEREMIAH 3:15

Why do we have bishops?

The office of the *episkopos*, or 'overseer,' has been documented as early as the 1st Century. By the 2nd Century, historical sources indicate that all the chief Christian communities in the Early Church recognised and had the office of the bishop. Bishops represent the life-giving ministry of the Apostles to a portion of the People of God. St Paul describes the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ - with many parts working together in harmony. It is the bishop's episcopal work to bring order to the community for the sake of Christian unity and faithfulness to the Gospel. Around them gather the disciples of Jesus and as a family of God they manifest the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. Bishops also co-operate together, always in union with the Pope, for the greater good of the Universal Church.

The dates in the panels above are the years that these priests were ordained to episcopal ministry.



How *is a diocesan bishop chosen?*

Presently, when an incumbent diocesan bishop is approaching retirement, or when a diocese grows large enough to warrant more than one bishop, the Pope begins the process of choosing a new bishop. The Apostolic Nuncio informs the appropriate Vatican office of suitable candidates after consulting the local clergy, other members of the Church, and neighbouring bishops or the regional conference of bishops. Prayerfully discerning who is most suited from the regularly updated shortlist, the Pope then makes the decision.

According to the Code of Canon Law a bishop must: (1) be of outstanding faith and moral character; (2) be held in good esteem; (3) be at least 35 years of age; (4) be ordained as a priest for at least five years; and (5) be skilled in scripture, theology, or church law.

Here's a helpful article with more details: <http://old.usccb.org/comm/bishopsfinal.pdf>

For Singapore, the Vatican office that helps the Pope with the election of bishops is the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples instead of the Congregation for Bishops.



What *will we experience at the ordination liturgy?*

Some of the highlights will include: (1) The solemn reading of the Holy Father's letter of appointment. (2) A massive combined choir singing the Litany of the Saints during which the bishop-elect lies prostrate. (3) Three bishops (the Apostolic Nuncio to Singapore Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli; Archbishop Nicholas Chia; and Archbishop Murphy Pakiam of Kuala Lumpur) will consecrate Msgr. Goh as bishop by the laying-on of hands. (4) During the Prayer of Consecration the Book of the Gospels will be held above Msgr. Goh's head to symbolise his total submission to the revelation of God. (5) Anointing of the bishop-elect with the Oil of Chrism. (6) Entrustment of the episcopal symbols: the Book of the Gospels, a mitre, a crozier, a ring, and a pectoral cross. The newly-ordained bishop will then celebrate the Eucharist to the joy of the whole Church in the presence of our providential God.

Which *symbols help us to recognise a bishop?*

The Mitre: an almond shaped head-dress of the bishop that reminds him of his consecration to Christ when the Book of the Gospels was held over his head. The bishop's entire ministry is guided by the Word of God.

The Crozier: a staff shaped like a shepherd's crook. It symbolises the loving concern of the bishop, like Christ the Good Shepherd, who sustains the weak and faltering, strengthens the wavering in faith, leads erring ones back into the fold, safeguards the faith, and presides at the worship of the People of God.

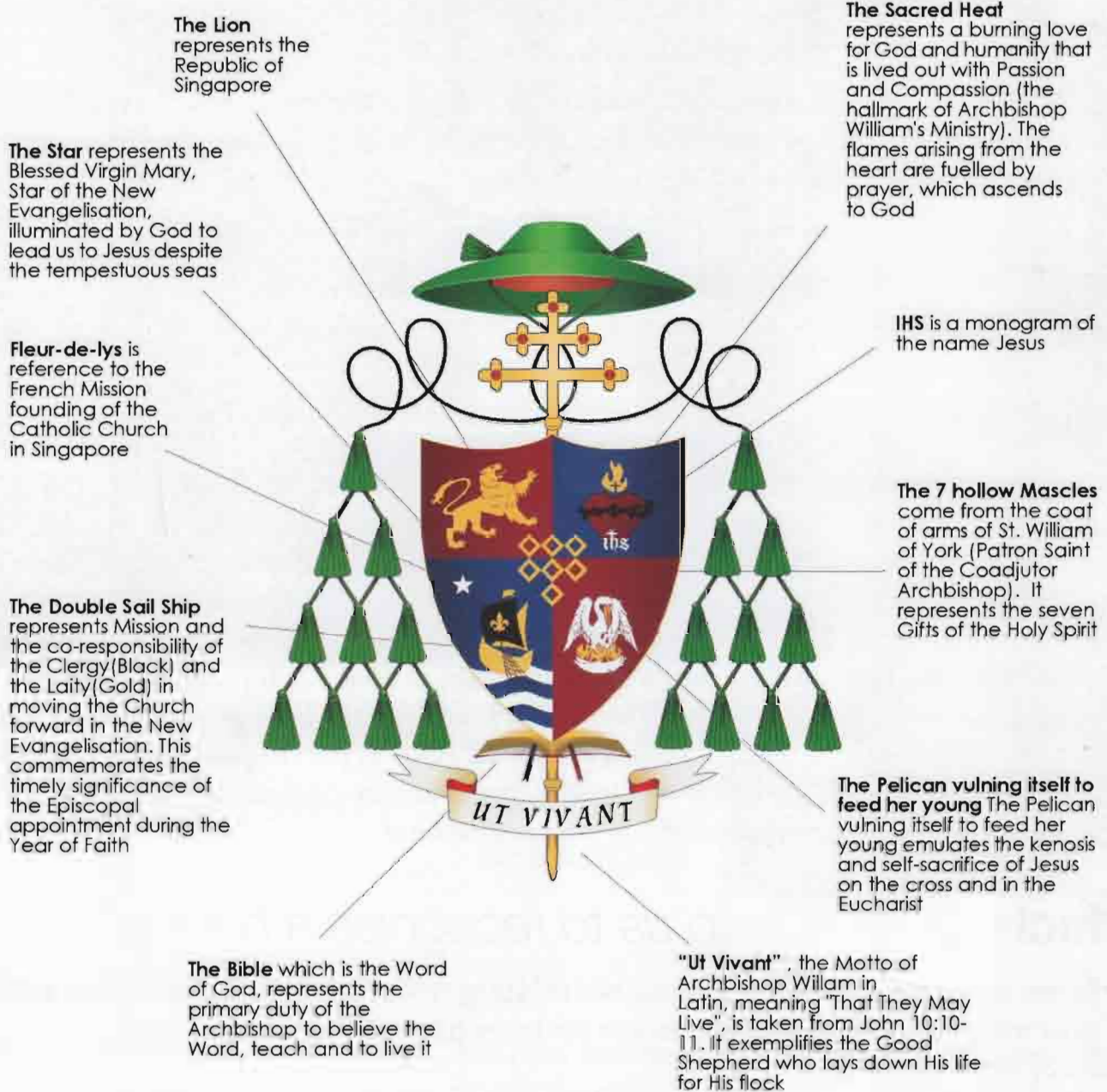
The Episcopal Ring: a sign of fidelity to the Church, who is the Bride of Christ. It signifies the spiritual union of the bishop with his diocesan church.

The Pectoral Cross: worn around the neck, It is a sign of the bishop's dedication to follow Christ's example of laying down his life for all people.



MSGR. WILLIAM GOH'S COAT-OF-ARMS

is that of an Archbishop, with double cross-bars and twenty tassels in four tiers



Colours Used

Green is the colour assigned to the ecclesiastical heraldry achievements of Archbishops. It is the color of Fidelity, like leaves attached to the vine.

The Archbishop in his fidelity to Christ draws life from Christ the True Vine. This in turn allows the Church to come through him to Christ. In this way, he becomes a 'Pontifex', a bridge to Christ.

Gold is the colour of Christ's Divinity.

Red is the colour of passion and the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon the office of the Archbishop.

Deep Blue is a homage to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the hue of philosophical truth. The colour is also symbolic of the teaching role of the Archbishop.

Black is the colour of the Ordained Priesthood.