



## THE EPISCOPAL COAT OF ARMS OF HIS EXCELLENCY GARY W. JANAK

### BLAZON:

Azure, a chief Or; cast net and crescent moon all Argent; in chief, flanked by a lily Argent with carpenter's square Brunâtre and rose Gules, the Sacred Heart of Jesus Gules. Shield ensigned with an episcopal cross Or behind the shield and a bishop's galero Vert cords and twelve tassels disposed in three rows of one, two and three all Vert. On a scroll below the shield the motto: "Give Your Servant a Listening Heart."

### EXPLANATION:

The coat of arms assumed by Bishop Gary W. Janak is made up of symbols that are meaningful to him, which reflect his spiritual life and episcopal ministry. The field is blue, representing the Living Water promised by Jesus to those who ask for it (Jn 4:10). Blue is also the traditional color of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our heavenly mother who leads all to her Son. The main charge is a fishing net shown cast into the water. It recalls Jesus' call to the disciples to "put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch" (Luke 5:4). It also alludes to the coastal city of Palacios, the hometown of Bishop Janak, where he first responded to his vocation and where it was lovingly nurtured.

The crescent moon is taken from the arms of the Diocese of Victoria, where Bishop Janak was ordained a priest. It symbolizes the geographic area of the Gulf Coast, known as the Golden Crescent, in honor of the southern Texas region where Victoria is located. In Bishop Janak's coat of arms, the crescent points upward, symbolic of his journey north from the Diocese of Victoria to the Archdiocese of San Antonio as an auxiliary bishop. Silver in color, the crescent recalls the one beneath the feet of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and her gentle rule in things both in heaven and on earth.

At the top of the shield is a gold band (chief) representing the presence of God over creation. In it are symbols (charges) for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—the Holy Family. At the far left are the traditional symbols for Saint Joseph: a lily and carpenter's square. Shown interlocked, they are symbolic of the inseparable unity between Saint Joseph's work in the plan of salvation and his purity of heart. It also recalls Bishop Janak's father, Josephat (Joe), and the faith and strong work ethic he shared with his children. It is also a reminder of the importance and dignity of human labor.

At the middle is the Sacred Heart of Jesus encompassed by a crown of thorns on fire with love. A traditional devotion in Czech homes, the Sacred Heart recalls both Bishop Janak's heritage and spirituality. At the far left is a red rose with green barbs, silver inner petals, and gold (yellow) seeds, in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe. Recalling the Castilian roses collected in the *tilma* of Saint Juan Diego, the rose also recalls Bishop Janak's



mother, Rose Marie, and his hometown of Palacios, a multi-lingual and multi-cultural community, with a deep devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The achievement is completed by the external ornamentation of a gold (yellow) cross, which is placed in back of the shield and extends above and below the shield, symbolizing the office of bishop. The episcopal hat, called a galero, with its six tassels in three rows on either side of the shield, all in green, denote the rank of bishop.

Bishop Janak has selected the motto *"Give Your Servant a Listening Heart"*. This phrase, *"lebh shomea (a listening heart) so as to be able to discern"*, taken from 1 Kings 3:9, expresses the profound humility underlying the work of authentic evangelization. It also serves as a reminder that a bishop is to listen to those he is called to serve.

*Coat of Arms and Digital Drawing by Rev. Jordan M. Hainsey, KHS*