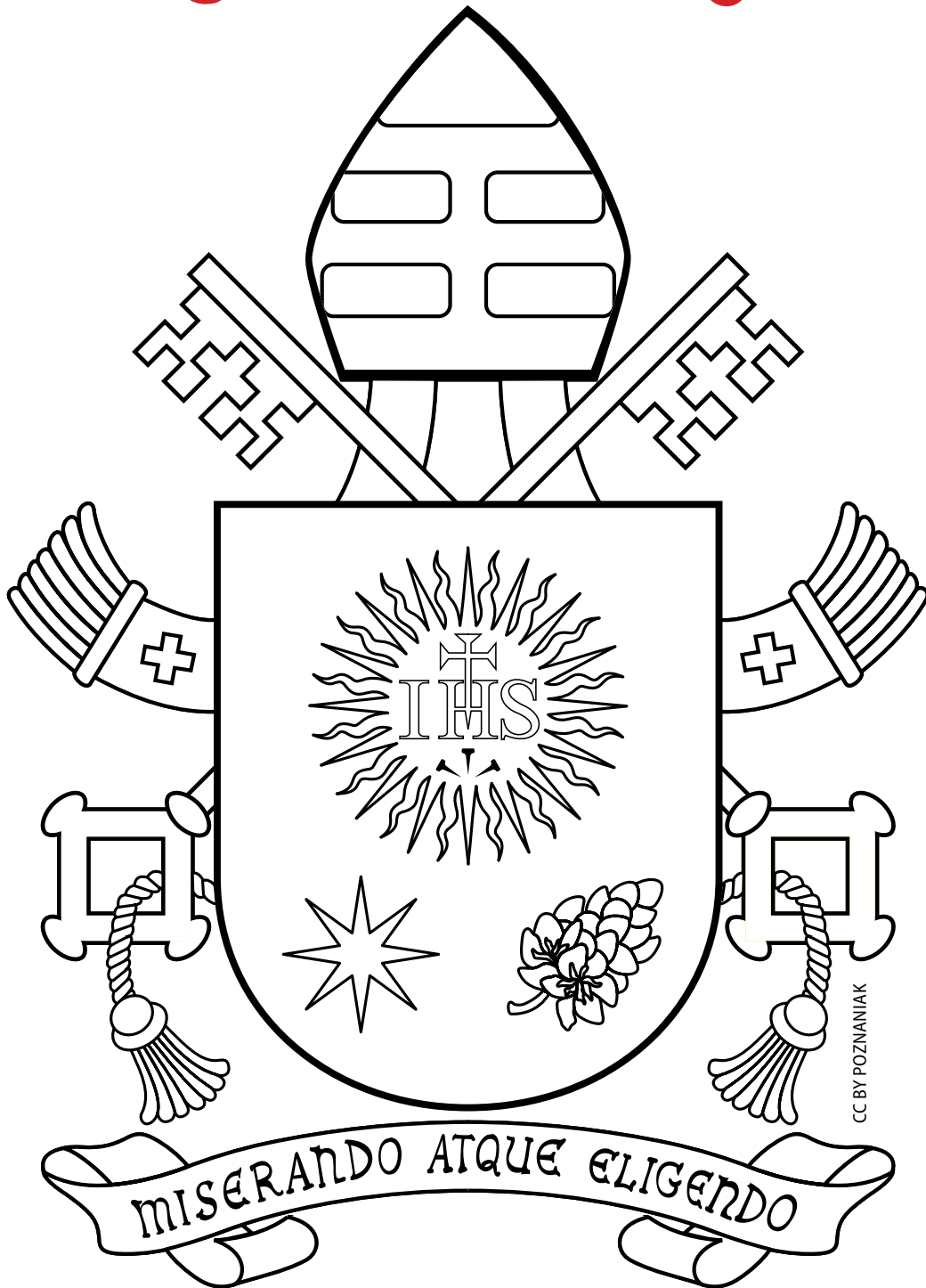


POPE FRANCIS COAT OF ARMS



POPE FRANCIS COAT OF ARMS CONTINUED

Mitre

* The top of the coat of arms contains a special hat called a mitre. The pope, cardinals, and bishops wear them. In this coat of arms, the mitre is silver with three gold stripes and one vertical gold band. Attached to the mitre are two red and gold pieces of cloth. Each one contains a gold cross.

Shield

The blue shield contains three symbols:

* The top of the shield has the Society of Jesus' official seal. Pope Francis joined the Society of Jesus in 1958. It is a worldwide group of priests and brothers. The seal is a radiant sun with the red letters "IHS" that stand for Jesus. Above and going through the H is a red cross. Beneath the letters are three black nails. The seal also represents Jesus.

* The lower left corner of the shield has an eight-pointed star, representing Mary.

* The lower right corner has a flower, representing St. Joseph who is the patron saint of the universal Church.

Motto

* The motto in the white banner with red edges at the bottom of the coat of arms is written in Latin. In English, it means, "having mercy, he called him." The phrase is a reference to a famous homily by St. Bede the Venerable on St. Matthew's feast day.

Keys

* The gold key (top left and lower right) and silver key (top right and lower left) represent the powers that Jesus gave St. Peter (the first pope) and future popes. A red cord connects the keys.



Sources: Vatican.va, Catholic News Service, NewAdvent.org