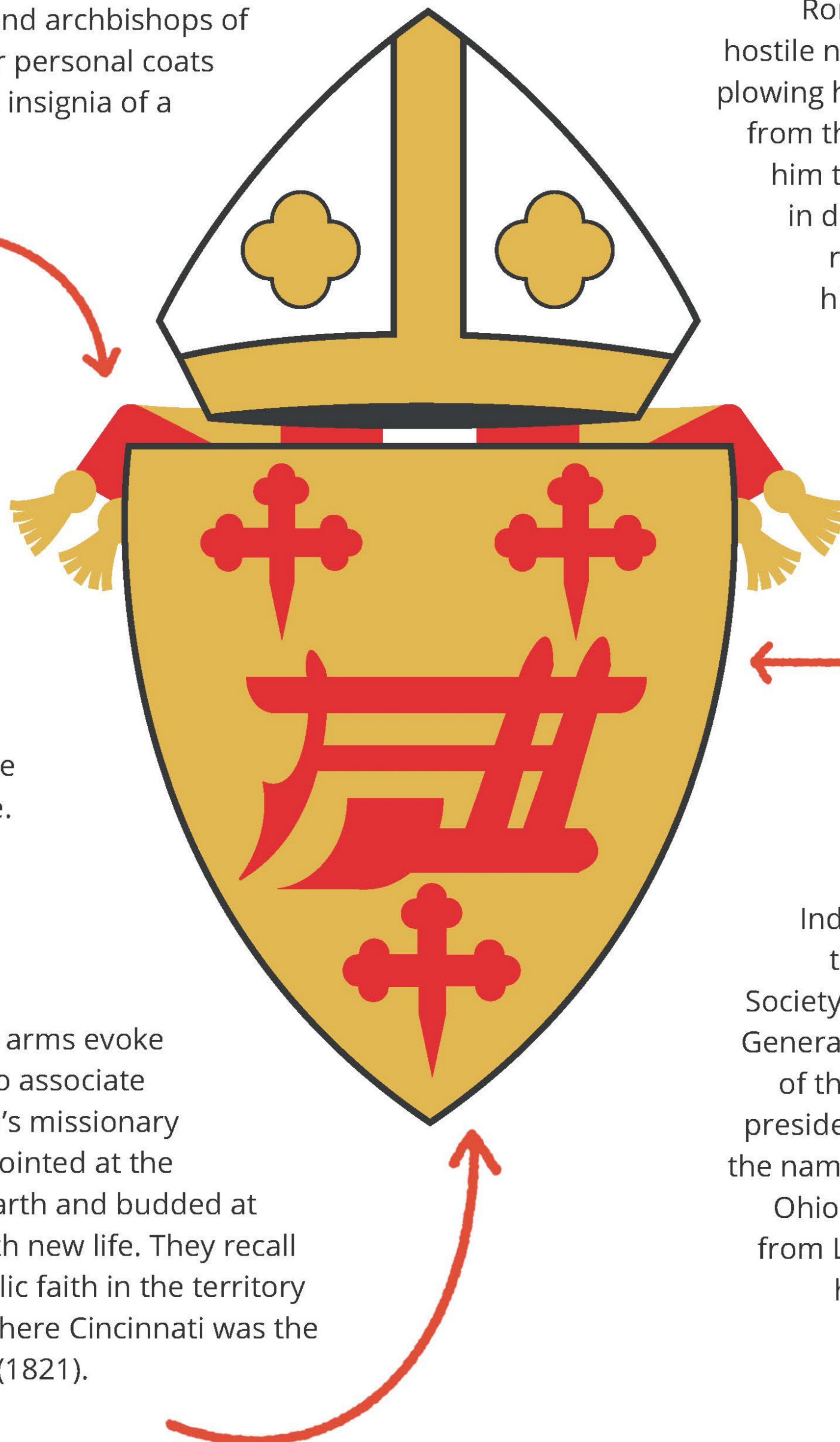


— ARCHDIOCESE OF —  
**CINCINNATI**  
*Coat of Arms*

The coat of arms appeared for the first time in a publication, *The Ecclesiastical Review*, around 1921 combined with the arms of Archbishop Moeller. Before that time, it seems that the bishops and archbishops of Cincinnati used only their personal coats of arms with the heraldic insignia of a bishop or archbishop.

The **colors** of the arms, **red and gold**, are traditionally associated with St. Peter, the patron of the cathedral of the archdiocese, St. Peter in Chains. The bishop's miter placed above the shield indicates that these are the arms of a diocese.

The **three crosses** in the arms evoke the Holy Trinity. They also associate the plow with the Church's missionary labors. The crosses are pointed at the foot for planting in the earth and budded at their tips, burgeoning with new life. They recall the planting of the Catholic faith in the territory northwest of the Ohio, where Cincinnati was the first diocese established (1821).



The **plow** represents the Roman hero Cincinnatus. In 458 BC, Rome was under attack from hostile neighbors. Cincinnatus was plowing his field when a delegation from the Senate came and called him to assume the dictatorship in defense of the Republic. He responded at once, leaving his plow behind in the field. He was to hold absolute power for six months; but when, after just 15 days, he defeated Rome's enemies and set the city's affairs in order, he resigned the dictatorship and returned to finish plowing his field. Cincinnatus was taken as a model by the officers who served with Washington in the War of Independence. After the war, they joined together as the Society of the Cincinnati. In 1790, General Arthur St. Clair, governor of the Northwest Territory and president of the society, changed the name of the settlement on the Ohio opposite the Licking River from Losantiville to Cincinnati in honor of this organization.