

## Coat of Arms of Bishop Joseph W. Estabrook



**Blazon:** Party per fess, to chief party per chevron, or and purpure, to chief six tongues of fire, divided evenly, gules, and to base a crescent of the first; to base azure, an anchor argent.

**Motto:** Set Out Into The Deep

**Significance:** Bishop Estabrook selected a design that draws on the two major aspects of his priestly life: his priestly ministry and his role as a military chaplain.

Dominating a gold field is a purple triangle formed by a chevron used throughout. The chevron-formed-triangle is used to represent the carpenter's square of His Excellency's baptismal patron, St. Joseph. On this form is a golden crescent, for the Blessed Virgin Mary, in her title of the Immaculate Conception, for she is described in the Book of Revelation as having "the moon at her feet" (Rev 12:1). This symbol was also significant for Bishop Estabrook for it is a charge taken from the arms of the Bishop's home diocese of Albany in New York. Above the purple triangle, evenly divided on the golden background, are six tongues of fire in red. These are to signify the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which came upon the Apostles at Pentecost in such a form. Bishop Estabrook expressed with this symbolism his deep devotion to the Holy Spirit, the true sustaining force of ordained ministry within the Church. The lower half of the Bishop's design is a blue field, charged with a silver anchor. It is through this symbolism that Bishop Estabrook respected his service as a Navy and Marine Chaplain for the United States of America.

"Set Out Into the Deep." This phrase, taken from Saint Luke's Gospel (Luke 5:4) the "call of the fishermen," expresses that it is sometimes the will of the Lord for us to set out into the unknown in order to find Him and to truly find ourselves. It is in just such searches that military chaplains are the instruments of God for the service of men and women to whom they minister.

The device is completed with the external ornaments which are a gold processional cross, which is placed in back of the shield and which extends above and below the shield, and a pontifical hat, called a "gallero," with its six tassels, in three rows, on either side of the shield, all in green. These are the heraldic insignia of a prelate of the rank of bishop by instruction of the Holy See of March 31, 1969.