



## St. Mary's Basilica Shield

Crafted by Martin Moreno of Cuervo Studios in consultation with Friar Michael Weldon, ofm, current rector.

### Menu of the Design

*The parish seal of a church given the honor of "BASILICA" may include two symbols of its new identity - the crossed keys and the umbrella "ombrellone" indicating its special relationship to the pope. The major basilicas of Rome like St. John Lateran, St. Peters and St. Mary Major include these symbols together with the "tintinnabulum" bell. When St. Mary's Phoenix was designated the 32<sup>nd</sup> Minor Basilica on September 2nd, 1985, this shield "makeover" was overlooked. Parish leadership of this unique Mission Revival Phoenix Church never completed at that time. The following design is proposed to the pastoral council, the House Chapter of the friars and parish staff. It would be a new imprinted seal for official documents and as letterhead for stationery. Approved by the pastoral council and parish staff, it is formally presented to the parish at the Mass with the gathered friars of the historic St. Barbara Franciscan chapter on June 25<sup>th</sup>*

2019. It is also the custom to craft it as a mosaic over the primary (holy) door of the Basilica church, which is a focal point for pilgrimage.

1. The three segmented shield in a circle with the intermittent red and golden Umbrella (the ombrellone) and papal keys of the kingdom given to Peter in St. Mathew's Gospel (Mt. 16:9) are given to Basilicas as special chapels of the pope. We see these keys over the confessionals as symbolic of the power given to the church to forgive.
2. Repetition of the three on the cross and the keys are symbolic of the Trinity.
3. Twelve leaves represent twelve apostles, the foundation stones of the early church, repeated in the Nicene Creed of the Mass, 'one, holy, Catholic and apostolic.'
4. The seven holes in the keys are symbolic of the days in which God created the earth remembered each year in the new light of the paschal candle in the great Vigil of Easter.
5. The lower quadrant of the shield juxtapositions the mythological Phoenix Bird – a sign of resurrection and the central tenet of Catholic faith, with the Franciscan Coat of arms. As the name for our city, the rising Phoenix has a prominent Sacred Heart. The crossed arms of the Franciscan Order - Christ and St. Francis are linked by the wounds of Christ; his sacred stigmata in his hands and heart under the shade of a tau cross.
6. The towers and portal of St. Mary's face south. The background vista is appropriately then the South Mountains and fields of agriculture that once marked the heart of the very fertile Valley of the Sun.
7. The Left upper quadrant is the silhouette of the first Basilica of the Franciscan Order - the church of Our Lady of the Angels - The "Portiuncula"

or the little portion of heaven” in Assisi was given the privilege of the Great indulgence in 1221. Those who came on Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> in pilgrimage with confession, creed and Eucharist were welcomed back into the faith. St. Francis experienced significant moments of his conversion here and died here in 1226.

8. The right upper quadrant is the letter “M” for Mary our Blessed Mother as the Lady of this house with the cross over it. This image was taken from the papal shield of Pope St. John Paul II. It honors the primacy of Mary in the heart of Catholic Christians. It was his signature that proclaimed this a papal basilica and was honored by his visit here on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1987.
9. The official Motto of the Shield are the words chosen from the current translation of the Roman Missal over the chalice, “This is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant it will be shed “Pro Vobis et Pro Multis” **“for you and for many.”** A better translation might be for you and for “the many” - the multitude - in short - **for all!** It is reminiscent of the sign on the corner of Van Buren and Third and the mission statement of the parish. “This a Franciscan community. All are welcome!”
10. The date “1881” stretches across the lower shield, the year of the dedication of the parish and first adobe church on the corner of Third Street and Monroe as the Immaculate Heart of Mary later changed to St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception.