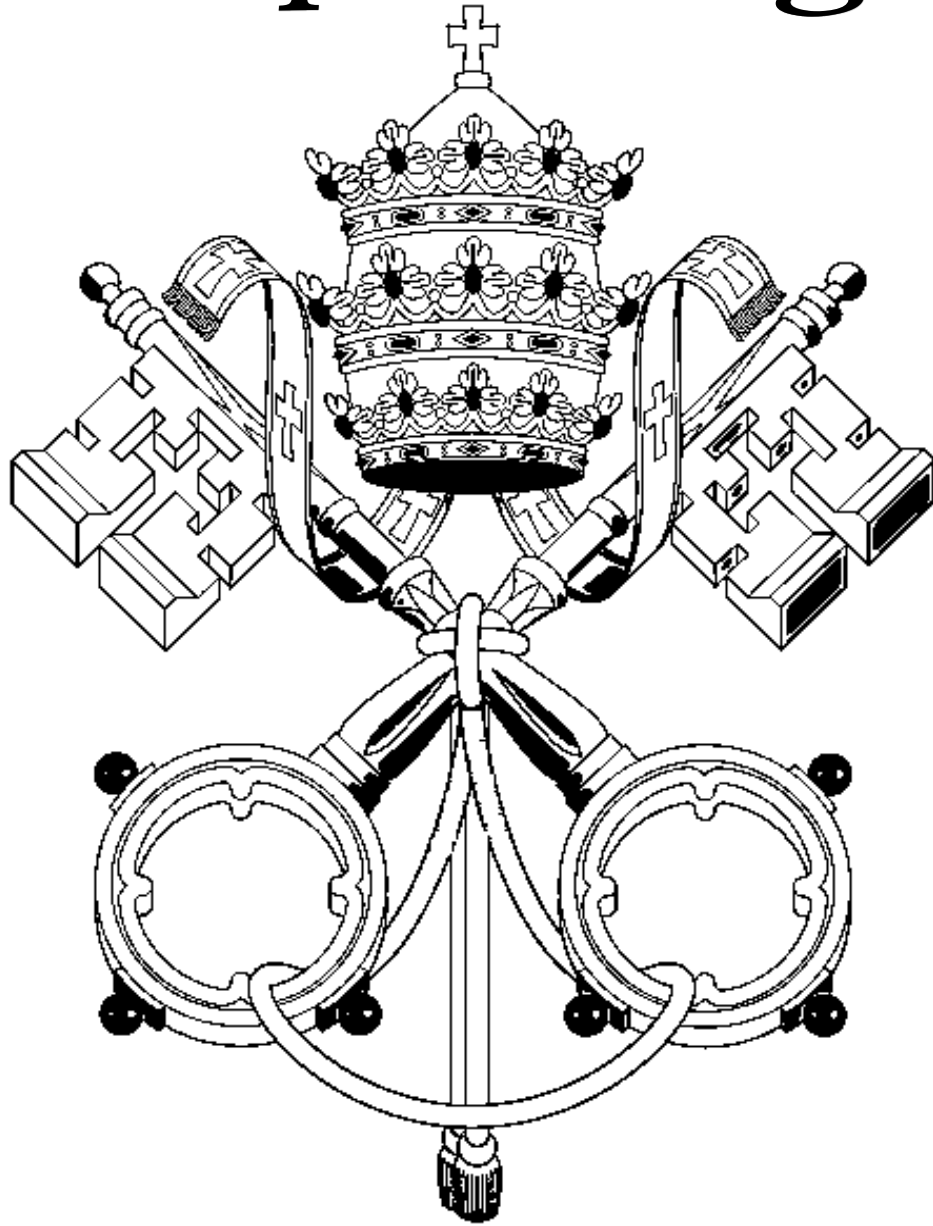


# The Papal Insignia



The Papal Insignia (pictured above) can be found on the Vatican City Flag.

The crossed keys symbolize the "keys to the Kingdom of Heaven", which Jesus gave to Simon Peter. (Matthew 16:19) Jesus said to Simon Peter, "whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven". The gold key represents the power of loosing and the silver key represents the power of binding. These two key are also wrapped with a red cord. The triple crowned tiara (the pope's headdress) represents the pope's three functions as "supreme pastor", "supreme teacher" and "supreme priest". The gold cross on the top of the tiara symbolizes the sovereignty of Jesus.

Note: On the Holy See Coat of Arms, the colors of the keys are switched and the cord can be yellow.