

Installation of Bishop Douglas John Lucia

Insignia of a Bishop

Miter:

Originally, the miter was a simple cap made of soft material, terminating in a peak with a string on each side to fasten it to the wearer's head when traveling about. By the 10th century it took the form known to us today and its use was limited to liturgical ceremonies.

At first the miter was used exclusively by the pope as a mark of distinction, but by the 12th century its use was extended to all bishops as a mark of their office.

Today, bishops are invested with a miter during the ordination ceremony. It is used by bishops, cardinals, popes and sometimes by abbots when officiating at liturgical services.

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Pastoral Staff or Crosier:

The pastoral staff or crosier takes its shape from the crook used by shepherds. In the fifth century it became customary for the pope to carry a wooden staff in processions. By the sixth century all bishops acquired the custom of carrying a staff as an outward sign of their ministry as shepherds of God's people.

In later centuries, pastoral staffs were crafted from precious metals and often decorated with jewels.

At his ordination, a bishop is presented with a simple crosier to be used at liturgical services.

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Ring:

Originally worn by the pope and known as the "Fisherman's Ring," its purpose was to link the ministry of the pope with the ministry of St. Peter the Apostle. By the 11th century, all bishops adopted the custom as a reminder of their participation in the ministry of the apostle.

The material and style of the ring is the choice of the individual bishop. It is presented to him at his ordination to be worn at all times as a visible sign of his apostolic ministry.