

## Intermediate SYMBOL CARDS

### Unit I –

#### Psalms and Wisdom

1. Harp
2. Star of David
3. Crown
4. Sparrow on a Roof
5. Sheaf of Wheat
6. Oil Lamp
7. Burning Censer
8. Menorah
9. All Saints' Shield

### Unit II –

#### The Reign of God

10. The Wolf and the Lamb
11. Shield of John the Baptist
12. Shield of St. Joseph
13. IHS
14. Purification
15. Triquetra and Circle
16. Good Shepherd
17. Golden Rule
18. Heart, Cross and Anchor

### Unit III –

#### Worship and Mission

19. Bible, Chalice, and Water
20. Canterbury Cross
21. Bishop's Miter
22. Chi Rho with joined Rings
23. Olive Branch
24. Chalice with Cross
25. Crown of Thorns
26. Pomegranate
27. Agnus Dei

### Unit IV –

#### Church History

28. Shield of St. Athanasius
29. Shield of St. Benedict
30. Lutheran Symbol
31. Open Bible
32. Episcopal Shield
33. Missionary Symbol
34. Liberty Symbol
35. World Council of Churches
36. Columbine

CROWN



"Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son."

—Psalm 72:1 (NRSV)

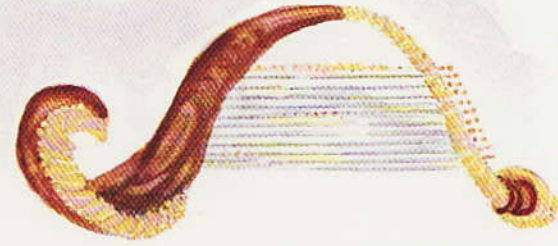
CROWN

The crown stands for authority, power, and royalty—both today and in ancient Israel.

Cross Year—Intermediate  
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

3

HARP



"Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples!"

—Psalm 117:1 (NRSV)

HARP

The lyre or harp stands for praise and worship. David played the lyre and composed songs of praise to God.

Cross Year—Intermediate  
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

1

SPARROW ON A ROOF



"I lie awake and groan; I am like a sparrow, lonely on a house-top."

—Psalm 102:7 (BCP)

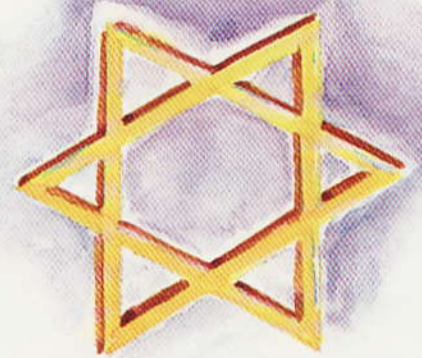
SPARROW ON A ROOF

The sparrow is considered the lowliest of birds, and it has come to symbolize the least among people. A sparrow on a roof represents great loneliness and despair.

Cross Year—Intermediate  
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

4

STAR OF DAVID



"He chose his servant David, and took him from the sheepfolds; . . ."

—Psalm 78:70 (NRSV)

STAR OF DAVID

The six-pointed star is said to be the shape of David's shield. It has long been an important symbol in the history of Israel. This star also symbolizes the Creation.

Cross Year—Intermediate  
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

2

BURNING CENSER



“Exalt him in the presence of every living being, because he is our Lord and he is our God; he is our Father and he is God forever.”

—Tobit 13:4

BURNING CENSER

Incense, a sweet-smelling substance, is burned in the censer during worship. As the smoke ascends, so prayer is lifted up to God.

7

SHEAF OF WHEAT



“I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; . . .”

—Psalm 138:1a (NRSV)

SHEAF OF WHEAT

Wheat symbolizes the gifts of the earth and reminds us to give God thanks for all we have received.

5

MENORAH



“Therefore, carrying ivy-wreathed wands and beautiful branches and also fronds of palm, they offered hymns of thanksgiving to him who had given success to the purifying of his own holy place.”

—II Maccabees 10:7

MENORAH

The candelabra called a menorah (Hebrew for “candlestick”) is a symbol of God’s presence in worship. For regular Jewish services, a seven-branch menorah is used. The one for Hanukkah has eight branches.

8

OIL LAMP



“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: . . .”

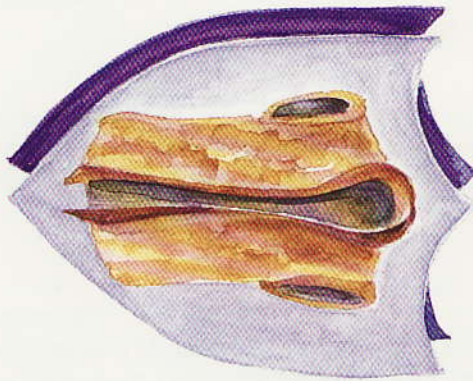
—Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NRSV)

OIL LAMP

Because of the light it sheds, the lamp is a symbol of wisdom. The Word of the Lord is like a lamp; it is the wisdom that guides the way.

6

SHIELD OF JOHN THE BAPTIST



"Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey."

—Matthew 3:4 (NRSV)

SHIELD OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

The prophet John lived a simple life in the wilderness of Judea. He dressed in garments made of camel's hair and leather.

ALL SAINTS' SHIELD



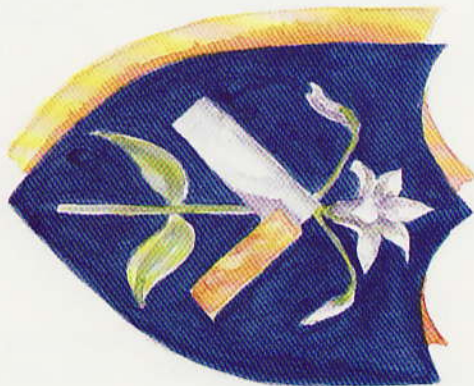
"Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful."

—Psalm 149:1 (NRSV)

ALL SAINTS' SHIELD

The central piece of this shield is the crown representing the blessed. The scrolls are inscribed with the Latin word for "holy." The silver background stands for the brightness of heaven, while the black symbolizes the trials of earthly life.

SHIELD OF ST. JOSEPH



'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'

—Matthew 1:20b (NRSV)

SHIELD OF ST. JOSEPH

Joseph, Mary's husband, the earthly father of Jesus, was a carpenter. His shield shows a carpenter's square. The lily represents Mary.

THE WOLF AND THE LAMB



"The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them."

—Isaiah 11:6 (NRSV)

THE WOLF AND THE LAMB

The wolf is the natural enemy of the sheep. When pictured together, they symbolize the kingdom of heaven in which all creatures will love one another and live in peace.

TRIQUETRA AND CIRCLE



"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

—John 3:16 (NRSV)

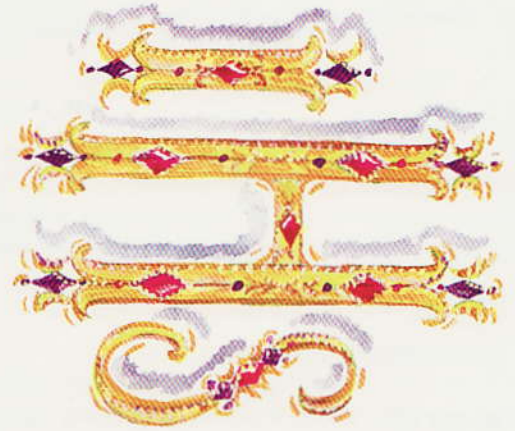
### TRIQUETRA AND CIRCLE

This symbol combines the circle of eternity with the three equal arcs, interwoven, which represent the Trinity. It stands for God in Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Cross Year—Intermediate   
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

15

IHS




"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

—John 1:1 (NRSV)

### IHS

These are the Greek letters Iota, Eta, Sigma. They are the first three letters of the Greek word IHSOUS (Jesus). This monogram sometimes appears as IHC. The meaning is the same.

Cross Year—Intermediate   
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

13

GOOD SHEPHERD




"... Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

—Matthew 18:3 (NRSV)

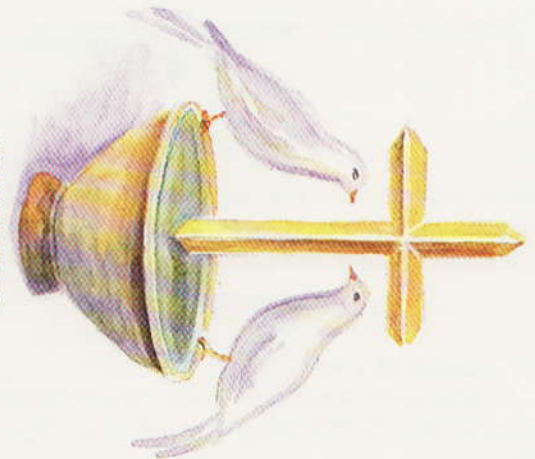
### GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus as the Good Shepherd who carries a lamb on his shoulders. This comforting image reminds us of God's love and devotion.

Cross Year—Intermediate   
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

16

PURIFICATION




"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."

—Luke 2:40 (NRSV)

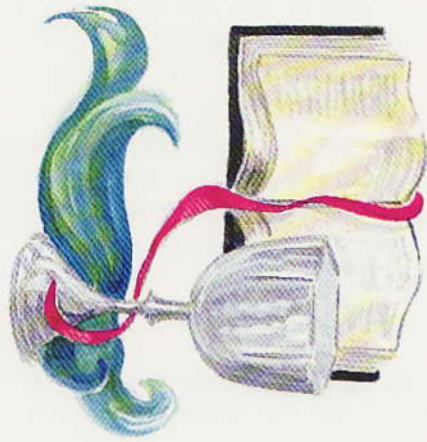
### PURIFICATION

This symbol represents the journey of Mary and Joseph to the temple in Jerusalem for the Jewish rite of purification. They offered a sacrifice of a pair of doves.

Cross Year—Intermediate   
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

14

BIBLE, CHALICE, AND WATER



"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

—*I Corinthians 12:12* (NRSV)

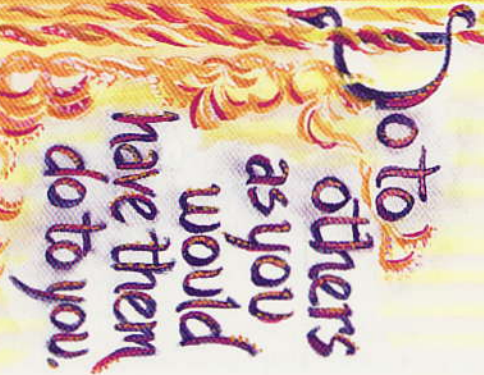
BIBLE, CHALICE, AND WATER

The Bible is the Word of God. The chalice and the water stand for the Eucharist and Holy Baptism, the two great sacraments of the Church.

Cross Year—Intermediate  
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

19

GOLDEN RULE



"Do to others as you would have them do to you."  
—*Luke 6:31* (NRSV)

GOLDEN RULE

A rule is a guideline for people to live by. It is a way to measure our behavior. Jesus gave us the Golden Rule as one such guide.

Cross Year—Intermediate  
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

17

CANTERBURY CROSS



"For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of hands; . . ."

—*II Timothy 1:6* (NRSV)

CANTERBURY CROSS

This cross comes from the Cathedral in Canterbury, England. St. Augustine was sent to England by Pope Gregory to convert the Anglo-Saxons. He became the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

Cross Year—Intermediate  
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

20

HEART, CROSS, AND ANCHOR



". . . you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."

—*Mark 12:30* (NRSV)

HEART, CROSS, AND ANCHOR

In this symbol, the heart stands for love. The cross speaks of God's great love in Christ. The anchor is for strength, hope, and steadfastness in following the Lord.

Cross Year—Intermediate  
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

18

OLIVE BRANCH

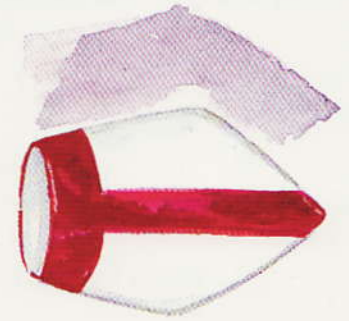


“Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.”  
—James 5:16a (NRSV)

OLIVE BRANCH

This branch is a symbol for peace, harmony, and healing. Olive trees provide shelter and also the oil used in ointments to promote healing.

BISHOP'S MITER



“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; . . .’  
—Matthew 9:37 (NRSV)

BISHOP'S MITER

This hat worn only by bishops is a symbol of the authority by which bishops ordain deacons, priests, and other bishops.

CHALICE WITH CROSS



“When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him.”  
—Luke 22:14 (NRSV)

CHALICE WITH CROSS

This form of the chalice and the cross stands for Jesus' obedience to God's will. He made the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

CHI RHO WITH JOINED RINGS



“Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”  
—Mark 10:9 (NRSV)

CHI RHO WITH JOINED RINGS

This is a modern symbol for Christian marriage. The joined rings stand for eternity, with the Chi Rho monogram for Christ representing the presence of God with the couple.

AGNUS DEI



"While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven."

—*Luke 24:51* (NRSV)

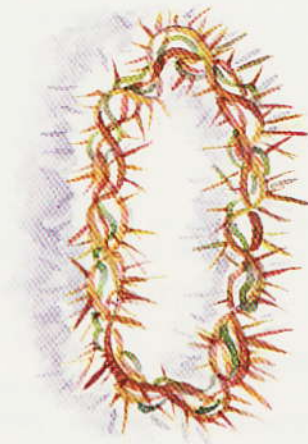
AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei means "Lamb of God" and is represented by a lamb holding a staff with a white banner and a red cross. When the lamb is standing, it suggests victory and triumph.

Cross Year—Intermediate  
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

27

CROWN OF THORNS



"Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.'"

—*Luke 23:34* (NRSV)

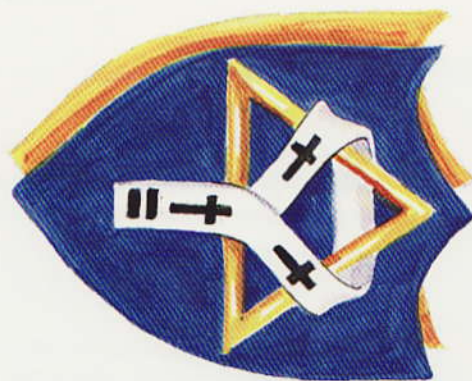
CROWN OF THORNS

This crown mocked Jesus, and caused him pain and humiliation just before he was crucified on the cross.

Cross Year—Intermediate  
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

25

SHIELD OF ST. ATHANASIUS



"... and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

—*Philippians 2:11* (NRSV)

SHIELD OF ST. ATHANASIUS

Athanasius was a fourth-century bishop. He defended the divinity of Christ at the council of Nicaea, where the Nicene Creed was composed.

Cross Year—Intermediate  
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

28

POMEGRANATE



"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body."

—*Luke 24:2-3* (NRSV)

POMEGRANATE

The pomegranate is a reddish-yellow fruit bursting with seeds. It is symbolic of the power of Christ to burst forth from the tomb on Easter morning.

Cross Year—Intermediate  
Copyright © 1995 Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

26

OPEN BIBLE



“. . . and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

—II Timothy 3:15 (NRSV)

OPEN BIBLE

The symbol of an opened Bible indicates that the Word of God is available to all people.

SHIELD OF ST. BENEDICT



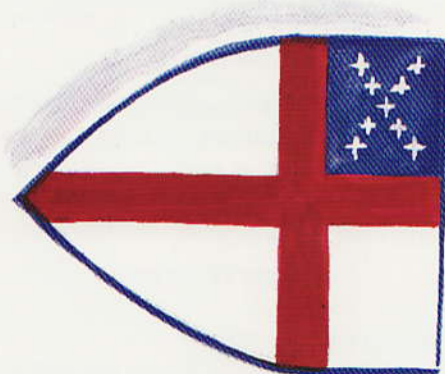
“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

—Romans 12:2 (NRSV)

SHIELD OF ST. BENEDICT

St. Benedict was the founder of monasticism in the Western world. He established a rule of life that contributed a new spirit to the life of the Church.

EPISCOPAL SHIELD



“As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

—John 17:18 (NRSV)

EPISCOPAL SHIELD

The shield reflects the history of the church. The colors are from the flags of England and the United States. The large red cross is St. George's. The nine smaller crosses form St. Andrew's symbol. They also represent the original nine founding dioceses.

LUTHERAN SYMBOL



“But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.”

—Romans 5:8 (NRSV)

LUTHERAN SYMBOL

This is the coat of arms Martin Luther designed. He said that the cross with the heart should be set in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith yields joy, peace, and comfort.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



“... with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ...”  
—Ephesians 4:2 (NRSV)

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

A ship represents the Church. Framed by the word “oikoumene” (Greek for “the whole world”), this symbol stands for the worldwide mission of the churches of Jesus Christ.

MISSIONARY SYMBOL



“They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.”  
—Luke 9:6 (NRSV)

MISSIONARY SYMBOL

This symbol from the Office of Hispanic Ministry of the Episcopal Church includes the rising sun as the hope for the future, framed in the mission arch. The condor symbolizes strength and endurance, flying over the mountains and water for the expansion of missions to the Caribbean.

COLUMBINE



“... for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”  
—Acts 1:5 (NRSV)

COLUMBINE

The flower of the columbine has the shape of a cluster of five doves. The plant gets its name from “columba,” the Latin word for “dove.” Seven blooms on the plant stand for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

LIBERTY SYMBOL



“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave nor free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”  
—Galatians 3:28 (NRSV)

LIBERTY SYMBOL

Hands uplifted toward a cross represent freedom that comes from faith in God. Chains falling from the wrists stand for freedom from human bondage.