Objects Associated with Catholic Bishops

Cathedra (kuh-THEE-druh) – the bishop's chair. It is the symbol of his role of chief teacher and pastor of the local church. The word is Greek and means chair.





Cathedral - the principal church of a diocese that contains the bishop's cathedra. In the Diocese of Superior, it is the Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior WI.

Chrism – is a specially perfumed olive oil that the bishop consecrates at the annual Chrism Mass during holy week. This chrism is used at baptism and confirmation in all parishes of the diocese. It is also used for ordinations and for the dedication of new churches.





Crosier or crozier (KROH zher) – is a staff, like a shepherd's crook, carried by a bishop as a symbol of his office. It recalls the bishop's role as shepherd of God's people. Sometimes a crosier has a cross instead of a crook at the end.

Episcopal ring – a ring signifies the bishop's bond or symbolic marriage to Christ's church.

Miter (MY-ter) – is a pointed, two-sided headdress worn by bishops at liturgical celebrations. It is one of the primary symbols of the bishop's role, along with the crosier and ring.

Pallium – a circular band of wool with two pendants, worn by a bishop. It is worn around the neck, with one pendant in front, the other in back. The bishop receives the pallium from the pope. It is a symbol of the bishop's duties to shepherd the flock and to foster communion with the pope.

Pectoral cross – is a cross that a bishop wears on a chain around the neck. When wearing a suit, a bishop may place the cross in his left pocket, so the chain is visible suspended across his shirt.



Zucchetto (zoo-KET-oh) - a skull cap worn by bishops (purple), cardinals (red), and pope (white).