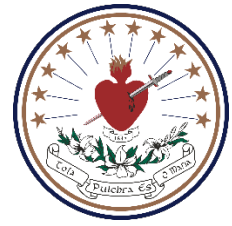


Mission Moment

May 5, 2021



This evening I would like to draw our attention to the School Seal...something that is in front of us all the time. We see it, but do we understand its significance?

You will agree that a family “coat of arms” has significant meaning and symbolism for each family. So too for our school seal.

The VMA school seal is based on the seal of the Congregation.

The seal of the Congregation is symbolic of our royal heritage as adopted children of God and spouses of the King of Kings. The Immaculate Heart of Mary, pierced by a sword and surrounded by three lilies, is the focal point, representing the total dedication of self by the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience and the acceptance of the Divine Will as the price of redemption of souls for Christ.

The words “Tota Pulchra Es, O Maria”, (You are all beautiful, O Mary) referring to the Canticle of Canticles, indicate complete fidelity. The rays emanating from Mary’s heart, star-crowned, refer to the Apocalypse (12:1):

...a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

The year of our foundation, 1845, is tied inseparably within the double circle, a symbol of the twofold perfection that we have vowed to Christ. The gold circle signifies our primary aim, holiness; the blue narrower circle symbolizes our apostolate for souls.

Now we look at our VMA seal. The same heart, pierced by a sword, is surrounded by 3 lilies and a crown of 12 stars. The date 1872 refers to the establishment of VM Academy. Beneath the heart is the Latin phrase, “Nisi Dominus Frustra”.

This phrase is taken from Ps. 127: “unless the Lord build the house, the builders labor in vain!”

The specific phrase is translated, “Without God, all is vain!”

I found this particularly significant as VMA continues to build, not only “buildings”, but also strives to maintain its focus on nurturing faith, creativity, intellectual curiosity and compassion to ensure that young women achieve more than they ever thought possible!

God is our foundation and without God as our Center, all else is in vain!