UFFIĊĊJU KOMUNIKAZZJONI KURJA VESKOVILI TA' GĦAWDEX
Stqarrija għall-Istampa [ST/09/2021]
28 ta' Ottubru 2021 – Jum Għawdex

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STEMMA ARALDIKA UFFIĊJALI GĦAD-DJOĊESI TA' GĦAWDEX

Id-Djoċesi ta' Għawdex qiegħda xxandar l-Istemma Araldika ġdida tagħha.

B'inizjattiva tas-Segreterija tal-Isqof u l-Uffiċċju tal-Komunikazzjoni fi ħdan il-Kurja Veskovili ta' Għawdex, u fuq idea oriġinali ta' Dun Roberto Gauci, id-disinn finali tal-istemma nħadem u ġie esegwit skont ir-regolamenti tal-araldika minn Dr Charles A. Gauci, Chief Herald of Arms ta' Malta fi ħdan Heritage Malta. F'dan il-proċess, id-Djoċesi kkonsultat ukoll l-istoriku Mons. Dr Joseph Bezzina, eks Arkivista Djoċesan.

L-approvazzjoni uffiċjali ta' din l-Istemma mill-Uffiċċju taċ-Chief Herald of Arms ta' Malta saret nhar is-16 ta' Settembru 2021, il-157 anniversarju mit-twaqqif tad-Djoċesi ta' Għawdex. Il-preżentazzjoni uffiċjali tad-disinn mistennija ssir fil-ġimgħat li ġejjin minn uffiċjali ta' Heritage Malta lill-Isqof ta' Għawdex Anton Teuma.

L-istemma hi komposta minn żewġ elementi prinċipali: l-arma proprja fuq ġewwa tat-tarka jew skudett, u s-simboli ta' djoċesi fuq in-naħa ta' barra.

1. It-tarka hi komposta minn żewġ taqsimiet orizzontali:

    a. Il-parti prinċipali ta' isfel, li tokkupa żewġ terzi, hi riproduzzjoni kważi eżatta tal-**Istemma Araldika ta' Għawdex**, li hija *Party per fess, Sable* tliet għoljiet b'*fess* tal-Fidda, iċ-ċentru fuq enfasizzat u *barry* mmewweġ sitta Fidda u Iswed.

    Din turi sfond maqsum orizzontalment: żewġ terzi mill-parti ta' fuq huma kulur il-fidda; terz fil-parti ta' isfel huwa magħmul minn sitt faxex paralleli mmewġin u orizzontali li jalternaw bejn fidda u iswed, ta' fuq fidda u tal-qiegħ iswed. Fil-parti ta' fuq, tliet għoljiet suwed kemxejn ippuntati, l-għolja fiċ-ċentru ogħla u quddiem iż-żewġ għoljiet l-oħra.

    Din l-istemma araldika oriġinat minn dik tal-Universitas – il-Gvern reġjonali ta' Għawdex (1350-1819) – u żgur li kienet bdiet tintuża fi tmiem is-seklu sittax. B'Ordni tal-2014 dwar Stemmi tal-Kumitati Reġjonali, bħala parti mill-Att dwar il-Kunsilli Lokali (A.L. 364 tal-2014), ġiet iddikjarata bħala l-Istemma uffiċjali tar-Reġjun ta' Għawdex.

    b. Il-parti ta' fuq, li tokkupa terz, turi x-xbieha ta' **ljun** b'kuruna fuq rasu u wieqaf b'dirgħajh miftuħa, bis-sieq ta' wara sserraħ fuq globu, fuq sfond ta' faxxa orizzontali (*fess*) ta' lewn kaħlani skur (*azure*).

    Dan hu dettall misluf mill-Istemma Araldika tal-Beatu Papa Piju IX (1792-

1878), il-fundatur tad-Djoċesi ta' Għawdex u Kemmuna, imwaqqfa bil-Bulla *Singulari Amore* fis-16 ta' Settembru 1864.

2. Fuq in-naħa ta' barra tat-tarka jidhru s-simboli assoċjati mad-Djoċesi ta' Għawdex:

    a. **Mitra** episkopali *simplex*, ta' lewn abjad u dehbi, biż-żewġ faxex dehbija tagħha nieżla jitberflu fuq kull ġenb tat-tarka.

    b. **Salib** proċessjonali Latin u **Baklu** (il-bastun li jirrappreżenta l-funzjoni tal-Isqof bħala Ragħaj) jaqsmu djagonalment lil xulxin (*saltire*) fuq in-naħa ta' wara tat-tarka.

    Dawn is-simboli huma komuni għal kull stemma ta' Djoċesi jew Sede episkopali, u jistgħu jkunu magħduda ma' elementi oħra.

Din l-Istemma araldika tad-Djoċesi ta' Għawdex, l-ewwel waħda fl-istorja tagħha, qed tiġi uffiċjalizzata f'rabta ma' Jum Għawdex, it-28 ta' Ottubru. F'dan il-jum fl-1798, il-poplu Għawdxi, megħjunin mill-flotot Ingliżi u Portugiżi, ħareġ rebbieħ fuq il-ħakkiema Franċiżi u mexxa lil Għawdex b'mod awtonomu permezz ta' gvern proviżorju magħmul kompletament mill-Għawdxin.

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OFFICIAL COAT OF ARMS FOR THE GOZO DIOCESE

The Gozo Diocese is displaying its new coat of arms.

On the initiative of the Bishop of Gozo's Secretariat and the Communications Office of the Bishop's Curia, and based on an original idea by the Rev. Roberto Gauci, the final design of the Diocese of Gozo's coat of arms was produced in strict accord with the rules of heraldry by Dr Charles A. Gauci, Chief Herald of Arms of Malta on behalf of his Office which forms part of Heritage Malta. During this process, the Diocese also consulted historian Mgr Dr Joseph Bezzina, former Diocesan Archivist.

Formal approval of the coat of arms was given by the Office of the Chief Herald of Arms of Malta, on 16 September 2021, the 157th anniversary of the Diocese of Gozo's foundation. The official presentation of the design is to be made by officials of Heritage Malta to Bishop of Gozo Anton Teuma in the coming weeks.

The Arms are composed of two principal elements, namely an inner shield surrounded by the outer symbols of a Roman Catholic Diocese, namely those of the Diocese of Gozo.

1. The surface of the shield, known in heraldry as the *field*, bears two separate components.

    a. The main, lower part which occupies approximately two thirds of the *field* is an exact replica of the **Arms of Gozo**, namely Argent upon a base barry wavy of six of the same and Sable, in fess three mounts of the Last, the central one enhanced.

    These Arms, derived from those of the Universitas – the regional government of Gozo between 1350 and 1819) – were certainly in use during the sixteenth century. The 2014 Order concerning the Arms of Regional Committees, part of the Local Councils Act (A.L. 364 of 2014) officially declared these Arms to be those of the Gozo Region.

    b. The top third of the field, known in heraldry as the *chief*, is Azure and bears in fess a crowned **lion** rampant Or its hind foot resting on a globe of the Same.

    This *chief* is derived from the Arms of the Blessed Pope Pius IX (1792-1878) who founded the Diocese of Gozo and Comino, by virtue of the papal bull *Singulari Amore* on 16 September 1864.

2. Around the shield are seen various symbols associated with the Diocese of Gozo, namely:

    a. an Episcopal **Mitre** *simplex*, its lappets descending on either side of the shield,

    b. which itself lies on a Latin Episcopal **Cross** and **Crozier** (a staff

representing the role of the Bishop as spiritual shepherd) in saltire.

These symbols are commonly displayed in the Arms of a Roman Catholic diocese and can be combined with other heraldic elements.

These heraldic Arms are the first-ever to be granted to the Diocese of Gozo since its foundation and are being officially launched on Gozo Day, 28 October. On this day in 1798 the people of Gozo assisted by the British and Portuguese fleets were victorious in their struggle against the occupying forces of the French Republic and moved their island towards autonomy under a provisional government composed entirely of Gozitans.