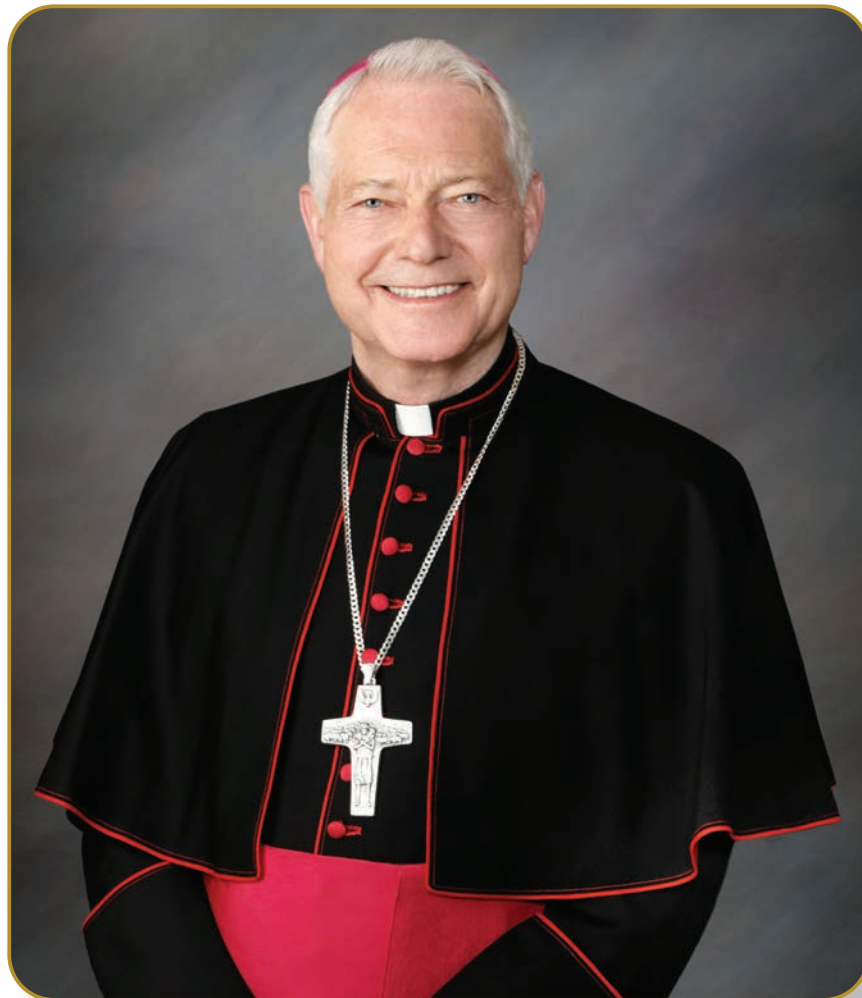




## Most Reverend Matthew G. Elshoff, OFM Cap.

*Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles*

*Titular Bishop of Lamzella*



Bishop-elect Elshoff was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, but grew up in the Los Angeles area, attending St. Bede the Venerable Church and school in La Cañada Flintridge as a child. After graduating St. Francis High School, also in La Cañada Flintridge, he entered the Capuchin Franciscan Order in 1973 and was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Timothy Manning in 1982.

As a Capuchin, he served as Vice Master of Novices, and was soon elected for leadership as a Definitior from 1999 to 2005 and then as local Provincial from 2008 to 2014. Within the Archdiocese, he has served as Chaplain, then President of his beloved St. Francis High School. He has also served as Pastor of Old Mission Santa Ines in Solvang, and most recently as Pastor in 2018 at St. Lawrence Brindisi in Los Angeles.

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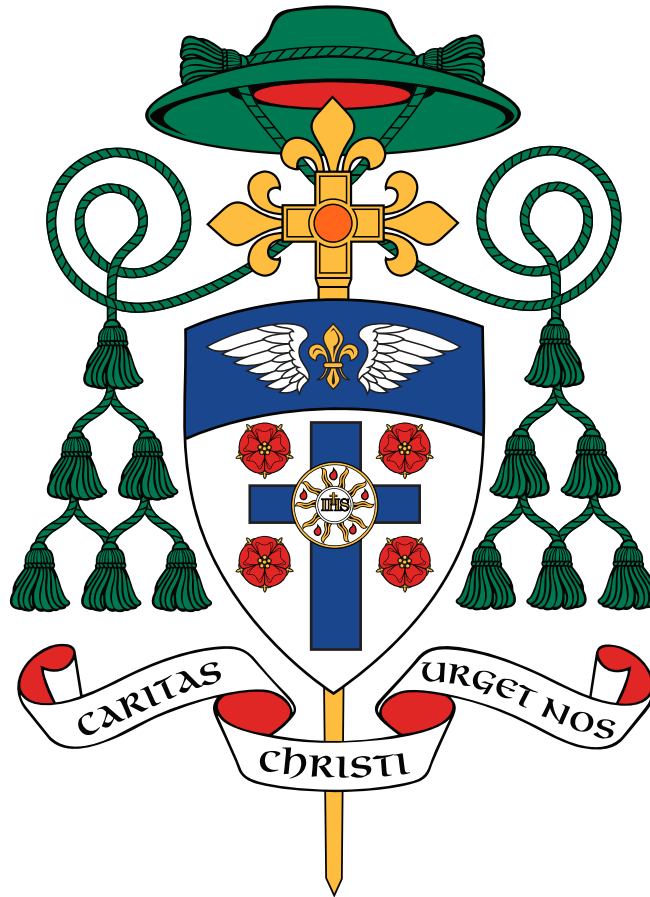
**Birth Date:** September 24, 1955

**Birth Place:** Cincinnati, Ohio

**Seminary:** Saint Albert's Priory in Oakland, CA;  
and the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology in Berkeley, CA

**Ordination:** June 18, 1982

**Order:** Order of Friars Minor, Our Lady of the Angels Province



Coat of Arms ✕ Escudo de Armas

Blazon • Blasón

*Argent, between four roses Gules, barbed and seeded Or, a Calvary Cross Azure surmounted of a representation of the Holy Eucharist Argent, embellished Or and bearing five goutte de sange. On a chief enarched Azure a fleur-de-lys Or between two wings displayed and inverted Argent.*

And for a Motto:

**CARITAS CHRISTI URGENT NOS**

## *Symbolism*

The top of the shield, known as a chief in this design, represents a very rare event in the life of the church—an episcopal ordination which takes place with a titular cathedral, a diocese, and within a city—all three elements of the same name: *Our Lady of the Angels*. Therefore each bishop ordained for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles since that time has borne a special badge of honor representing this historic fact. Created by the designer, it is now known in Catholic heraldry as *Our Lady of the Angels – A Dedicated Charge*. Although very similar in each instance, there is always uniqueness in color and artistic style for each bishop in this dedicated charge.

So for Bishop Elshoff's design, the top of the shield is blue which represents the Blessed Virgin Mary and her love for her Son and His Church. The blue color is also a representation of the Pacific Ocean that forms one of the borders of the church of Los Angeles. On this appears the Fleur de Lys, the universal symbol for the Mother of Christ, and a pair of angel's wings, with each rendered in silver and gold.

As we continue down the shield, Bishop Elshoff's main field is worked in silver, representing God's purity, humility and goodness. Bishop Elshoff's deep devotion to St. Francis and to the Holy Stigmata led the designer to employ the *Five Wounds Eucharist*...an heraldic device depicting an irradiated Host in gold marked by the Christological monogram familiar to all Christians: the IHS. As well, this special Host is marked with five droplets of blood, representing the five wounds of Christ and thus additionally paying homage to St Francis and the holy Stigmata.

The Christian Cross at the center is herein rendered in blue representing the Missionary Cross of Christianity. For Bishop Elshoff this is also symbolic of traversing the Rio Grande for his life-changing missionary work in Mexico. In each open corner of the Cross appears a Rose of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whereby surrounding the Cross, represents Mary as perpetually beside the Cross of Her Son. The roses are also symbolic of Our Lady of Guadalupe surrounding Bishop Elshoff in his vocation.

Surmounting the shield of a residential bishop is the pilgrim's hat, properly known as the galero, in deep forest green with six tassels suspended on either side in a pyramidal style for his rank and office in the episcopacy. The interior of the hat is rendered in red, representing the clergy's possible martyrdom for the vocation that they have adopted in life.

Behind Bishop Elshoff's coat of arms is found the episcopal cross worked in gold, and has a Fiery Opal, deep orange in color, at the center. The Fiery Opal is the official stone of Mexico. Its placement in the design is to bring another poignant honor to the people of (and the time spent by the bishop in) Mexico.

## *Motto*

Bishop Elshoff has selected the words: **CARITAS CHRISTI URGET NOS**

for his motto, taken from 2 Corinthians 5:14 and translating as *the love of Christ compels us*.

Overall Bishop Elshoff's episcopal coat of arms has remained faithful to the style of church heraldry originally developed in the Middle Ages. It is this ancient style that the church continues to demand in the seals of office of each diocesan bishop, and of the co-adjutors and the titular bishops as well, whose seals traditionally derive from the design of their personal coat of arms.