The Coat of Arms of JOHN PAUL II, the Papal Armorial, is not only famous but singular. The Coat of Arms has a blue shield with golden cross off-centered towards dexter chief, with a golden 'M' in sinister base field. A papal tiara (three times crowned hat) appears above the shield. Behind the shield are crossed golden and silver keys. The keys symbolize the government of the Church as much a Sovereign State as religious institution, alluding naturally to the "keys of the Kingdom of the Heaven" that Our Lord Jesus Christ gave to Saint Peter constituting him as First Pope. The cord is red, as are all the gems in the tiara. The ribbon emerging from the tiara is also red, with golden crosses and golden fringes.
The design shows the "Marian Cross", a cross with a capital M for Mary inscribed in one quarter, recalling the presence of Mary beneath the cross.