



OMBRELLINO INSTALLED IN CATHEDRAL-BASILICA OF ST. AUGUSTINE

By decree of Pope Paul VI, in 1976, the Cathedral of St. Augustine became a minor basilica. The term basilica is a special designation granted by the Holy Father to certain churches because of their antiquity, dignity, historical importance, or significance as a center of worship and devotion. This designation comes with various honors and privileges. One such honor is the **ombrellino**.

The **ombrellino** originated as the processional canopy that protected the hierarchy and nobility from the hot Mediterranean sun. It subsequently emerged, as early as the eleventh century, as an honor reserved for the papacy. Its colors, red and yellow, are those of the Holy See.

Today the ombrellino is used only as a symbol of a basilica's special bond to the Holy Father. The ombrellino stands half opened in basilicas throughout the world as a way of symbolically anticipating the arrival of the Holy Father as his "home away from home", a basilica.

We have placed our ombrellino in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. On it you will notice the coat of arms of the Diocese of St. Augustine, as well as the coat of arms of Pope Paul VI.