



Carlo Maria Martini was born in Torino on February 15th 1927. After completing the classical program at the Jesuit College, in 1944 he entered the Society of Jesus. He was ordained a priest on July 13th, 1952.

In 1959 he received the Licentiate in fundamental theology from the Gregorian University for his thesis on *The Historical Problem of the Resurrection in Recent Studies*. He then prepared for his further study of Sacred Scripture by traveling to Austria, Germany, Israel and the United States.

In 1962 he professed solemn vows and in 1963 was appointed to the chair of textual criticism at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. In 1964 he prepared a new edition of the *Greek and Latin New Testament* of A. Merk, and was invited to be a member of the committee for the publication of *The Greek New Testament*. In 1966 his doctoral thesis, under the direction of Father S. Lyonnet, was published; the title was *The Editing Problem of Codex B in the Light of the Papyrus Bodmer XIV*.

The concentration of his research was in the area of textual criticism and he became a scholar of international importance and renown. Many are his scholarly contributions relative to the witness of the first Christian community, with much attention to ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, in particular, the Christian/Hebrew dialogue. He collaborated with Hebrew University in establishing in Israel a program for the students of the Pontifical Biblical Institute. Finally, he put much initiative and energy in affirming the primacy of Scripture for practical theology and pastoral ministry as well as promoting the use of the bible by the faithful.

From 1969 until 1978 he was Rector of the Pontifical Biblical Institute. In 1975 the second edition on *The Greek New Testament* was published; this edition was based on over 800 versions of the gospel spread throughout the world.

In 1978 he was named Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical Gregorian University, and in that same year guided Pope Paul VI in the spiritual exercises in the Vatican.

On December 29th 1979 His Holiness John Paul II named him Archbishop of the diocese of Milan and he was consecrated in St. Peter's Basilica on January 6, 1980. He officially took office in the Ambrosian diocese on February 10, 1980.

In the consistory of February 2, 1983 the Holy Father named him Cardinal under the title of Saint Cecilia and in that same year he was Relator at the Synod of Vescovi, dedicated to the theme *Reconciliation and Penance as the Mission of the Church*.

From 1987 until 1993 Cardinal Martini was President of the European Conference of Bishops.

In 1989 he received a doctorate honoris causa from the Pontifical Salesian University for his pastoral and educational programs.

From the 15th to the 22nd of May 1989 he presided over the ecumenical meeting in Basil seeking after 500 years the reunion of Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants, Anglicans.

On the 23rd of November, 2000 he was appointed by the Holy Father a member of the Pontifical Academy of Science. In December of the same year he was named the “European of the Year” by a commission presided over by J. Delhors.

In 2002, having reached the age of 75, he retired as Archbishop of Milan and in 2003 he moved to the Jesuit community in Jerusalem where he dedicates himself to prayer and biblical studies.