

The Conferment Ceremony

of

Honorary Doctoral Degree of Laws

on

**His Eminence Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe,
Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples**

on

November 24, 2004

at

Bang Na Campus

Assumption University of Thailand



The Conferment Ceremony Programme

1100 hrs Entrance Hymn... “แผ่นดินของเรา...”

His Eminence Michael Cardinal Michai Kitbunchu
His Eminence Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe
the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio
standing in the premises of the altar

- ❖ Academic Procession enters the Chapel during the Entrance Hymn in the following order:

Flags Bearers
Processional Cross
Two Faculty members carrying
Doctoral Hood and Ph.D. Diploma
Chairman of the University Council
Members of the Council
Vice Presidents
President and President Emeritus

- ❖ His Eminence Michael Cardinal Michai Kitbunchu intones:
Veni, Creator Spiritus
- ❖ All are seated
- ❖ Vice President for Academic Affairs reads the Citation
- ❖ Investiture Ceremony and Degree Presentation
by President Emeritus and the President of the University
- ❖ Speech by **His Eminence Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe**
- ❖ Recession
- ❖ Reception at John XXIII Conference centre

แผ่นดินของเรา

น.พานพินธ์

Em D Em B7 Em

(รับ) แผ่น-ดิน ของ เรา เต็ม ไป ด้วย ความ รัก ของ พระ เจ้า

G Em C B7 Em

แผ่น-ดิน ของ เรา เต็ม ไป ด้วย ความ รัก ของ พระ องค์

Em Am

1. เดือน-ดา-รา ทัว เว - หน ดล-บัน-ดาล สร้าง-สรรค์ มา
2. มวล นก-กา บน เว - หา มวล แมก-ไม้ ทัว พ - นา
3. มวล ม-นุษย์ ทัว แดน ไหน ล้วน สร้าง ไว้ เหนือ สิ่ง ไค
4. ทั้ง พระ คุณ อีก มาก ล้น ยัง ช่วย ดล ให้ รั้ งาม

Em Em

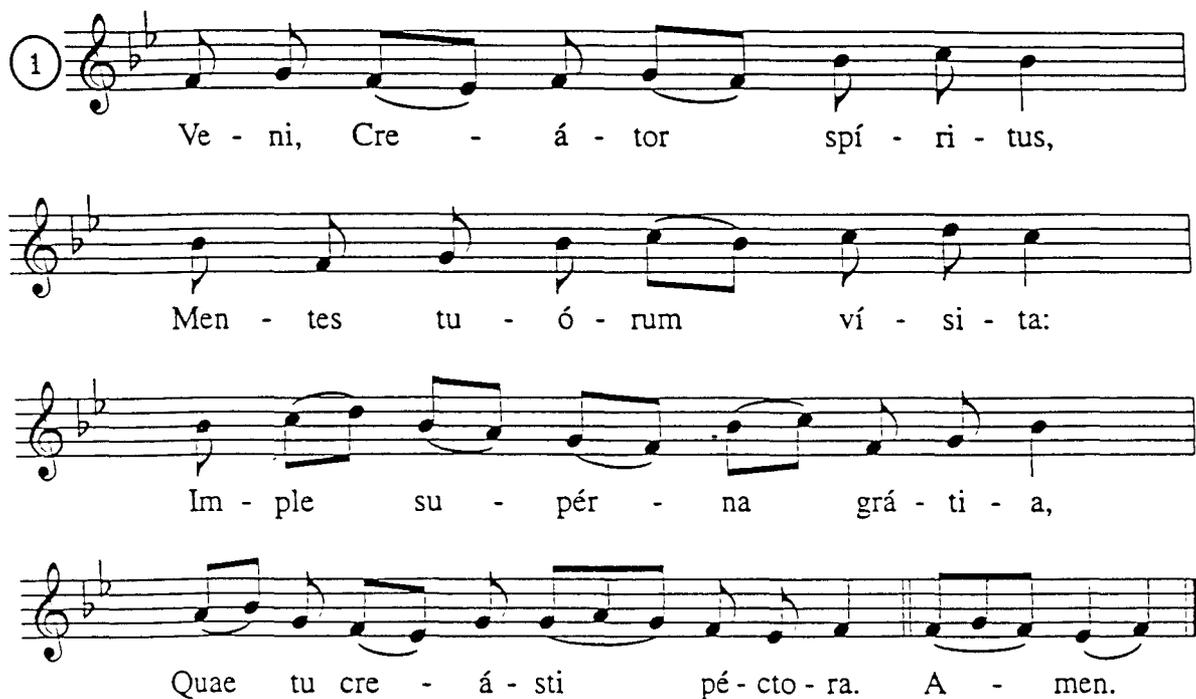
1. ด้วย ฤท - ธา นู - ภาพ เดือน ดา-รา โห่ - น้อย
2. ทรง สร้าง มา พรอม ลิ่น มวล มัจ-จา ทัว วา - รี
3. มี จิต ใจ รั้ดี ชั่ว ทั้ง สัตว์ น้ำ บก ทั้ง - หลาย
4. จิต - ใจ ทราม เปลี่ยน ลิ่น พระ เย-ชู บุตร ของ พระ

Am B7

1. ที่ ล่อง - ลอย บน น - ภา ส่อง แสง มา เพื่อ เรา
2. ล้วน มาก มี เหลือ ค - ณา สรร-สร้าง มา เพื่อ เรา
3. สรร-สร้าง ไว้ ช่วย บรร - เทา เป็น ประ-โยชน์ ของ เรา
4. ประ-ทาน ไว้ เพื่อ นำ ทาง สู่ ส - วรรค์ นิรัน - ตร

Veni, Creator Spiritus

1



Ve - ni, Cre - á - tor spí - ri - tus,
Men - tes tu - ó - rum ví - si - ta:
Im - ple su - pér - na grá - ti - a,
Quae tu cre - á - sti pé - cto - ra. A - men.

2. Qui dícis Paráclitus,
Altíssimi **dónum** Dei,
Fons vivus, ígnis, cáritas,
Et spiritalis únctio.
3. Tu septifórmis múnere.
Dígitus, paternae dexterae,
Tu rite promíssum Pátris,
Sermóne dítans gúttura.
4. Accende lúmen sensibus,
Infúnde amórem córdibus,
Infírma nóstri córporis
Virtúte firmans perpeti.
5. Hostem repellas lóngius,
Pacemque dónes prótinus:
Ductóre sic te praevio
Vitemus ómne nóxium.
6. Per te sciámus da Pátre,
Noscámus atque Fílium,
Teque utriúsque Spíritum
Credámus ómni tempore.
7. Deo Pátri sit glória,
Et Fílio, quí a mórtuis
Surrexit ad Paráclito
In seculórum secula. Amen.

V. Emitte Spiritum tuum et creabuntur.

R. Et renovabis faciem terræ.

Oremus.

Deus, qui corda fidélium Sancti Spíritus illustratióne docuísti; da nobis in eódem Spíritu recta sápere; et de eius semper consolatióne gaudére. Per Christum Dóminum nostrum.

R. Amen.

Assumption University of Thailand

Conferment of Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws on His Eminence Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe

Citation

His Eminence Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe is the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and in addition he holds the following important positions.

Grand Chancellor of the Pontifical Urbanian University

President of the Supreme Committee of the Pontifical Missionary Societies (the Propagation of the Faith, Saint Peter the Apostle, Missionary Childhood and Missionary Union)

Member of the Congregation for the Clergy

Member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

Member of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples

Member of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

Member of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications

Member of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

After completing Secondary School at Aversa His Eminence joined the Pontifical Regional Seminary of Salerno where he obtained the degree of Bachelor in Philosophy. He was then enrolled in the Pontifical Major Roman Seminary in Rome and earned another degree of Bachelor in Theology. His Eminence then joined the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome where he qualified for Doctorate in Theology and Licentiate in Canon Law. After this signal achievement he was admitted to "La Sapienza" University in Rome where he secured his Doctorate in Philosophy and thereafter he was admitted to the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome which granted him the Diploma of Diplomatic Science.

His Eminence was ordained as a priest on March 12, 1967 for the Diocese of Aversa and assumed academic positions first as Assistant Professor of Sacramental Theology at the Pontifical Lateran University and then as Professor-in-charge of Dogmatic Theology of the Pontifical Urbanian University in Rome. With regard to his diplomatic mission, the Holy See has first nominated him as Secretary of the Apostolic Nunciature in Brazil from 1972 to 1975. He was then called to Rome in 1975 and assigned to the Secretariat of State in charge of International Organizations and in the Office for Information and Documentation. Afterwards, he was appointed as President of the Commission for the Vatican Telecommunications and then held the position of Under-Secretary for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State from 1987 to 1992.

✓ Other significant events in the career of His Eminence Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe are briefly recapitulated below.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| October 10, 1992 | Invested the Prelate of Honour of His Holiness. |
| April 2, 1992 | Elected Titular Archbishop of Grado and appointed Secretary of the Congregation for the Clergy. |
| April 26, 1992 | Consecrated at St.Peters Basilica by His Holiness Pope John Paul II |
| Nov. 3, 1997 | Appointed Secretary General of the Committee of the Great Jubilee of the year 2000 and, its Council of Presidency. |
| Nov. 8, 1997 | President of the "Peregrinatio ad Petri Sedem" (Pilgrimage to St.Peter's Chair) |

✓ In addition His Eminence organised the International Meetings of the Priests in preparation for the Jubilee year 2000 in Fatima and Yamoussoukra, Ivory Coast and other celebrations on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Decree on Ministry and Life of Priests "Presbyterium ordinis" and that of the 50th Anniversary of the Priestly ordination of the Supreme Pontiff. In particular, as Secretary General of the Grand Jubilee Year's Committee he planned for more than 40 major events which brought millions of pilgrims to Rome. He was created Cardinal deacon on February 21, 2001 and received the red biretta and deaconry of Dio Padre misericordioso (God, Merciful Father) on February 21, 2001. He was named as Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples on April 9, 2001 and

ceased as president of Peregrinatio ad Petri Sedem on July 25, 2001. Attended Extraordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, Vatican City during September 30 - October 27, 2001.

✓ His Eminence has published the following books.

1. "The Trinitarian Dimension of the Sacramental Character" edited by the Pontifical Lateran University;
2. "Person and History for a Theology of Person" published by the Pauline Editor;
3. The Gospel of the Jubilee, published by the Pontifical Urbanian University.

For all his wide-ranging and profound educational and theological pursuits and accomplishments, his illustrious career in the service of the Holy See and for the successful planning, formulation, and implementation of the policies and principles in the performance of his duties and responsibilities as the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, the Assumption University Council, with the concurrence of the Ministry of Education of the Royal Thai Government, is pleased to confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on His Eminence Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe.

Given in Bangkok, this Twenty Fourth Day of November in the Year of Our Lord,

Two Thousand and Four.

Address
of
His Eminence Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe,
Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
on the occasion of the conferral of the
Honorary Doctor Degree of Laws
Assumption University of Thailand
Bang Na Campus
November 24, 2004

Eminence, Excellencies,

Reverend Brother Martin Prathip Komolmas, President Emeritus of the Assumption University,

Reverend Brother Bancha Saenghiran, President of the Assumption University,
Chairman of the University Council, University Council members, Faculty, Administrative Staff, Students and distinguished guests,

I am extremely pleased to be here today at this great center of learning that is proudly and distinctively Asian, yet reaching out to the entire world. And in the faces of the young people who are among the audience or in the auditorium, we all can see the shining promises of tomorrow.

With gladness, I bring to you all the greetings and the blessing of Pope John Paul II, who has requested me to express to you also his sincere appreciation for the important work you are doing in the field of education in this Country.

In addition, I am greatly honored by the Honorary Degree of “Doctor of Laws” conferred on me by the Assumption University, one of most prestigious universities in the Kingdom of Thailand. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Reverend Brother President of the Assumption University and the University council, with the concurrence of the Ministry for Education of the Royal Thai Government, for bestowing upon me this honor. I have another reason to be even more grateful and delighted as I am fortunate enough to have this academic honor of Thailand during the year in which the Thai people joyfully celebrates the 6th cycles of the Royal Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, the Holy See and the Kingdom of Thailand commemorate the 35th anniversary of the establishment of their

diplomatic relations and the 20th anniversary since the eventful visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II in Thailand in May 1984, which, in fact, was an important tribute to the Catholic community that strives to live the life of Christ in all its dimensions and to the long existed friendly relations between the Holy See and the Siam.

I consider this award not only as a personal commendation but also as a meaningful recognition of the significant role played by the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, together with its various associated pontifical institutions and organizations in Rome and throughout the world. Likewise, it is a reassuring gesture for the unquestionably extraordinary contribution made by the Catholic Church in Thailand to the educational needs of its motherland, enhanced by the excellent collaboration of the experienced Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel as experts in the field of education and many other religious congregations and orders, who, being faithful to their proper identity and outstanding traditions, perform efficiently their noble mission in educational and intellectual domain.

At this special moment, allow me to express my profound gratitude to His Holiness Pope John Paul II for entrusting me with the high office of Prefect of the aforesaid Sacred Congregation, which *“has behind it a long and illustrious history, and is given, among the many tasks, the charge of promoting research in mission theology, spirituality and pastoral work”* (PB Art.86) and *“of playing a role of primary importance with regard to reflection and programs of action which the Church needs in order to be more decisively oriented toward the mission in its various forms”* (RM 75). This is the motive for which our Congregation has founded and assists the Pontifical Urban University. I am truly indebted to the Pope for his continued insistence of on the fundamental values to be inculcated in the Catholic Universities run by the local Churches under the jurisdiction of the Missionary Dicastery. In his latest book of autobiographical nature, entitled *“Alzatevi, Andiamo!”* *“Get up, let us go”*, the Holy Father wrote *“It is well known that not all bishops are particularly interested in a dialogue with scholars. Many of them give greater priority to their pastoral responsibilities, understood in the broadest sense, than to their rapport with men of learning. In my view, however, members of the clergy, priests and bishops, do well to take the trouble to establish personal contacts with the academic world and its leading figures. A bishop, in particular, should be concerned not only with his own Catholic academic institutions, but*

should also maintain close links with the whole university world: reading, meeting others, discussing, informing himself about their activities. Obviously, he himself is not called to be a scholar but a pastor. Yet as a pastor, he cannot fail to take an interest in this part of his flock, since it is his task to remind scholars of their duty to serve the truth and thus to promote the common good” (p.72-73)

Visiting Thailand this time, I am happy to witness the significant achievements that creative people of Thailand have recorded in their cause of building up a prosperous country. These accomplishments are not possible without the development of an effective system of education which is well satisfied by the Assumption University. The University has played a significant role in shaping a group of *intelligentia* who have contributed directly to the progress of the country. Besides, it gives me another opportunity to experience in a deeper manner the solid human values on which Thai social life and culture are based through their customs and traditions.

Now let me come to the theme assigned to me: “Catholic Education in Thailand”.

Education has always been an important field of service for the Catholic Church. Since the Middle Ages, the Church, notably through religious communities, has been at the forefront in the field of education. The few educational institutions that existed were the schools of cathedrals and monasteries, and the ecclesial universities. The beginning of 16th century witnessed the flourishing of many religious orders and congregations that were dedicated to the educational apostolate, especially education to the poor who were deprived of a systematic education. St. Jerome Emiliani founded the Congregation of the Somascan Fathers for the education of orphans. The Somascans also opened schools for the nobles; St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria founded the Barnabites, who built schools and colleges and educated outstanding figures in the fields of research and the professions; The Jesuits, founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola, exercised a great influence in the period of Renaissance humanism and the Counter-Reformation. St. John de la Salle founded the Brothers of the Christian Schools, a congregation dedicated exclusively to education; Don Bosco, founded the Salesians, and together with St. Dominica Maria Mazzarello, also the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians who engaged themselves in the same field. They were inspired by the principle of preventive education to form honest citizens and good Christians; St. Angela Merici founded the Society of Ursulines, St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, founder of the Montfort Brothers of St.

Gabriel and Father Louis Chauvet and Mother Marie-Anne de Tilly, founded the Congregation of Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, just to name a few, are leading figures in the field of education and the formation of youth to understand the influence exercised by consecrated persons.

In his Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation “Ecclesia in Asia” the Holy Father expressed: *“Throughout Asia, the Church’s involvement in education is extensive and highly visible and is therefore a key element of her presence among the peoples of the continent. In many countries, Catholic schools play an important role in evangelization, inculturating the faith, teaching the ways of openness and respect, and fostering interreligious understanding”* (EA.37). In the same way, the Catholic university is a very important participant in this effort of the Church. The Catholic university is indeed a major center of thought and inspiration in the Church. It is deeply committed to dialogue between faith and reason, and therefore to dialogue between people of differing religious and cultural convictions, in particular to *“assist the Church in the manner most appropriate to modern times to find cultural treasures both old and new, “nove et vetera”, according to the words of Jesus”* (EA 10).

Catholic teaching in Thailand is generally considered to have begun in 1665 when, some year after arrival, King Narai the Great benevolently granted the first missionaries of Foreign Mission of Paris land for the purpose of founding a “college”. According to a creditable source of information, those French missionaries had a theological school, a school for boys sent by the King, and a small school for Christians. This school was called General College. It was the first Catholic school in Thailand. Later on parish schools were opened in provinces along with churches e.g. at Phuket, in the south in 1671; at Lopuri in 1673; at Bangkok in 1674; at Phisanulok in 1675 and at Chantburi in 1707. The first Catholic school, General College, of Ayuthya period was renowned for its academic excellence. Even pupils of lower grade could converse in Latin while playing marbles. One of the students later went to France to defend his doctoral thesis at the Sorbonne. The whole of Paris was present. The prelates were there in great number and all admitted that one can not be better satisfied with what this Siamese has done. After the Kingdom of Siam was re-established in Bangkok in 1767, the French missionaries resumed their educational work in the new capital. From the records of the mission, we find new schools opened in 1796 at Santa Cruz; in 1772 at

Calvary Church; in 1785 at the Assumption parish; in 1834 at St. Francis Xavier parish at Samsen. In the annual report of the Catholic Mission in 1908, there were about 50 Catholic schools with nearly 4000 pupils in all in Thailand.

A glance at the involvement of the Church in Thailand in educational field shows us that in 2003 there were 279 from Kindergartens to Secondary Schools, with 21,480 teachers and with 431,818 students; 20 Technical-Professional Schools, with 1,015 teachers and with 10,806 students, 2 Higher Institutions, with 99 teachers and 828 students; 2 Universities, with 1,182 teachers and 21,540 students. In this context, it is notable that the Assumption University has to its credit the real character of having members from around 65 countries.

In fact, the *opus* in favor of education of the Church in Thailand is most valuable. In his address on the occasion of the “*ad Limina*” visit of the Catholic Bishops of Thailand, among the expressions of appreciation, the Holy Father noted “*Though the Catholic community in Thailand forms a small minority, it is nevertheless held in high esteem for the good work that is being done in the fields of health care and education. Your Catholic schools provide instruction of a high standard, and this makes an invaluable contribution to the life of the Church and of society. By its very nature Catholic education aims not only to provide knowledge and training but also, and more importantly, to transmit a coherent vision of life, shaped by the Gospel, which will enable young people to grow in true wisdom and freedom. Contemporary society urgently needs such educational institutions to provide a solid moral training and help students to acquire the virtues and skills required for the service of God and neighbor*” (OR n.264, Saturday, Nov.17, 2001, p.4).

His Excellency Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Primer Minister of Thailand expressed, in his Keynote-address at the opening Session of World Congress organized by the International Catholic Union of the Press (UCIP) at Mater Dei School in Bangkok on October 13, 2004, expressed: “*From my part, I am well aware of the important role that the Catholic Church has played in the promotion of education in Thailand for over three centuries, through the establishment of many outstanding schools and universities. I, myself, am the proud product of Montfort College in my home town of Chiang Mai, where I received not only a very sound education but also exposure to many noble Catholic values...*”.

In short, the Catholic educational institutions: primary, secondary and professional schools, colleges and universities alike, which serve people of all religions, are dedicated to the development of the whole human person through a distinctively Catholic environment, with constant reference to the Gospel and Christian principles. In this way, the Catholic schools serves not only the Church but society as a whole by forming young people to be responsible and upright citizens.

Respected Brother President, Teaching and Non-teaching Staff, Students of the Assumption University and distinguished guests,

The remarkable contribution of the Assumption University made in the field of education demands from all who benefited directly and indirectly of the same, to render a deep-felt gratitude to God who chose it as his instrument. Also our appreciation goes to your *Alma Mater Studiorum*, who knew how to be an efficient tool of divine graces in channeling that true wisdom in a given cultural context without discrimination.

As there are challenges to face, so the opportunities to seize and I am confident that you have great potentialities to commit yourself to your apostolate of education for the many year to come so that new achievements of your noble mission in training more talented people for the building up of an ever more prosperous Thailand and especially to help prepare generations of students who engage life more fully, with professional skills and knowledge, accompanied by sound moral principles and authentic religious values, in rendering true honor for the Church and Nation.

It is my great privilege, therefore, to be here today to receive the Doctoral Degree Honoris Causa and to reaffirm the enduring engagements of the Catholic Church in missionary territories for the cause of education.

May the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Seat of Wisdom and Star of Evangelization, obtain for this University, and indeed for every Catholic University, the grace to rise up to the occasion with openness, generosity and competence in their noble mission.

Once again, thank you very much for your kind attention and patience. God bless you all!

Assumption University Anthem

Lyric : Thomas Khng

Music : Lian Sek Lin

March



From
We



eve - ry cor - ner of the land We come to pur - sue truth For
are the salt of the glo - rious earth No task is too hard to do For



in - te - gri - ty and pro - gress we Stand And learn - ing's ster - ling worth Up -
Assump - tion and the land of our birth We re - main ever loyal and true For



lif - ting vir - tue of mind and hand With the glo - ry of our Youth
ex - cel - lence in all realms of ef - fort We give As - sump - tion its due



As - sump - tion is the light that leads



Our youth to know - ledge sure Ev - er mind - ful of all our needs



It brings us to learn - ing's shore Ennobling our a - ca - de - mic deeds Mak - ing



our fu - ture se - cure!

สดุดีอัสสัมชัญ

คำร้อง : ชิสเตอร์บุญเรือน หมั่นทรัพย์
 วิสุทธิพร สันตศิริ
 ทำนอง : แมนรัตน์ ศรีกรานนท์
 เรียบเรียงเสียงประสาน : น.อ. วีระพันธ์ วอกลาง

MDD March

ก้อง กัง วาน ขาน ไช ชื่น - ชม พวก เรา นำเงิน ขาว แดง เดิน สด - สี ส้ม

พันธ์ นาม - นั้น ส - ถิตยไว้ อัส สัม ชัญ แผลง - รวม สรรพ วิท - ยา อ - นันต์ - ด้วยศรัท

(A)

ธา บู ชา ซาติ ศาสน์ ก - ษัตริย์ น้อมม - นัส เทิด ทูน ส-ถา - บัน - อด

ธา บู ชา ซาติ ศาสน์ ก - ษัตริย์ น้อมม - นัส เทิด ทูน ส-ถา - บัน ส-ถา - บัน

(B)

ทน ชื่อ - สัตย์ พาก- เพียรเรา ภูมิจา ป-ณิ ธาน ยึด มั่น ไว้ - ดุงประ

Hum..... Hum..... Hum..... ยึด มั่น ไว้ ดุงประ

(C)

ทิป ล่องส- ว่าง ล่อง ทาง กระ จ้าง พ้า สี ความ งด งาม สด ไล - เซนต์คา

ทิป ล่องส- ว่าง ล่อง ทาง กระ จ้าง พ้า Hum..... สด ใ้

(D)

เพริยล บันดาล ใจ สร้าง สรรค์ ไทย ให รุ่ง เรือง ธา วร ภิญ ญ

Curriculum Vitae
His Eminence Cardinal CRESCENZIO SEPE
Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples

Grand Chancellor of the Pontifical Urbanian University

Member of the Congregation for the Clergy

Member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

Member of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples,

Member of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

Member of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications

Member of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America

Born in June 2, 1943 at Carinaro, in Caserta, Italy.

Education:

Minor Seminary of Aversa (Secondary School); Pontifical Regional Seminary of Salerno in Salerno (Philosophical studies and Bachelor in Philosophy); Pontifical Major Roman Seminary in Rome (Theological studies and Bachelor in Theology); Pontifical Lateran University in Rome (Doctorate in Theology and Licentiate in Canon Law); “La Sapienza” University in Rome (Doctorate in Theology and Licentiate in Canon Law); “La Sapienze” University in Tome (Doctorate in Philosophy); Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome (Diploma of Diplomatic Science).

Priesthood:

Ordained on March 12, 1967 for the Diocese of Aversa, Italy. Further studies in Rome. Faculty member of the Pontifical Lateran University (Assistant Professor of the Sacramental Theology) and the Pontifical Urbanian University in Rome (Professor-in-charge of Dogmatic Theology). Joined the Holy See’s diplomatic service in 1972 and nominated Secretary of Nunciature at the Apostolic Nunciature in Brazil (1972-1975). Returned to Rome in 1975, at the Secretariat of State, worked in the first section for

General Affaires, particularly in charge of International Organizations and in the Office of Information and Documentation. Appointed Assessor (Under-Secretary) for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State (1987-1992).

Ecclesiastical Titles:

Invested the Prelate of Honor of His Holiness on October 10, 1987.

Episcopate:

Elected Titular Archbishop of Grado and appointed Secretary of the Congregation for the Clergy on April 2, 1992, Consecrated on April 26, 1992, at St. Peter Basilica, Vatican City, by His Holiness pope John Paul II. Appointed Secretary General of the Committee of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 and its Council of Presidency on November 3, 1997; President of the “Peregrinatio ad Petri Sedem” (Pilgrimage to St. Peter’s Chair) on November 8, 1997. He organized the International Meetings of Priests in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2000 in Fatima and Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, and other celebrations on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Decree on the Ministry and Life of the Supreme Pontiff. In particular, as Secretary General of the Vatican the Grand Jubilee Year’s Committee he has planned for more than 40 major events which brought millions of pilgrims to Rome.

Cardinalate:

Created Cardinal deacon on February 21, 2001 and received red biretta and Deaconry of Dio Padre misericordioso (God, Merciful Father) on February 21, 2001. Named Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples on April 9, 2001. Ceased as president of Peregrinatio ad Petri Sedem on July 25, 2001. Attended X Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, Vatican City, September 30-October 27, 2001.

Publications:

“The Trinitarian Dimension of the sacramental character” edited by the Pontifical Lateran University; “Person and History. For a theology of person” published by Pauline Editor and “The Gospel of the Jubilee”, Published by the Pontifical Urbanian University.

Languages:

Italian, French, Spanish and English

