

CARLO MARIA CARDINAL MARTINI

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I was born in Turin, in the North of Italy, seventy-five years ago. I entered the Society of Jesus in 1944.

After my studies in theology, I graduated in fundamental theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, writing a study on the historical traditions of the Resurrection of Jesus. I then taught fundamental theology for five years. In 1962 I was called by the Pontifical Biblical Institute to teach textual criticism of the Bible, and I graduated at the same Institute with a dissertation on Papyrus Bodmer XIV, which is the oldest papyrus containing the text of the Gospel of Luke (second century) and throws new light on the history of the text of the Gospel of Luke.

I taught textual criticism for seventeen years. During that time I became a member of the small ecumenical and international committee that was responsible for the publication of the critical edition of 'The Greek New Testament', which forms the basis of the translation of the New Testament in about eight hundred languages. In 1979 I was called by Pope John Paul II to become the Archbishop of Milan. This is a very large diocese and I had very little time to continue studying textual criticism. I have recently retired from this position and have now returned to the study of textual criticism.

I am presently engaged in research on a papyrus which is in the Vatican Library (the two Epistles of Peter), of the third century. I plan to work most of the time in Jerusalem, to be near the place where the Bible originated. I am privileged to be a member of this great Academy. Thank you very much.