

CARDINAL JOSÉ SARAIVA MARTINS



PAPAL LEGATE OFFICIATING AT THE BEATIFICATION ON OCTOBER 19, 2008

What is a Papal Legate?

A Papal Legate (from the Latin *lex*: the law) is a delegate sent by the Pope to represent him at a major religious event. Usually a cardinal is appointed.

Who is Cardinal Jose SARAIVA MARTINS ?

Born January 6, 1932 in Portugal at Gagos de Jarmelo, Diocese of Guarda, province of Beira Alta.

Ordained on March 16 1957, He ministers at the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

He studied in Rome at the Pontifical Gregorian University (Jesuits) and at the Angelicum (Dominicans) and earned a doctorate in theology.

He taught metaphysics and theology in Italy and then became Rector of the Pontifical Urbaniana University (Rome), a position held from 1977 to 1988.

On May 26, 1988, he was appointed Secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, and became Titular Archbishop of Thuburnica (Tunisia).

On May 30, 1998, John Paul II named him Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

On February 21, 2001, he was appointed as Cardinal and served the Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (Rome).

In 2005 he participated in the conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI.

Since July 3, 2008, he has held the post of Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints

This was created by Pope Sixtus V on January 22, 1588, originally called the Congregation of Rites. It is responsible for following established procedures and dealing with all matters that lead to the canonization of the Servants of God. A Servant of God is a person whose reputation for holiness prompted the bishop of the diocese where the person died to establish an ecclesiastical court to verify the criteria for sainthood in the life of this person. The role of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints is therefore to investigate potential cases for canonization, to consider proposals and whether the case may be referred to the Pope. The Congregation also decides whether or not the status of Doctor of the Church will be attributed to the saints. In this way, in 1997 St. Thérèse of Lisieux was proclaimed "Doctor of the Church." A team is formed to study the case proposed for sainthood (miracles, martyrdom, etc.). The Congregation has its own physicians to analyze healings and miracles.