

Seton Hall University

From the Selected Works of Reverend Lawrence E. Frizzell, S.T.L., S.S.L., D.Phil.

Fall 2012

Rest in Peace - CARLO MARIA CARDINAL MARTINI

Lawrence E. Frizzell, *Seton Hall University*



Available at: https://works.bepress.com/fatherlawrence_frizzellphil/115/

Rest in Peace - CARLO MARIA CARDINAL MARTINI*

As Cardinal Archbishop of Milan for 22 years, Cardinal Martini exercised a great influence on the Church in Italy, and after his retirement he spent a good deal of time in Jerusalem contributing to dialogue with Jewish scholars. Earlier, the Jesuit Carlo Martini was a professor in The Pontifical Biblical Institute and its Rector. Many of us who were engaged in Biblical studies recall him as our teacher on the dry subject, "Textual Criticism of the New Testament." Establishing the text of the 27 Greek documents that constitute the Christian record of Jesus and the early Church is a very important task but not for me. I was more concerned with the big picture and the relation of the New Testament to the earlier Jewish Scriptures.

Students from 45 nations pursued advanced Biblical studies in Rome during the exciting years of the Second Vatican Council. Even before Father Martini became Rector of the "Biblicum" a number of these students attended Ulpan Etzion in Jerusalem during the summer. He helped to develop the opportunity for them to spend extended periods in Israel as part of their academic program.

After his retirement in 2002, Cardinal Martini was a quiet presence in Italy and Israel. In an obituary, Rabbi Giuseppe Lara commented: "If the Jewish-Christian dialogue is able to exist, develop and engage people, despite many difficulties, it is mainly due to Cardinal Martini, his determination, his moral strength and faith."

We remember prayerfully the witness of Cardinal Martini to serious scholarship at the service of the Word of God in the Church, as well as the courage and patience with which he bore the burden of Parkinson's disease. May his soul rest in peace!

REVEREND LAWRENCE E. FRIZZELL
Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program
Seton Hall University

*This reflection was published in the Fall 2012 Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program Newsletter.