

Pietro Parente

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Pietro Parente (February 16, 1891, Casalnuovo Monterotaro, Italy - December 29, 1986, Rome, Italy) was a long-serving theologian and inquisitor in the Holy Office of the Roman Catholic Church, and was made a cardinal on June 26, 1967. At his peak he was regarded as one of the foremost Italian theologians.

Contents

- 1 Life
- 2 Parente and Pius XII
- 3 References
- 4 External links

Styles of Pietro Parente



Reference style	His Eminence
Spoken style	Your Eminence
Informal style	Cardinal
See	Perugia

Life

Parente began his education at the Metropolitan seminary of Benevento in the 1900s and soon moved to Rome to study. His ability as a theologian was very well-known even before he was ordained in 1916, and immediately after ordination he became a seminary rector in Naples, a role he was to hold for a decade, after which Parente transferred to the prestigious Pontifical Lateran University and briefly from 1934 to 1938 to the Pontifical Urbanian Athenaeum. Parente then went back to Naples to found the Faculty of Theology and Canon Law in his former seminary, and he was again rector from 1940 to 1955.

During this period of seminary teaching, Parente wrote frequently for the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*. He gained a reputation for his strongly-worded, almost blunt, style of communicating official Church doctrine - something for which he is remembered by almost all those who studied under him. He was the first writer to use the term *New Theology* to describe the writings of Marie-Dominique Chenu and Louis Charlier in that paper in 1942, and was influential behind the encyclical *Humani Generis* that condemned those theologians eight years later. He was the assessor of most of the cases done by the Holy Office during these years and knew Pope Pius XII personally.

Parente was archbishop of Perugia from 1955 to 1959, when Pope John XXIII made him one of the highest-ranking officials of the Holy Office. When this was

renamed the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1965, Parente became secretary, but he was viewed by Paul VI as too outspoken in personality to be given the job of prefect - which was given to the lesser-known but friendly and tactful Yugoslav Franjo Šeper. Parente was elevated to the cardinalate on June 26, 1967, ceasing thereupon to be Secretary of the Congregation, since that post, subordinate to that of Prefect, could not be held by a cardinal.

Although his knowledge and ability was still seen as very valuable in later years, Parente's days as one of the foremost theologians in the Vatican had largely gone by the time he became a cardinal. He was originally highly dubious about the Vatican rehabilitating Galileo during the Vatican Council, but was less opposed to it by the time Pope John Paul II officially did so in 1979, and he spoke at the age of 91 on the 1700th anniversary of the conversion of Armenia to Christianity in an effort to unite the Roman and Armenian Churches. Because he was over 80 at the time of the next conclave after becoming a cardinal, Pietro Parente never voted in the election of a pope, for he turned eighty just two months after *Ingravescentem Aetatem* was published.

When he died in 1986, he was the oldest living cardinal, seven weeks shy of his ninety-sixth birthday.

Parente and Pius XII

Parente, who is rumored to have assisted Pope Pius XII in preparing the encyclical *Humani Generis* wrote in *Filosofia e teologia di Pio XII* (Vaticano 1967) about the magisterium of Pius XII, which he characterized as firm without any bending of eternal truth in favour of popular beliefs in his days. Pius XII demands respects for the achievements of the past, but also openness for the questions of our time. He rejects theological relativism, which would reduce the Christian faith to grass, bent by the winds of time. At the same time, he demands adaptation of existing teachings to the language of the time. The magisterium of the papacy is according to Parente, of divine and not human origin. He used the papacy not only to teach the truth but also to bring together all Christians separated from the Holy Roman Catholic Church, but not by reducing basic the truth entrusted to the Church.

Pius XII according to Parente, set firm pointers in mariology (*Munificentissimus Deus* and *Fulgens Corona*), liturgy (*Mediator Dei*), the definition of the Church, (*Mystici Corporis*), biblical exegesis (*Divino Afflante Spiritu*), and, the application of papal infallibility (with the Dogma of the Assumption). But, according to Parente, Pope Pius added to all these firm positions caveats, which allow adaptations at a later time, modifications but never radical deviations. Thus, the theology is both conservative and progressive. Parente states that Pius XII predicted the crisis of theology which did follow his pontificate after Vatican II. This crisis, so Parente, cannot be overcome, by going back to the theology or Canon Law of 1918. It will be overcome with a compromise between conservatism and progressivism, maintaining the doctrinal basics and utilizing

new language and culture. According to him, Pope Pius XII created the methodological apparatus for such a synthesis.

Catholic Church titles		
Preceded by Alfredo Ottaviani in effect Prefect but titled Secretary	Secretary of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith 7 December 1965–1967	Succeeded by Paul-Pierre Philippe
Honorary titles		
Preceded by Carlos Carmelo Vasconcellos Motta	<i>Oldest Living Cardinal</i> 18 September 1982 – 29 December 1986	Succeeded by Julijans Vaivods

References

External links

- Biography (<http://www.fiu.edu/%7Emirandas/bios-p.htm>)

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pietro_Parente"

Categories: Italian cardinals | 1891 births | 1986 deaths | Pope Pius XII advisers | Participants in the Second Vatican Council | Christian theologians | Theologians | Roman Catholic theologians | Italian Roman Catholic priests | Italian writers | Roman Catholic writers | Members of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith | Cardinals created by Pope Paul VI

- This page was last modified on 19 November 2010 at 23:36.
- Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. See Terms of Use for details. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.