

AN ADDRESS BY HIS EMINENCE MARIO LUIGI CARDINAL CIAPPI ON AUGUST
4, 1977, AT PROVIDENCE COLLEGE.

GREETINGS: Most Rev. Louis E. Gelineau, Most Rev. Ernest
B. Boland, Most Rev. Kenneth A. Angell, and
Very Rev. Thomas R. Peterson.

I am profoundly grateful to you, and all academic corps
for the great honor conferred on me of title Doctor of Laws,
from this illustrious center of religious, philosophic, scientific
and literary studies.

The Providence College is indeed famous not only in the City of
Providence, but also in the whole Dominican Order where I was and
want to remain a member.

My personal merits to receive this title are very modest.
Therefore, I consider this academic ceremony more as a sign of
communion and esteem toward the Apostolic See and the protege
of Soverign Pontiff Paul the Sixth. I had the honor of being the
theologian of Pontifical House for 22 years, during the Pontificates
of Pius XII, John XXIII and Paul the Sixth.

The problem of the harmony between the Revelation and the science,
the faith and the reason, the loyalty to the Church Magisterium and
the necessary liberty in the search for the truth, is really a
problem always and difficult to resolve completely.

Today in philosophy and in the theology is predominant the anthropological orientation.

There is no doubt that also the Church, as it is evident in the Decree Optatum Totius of Vatican II Council, and in the Decree wants that university teaching, either ecclesiastical or lay, be open to all modern issues philosophic, scientific and cultural.

But, this opening, should not signify revolution or substitution regarding "Philosophia or traditional theology.

What is very necessary is the reciprocal complements and the adaptation to different cultures.

The of the truth of ancient and Christian philosophy remains always valid, as declared the Vatican II Council after Pius the Twelfth.

Fr. Yves Congar, whose life-work on the history of ecclesiology was a very important contribution to works of the Second Vatican Council.

Paul VI has often discussed the relationship between Magisterium and theologians.

At times he continues the life of Pius XII, insisting on the theologian's obedience and docility with respect to the Magisterium understands theology as a function of the Church. Theology between Magisterium and the faithful in the World.

At other times theology is seen as discerning the implications in the Christian community's lives and experience of faith.

Theology also draws on the insights of secular culture to answermen's questions in the light of revelation and tradition, thus enabling the Magisterium to fulfill its taks better.

On the other hand, theology transmits and explains, scientifically elaborates and justifies the teaching of the

The great Cardinal Newman, who was so outstanding for the growth of Catholic dogma and the just liberty of human mind, and also for the relationship to the Church. Magisterium did declare:

"If I had the opportunity to present a toast, I would offer a toast first to the Church Magisterium, then to freedom of conscience, and finally again to the Church Magisterium."

May the Lord " gives to all members of this famous Providence College, the grace to imitate the examples of Cardinal Newman."

Cardinal Luigi Ciappi, O.P.
Providence College
August 4, 1977