

Theologian to 3 Popes given PC degree

By RICHARD C. DUJARDIN

Journal-Bulletin Religion Writer

PROVIDENCE — His Eminence Mario Luigi Cardinal Ciappi, a Dominican priest and a personal theologian to three Popes, was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree yesterday from Providence College.

The slender, 68-year-old prelate told a convocation of some 300 priests, nuns, bishops and lay people in somewhat halting English that he looked on the degree more as a "sign of communion and esteem toward the Apostolic See and Pontiff Paul VI" than as a tribute to his own personal merits, which he regarded as "modest."

The ceremony was held in conjunction with the completion of the college's special summer program for religious studies, in which seven nuns and one laywoman received certificates.

IT CAME after a concelebrated Mass, with Bishop Ernest B. Boland of the Diocese of Multan, Pakistan, as principal celebrant. Bishop Boland is a Providence native and a Dominican.

The Most Rev. Louis E. Gelineau, Roman Catholic Bishop of Providence, and the Very Rev. Thomas R. Peterson, president of Providence College, bestowed the honorary degree. Auxiliary Bishop Kenneth A. Angell also was in attendance.

Cardinal Ciappi was elevated to his present rank by Pope Paul on June 27. A member and dean of the theological faculty of the University of St. Thomas in Rome, he has been a theologian of the Pontifical House since 1955. He is also counselor of the secretary of state for the Holy See and a consultant to the Doctrinal Congregation of the Vatican.



—Journal-Bulletin Photo
by JOSEPH E. WILLIS

CARDINAL CIAPPI Receives degree

The prelate told the group "it is difficult to resolve completely" the "harmony between revelation and science, faith and reason, the loyalty to the Church Magisterium and the necessary liberty in the search for truth."

IN RECENT times, he said, an "anthropological orientation" has become predominant in philosophy and theology.

"There is no doubt also," he said, that the church wants university teaching to be open to all modern philosophic, scientific and cultural issues.

"But this opening should not signify revolution or substitution" of traditional theology, he warned.

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