

Card. Eduardo Francisco Pironio

Biographic Card

He is born on december 3rd 1920 at Nueve de Julio, province of Buenos Aires (Argentina).

He achieves his studies of philosophy and theology in the seminary san José de la Plata,

completing them at the Pontifical University "Angelicum" of Rome.

He is ordained on december 5th 1943 in the national basilica of Our Lady of Luján, Argentina.

Between 1944 and 1959 he teaches in Pio XII seminary of the diocese of Mercedes (Argentina), teaching especially Theology.

In 1958 he is appointed general Vicar of the same diocese of Mercedes.

In 1960 Rector of the metropolitan seminary of Villa Devoto in Buenos Aires.

In 1963 Apostolic Visitor of the Argentine Catholic Universities. At the same time he is Teacher and Decan of the Faculty of Theology in the Argentine Catholic Pontifical University.

On march 24th he is appointed Auxiliary Bishop of La Plata and on may 31st consecrated Bishop in the Basilica of our Lady of Luján (Argentina).

After the Secretariat for the Non-believers was established, he was named member of it, national Assistant of the Argentine Catholic Action and President of the Commission Faith and Ecumenism of the Argentine Bishops' Conference.

In 1967 he is appointed Apostolic Administrator of the diocese of Avellaneda.

In 1968 he is elected General Secretary of CELAM and in august of the same year Pope Paul VI appoints him General Secretary of the Second General Conference of the Latin-american Episcopate held in Medellín. In 1970 he is elected again CELAM's General Secretary.

On april 27th 1972 he is appointed Residential Bishop of Mar de la Plata (Argentina).

In november 1972 he is elected President of CELAM and again in 1974 for further four years.

In march 1974 the Holy Father Paul VI chooses him to preach the Spiritual Exercises to the Pope and the roman Curia.

In september 19th Paul VI appoints him Pro-Prefect of the Holy Congregation for the Religious and the Secular Institutes.

On may 24th the Holy Father makes him Cardinal of the Title of Cosma and Damian.

On May 26th of the same year he is named Prefect of the Holy Congregation for the Religious and the Secular Institutes.



On april 9th 1984 the Holy Father John Paul II appoints him President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity. He is reconfirmed on april 9th 1980 for further five years.

On february 11th 1985 Pope John Paul II sets up the Pontifical Commission for the Pastoral action of the Health and appoints the Cardinal as its President. A responsibility that he carried out together with the Presidency of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, until the Holy Father, by the consitution Pastor Bonus for the Curia's reformation, established the Pontifical Commission as Pontifical Council with its own President.

He participates in all the Bishops' Synods: ordinary, extraordinary, special ones.

He was member of the Second Section of the Secretariat of State; of the following Congregations: Bishops, Catholic Education, Oriental Churches, Causes of the Saints; of the Pontifical Council for interpreting the Church's laws.

On july 11th 1995 he is appointed Cardinal Bishop of the Suburbicarian Church of Sabina-Poggio Mirteto.

On august 20th 1996 the Holy Father accepts his resignation as President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, owing to his age.

He dies in Rome on february 5th 1998.