



CURRICULUM OF H.E. MONS. FRANCESCO CACUCCI, ARCHBISHOP OF BARI-BITONTO



Born in Bari on April 26th 1943, he was ordained a priest on June 29, 1966. He holds a Doctorate in Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and one in Political Science from the Università degli Studi of Bari

Following the deepening of the theory and methodology of communication at the Center for the Performing Arts, and Social Communication in Rome, he published "Theology of the image: current perspectives", Roma, 1971; "The priest in Italian cinema", Bari (Ecumenica) 1980.

In the Archdiocese of Bari-Bitonto he served first as Parochial-Vicar, then Associate Director of the Archdiocesan Seminary of Bari, Director of the Institute of Christian Culture and Deputy Dean of the Institute "*Superiore di Teologia Ecumenico Patristica Greco-Bizantina SAN NICOLA*", in Bari. He teaches Pastoral Theology and Means of Social Communication at the

Regional Pontifical Theological Seminary of Molfetta. A constant feature of his support for the arts has been his teaching about the nature of the phenomenon of mass media, along with guidance in "reading" of films.

From 1976 to 1984 he was pastor of "Good Shepherd" parish in Bari; from 1984 to 1987 was the Diocesan Assistant of Catholic Action.

On April 16, 1987 he was appointed Titular Bishop of Castelmediano and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Bari-Bitonto and consecrated by H.E. Mons. Andrea Mariano Magrassi, Archbishop of Bari-Bitonto on June 13th of that year, during the Fourth Plenary Session of the Mixed Theological Commission for the official Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church.

The April 8, 1993 he was appointed Archbishop of Otranto, a Church on the frontier because of the constant immigration on the coast of Salento.

The pastoral project "The Ark of All" (1995), featuring his ministry in the Indruntina Church, highlights the need for a transition from a pastoral "preparation" for the sacraments to a pastoral "mystagogical", focused on the rediscovery of the "Christian Initiation". On this subject Mons. Cacucci wrote a column in the journal "Evangelize" (Sept. '99 - June 2000).

The rediscovery of 'mystagogy', in the light of the Tradition of the Church Fathers, in the current historical setting compared to that of the fourth and fifth centuries, allows us to appreciate the sacramental signs, interpreting them in light of Scripture and seeing the outcome in the experience of Christians.

From Mons. Cacucci's writings, emerges the deep conviction that the relationship between faith and life, real crux of the post-pastoral council, cannot be solved in a satisfactory manner, without overcoming the separation between faith and ritual. The journey and the maturation of faith must be

paralleled with a journey and maturation *in* the rite. A new synthesis of catechesis-liturgy-life is unavoidable.

Since 1982 he is a regular speaker at the COP (Pastoral Orientation Centre) Pastoral Weeks. Among the various publications, we mention a booklet of Biblical-vocational pathways "For Other Networks", Milan (Paulist Press) 1997.

As a President of the Pugliese Pastoral Institute, he was responsible for the celebration of the Second Ecclesiastic Regional Convocation on "The consecrated life in Puglia" and of the publication of "Atlas of the Orders, the Religious Congregations and Secular Institutes in Apulia", Modugno- Bari, Ed Litopress 1999.

Since June 1999 he was vice president of the Pugliese Episcopal Conference. On July 3, 1999 he was appointed Archbishop of Bari-Bitonto.

During the General Assembly of the Italian Bishops, in Collevaenza (May 2000), he was elected President of the Episcopal Commission for Culture and Communications for the years 2000-2005.

Since November 16, 2005, he is President of the National Committee for Eucharistic Congresses of the CEI.

During the General Assembly of the Italian Bishops in Rome (May 2007), he was elected President of the Episcopal Commission for Culture and Communications until 2010.

On 29 January 2008, during the winter session of the work of the Apulia Bishops, he was elected President of the Pugliese Episcopal Conference, leaving the presidency of the Episcopal Commission for Culture and Communications of the CEI.