 Reading time: 8 min.

Throughout the history of the Salesian Congregation, the popes have chosen some of its members as cardinals, that is, as his closest collaborators in the government of the Universal Church. Always a reason for joy and sadness: joy because of the appreciation of the service performed by certain Salesians, sadness because the Congregation has to do without one of its most valuable members.

The term “cardinal” comes from Latin and means “hinge”, i.e. a point around which a door usually revolves. Or perhaps it can be better understood if we recall the cardinal virtues, i.e. the virtues around which all other human virtues revolve. Cardinals are people who have received the sacrament of Holy Orders and are called by the Pope to perform a mission alongside him in the Universal Church, either individually or collegially. They hold the most important positions in the Roman Curia.
Their importance also lies in the fact that they are the ones who have the mission of electing the new pontiff (only the electors, i.e. those who have not reached the age of 80), with the College of Cardinals gathered in Conclave, when the *Sede Vacante* occurs.
There are three groups of cardinals: Cardinal-bishops, who are the holders of the suburbicarian dioceses (outside the walls of Rome or in the city’s environs) and, by decision after the Second Vatican Council, the Eastern Patriarchs elevated to the cardinalate (who retain the title of their own patriarchal see); Cardinal-presbyters – the most numerous -, and Cardinal-deacons. The latter two orders are respectively assigned titles or deaconships (churches) in Rome. These honorary titles reflect their closeness to the Pope.
There are usually 6 Cardinal-bishops (there are 6 suburbicarian Sees), but today, by virtue of a papal dispensation, 4 more Cardinal-bishops are appointed *ad personam* (without the cardinal title being elevated to an episcopal title) and 2 more patriarchs, in total 12, of whom 6 are electors.
There are 182 Cardinal-presbyters, of whom 97 are electors.
The Cardinal deacons are 27, of whom 16 are electors.
In total there are 221 cardinals, of whom 119 are electors.

Cardinals are usually chosen from among bishops, archbishops, metropolitans or patriarchs, but there have also been appointments among priests. Pope St John Paul II appointed 9 priests as cardinals, Pope Benedict XVI appointed 5 priests as

cardinals and Pope Francis has so far appointed 8 priests as cardinals, 10 if we consider the latest announcement on 9 July.

The first Salesian to be elevated to the dignity of cardinal was Archbishop John Cagliero, on 6 December 1915. After him, 18 other Salesians received the cardinal's biretta and the 20th, Fr Ángel FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME, will receive it on 30 September next. He is the first Rector Major to receive the cardinal's red hat.
For many people looking in from the outside, the first thing they see is the dignity it implies; but even if this is real, Pope Francis reminds them that it is not a privilege, but a service, and the red colour means it must be performed until the outpouring of blood. And it is an unspecified service that requires total availability. God asked Abraham to set out without specifying where he would go, to prove his faith; similarly for the new cardinals.

We wish our Rector Major, Fr Ángel many graces from the Lord to guide him in his new mission and assure him of our prayers.

In the hope of making more and more Salesian cardinals known, we present below the list of all these cardinals with the dates and the most important offices they have held or continue to hold to date.

[redacted]	
Born	11.01.1838, Castelnuovo d'Asti, Italy

Ordained priest	14.06.1862
Consecrated Bishop	07.12.1884
Created Cardinal	06.12.1915
Coat of arms	
Motto	Recto fixus Calli ero
Apostolic Vicar of Northern Patagonia (Argentina)	30.09.1884 – 24.03.1904
Titular Bishop of Magyddus	30.10.1884 – 24.03.1904
Titular Archbishop of Sebastia	24.03.1904 – 06.12.1915
Apostolic Delegate in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras	07.08.1908 – 06.12.1915
Cardinal Parish Priest of St. Bernard at the Baths	09.12.1915 – 16.12.1920
Cardinal-Bishop of Frascati	16.12.1920 – 28.02.1926
He was inspector for 2 years, bishop for 41 years of which 10 Cardinal	
Deceased	28.02.1926, Rome, Italy, † 88

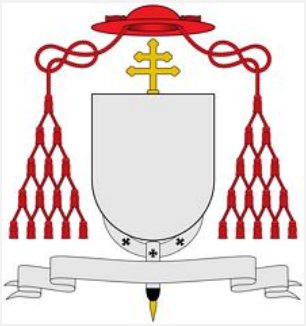
[redacted]	
Born	05.07.1881, Brzęczkowice, Poland
Ordained priest	23.09.1905
Consecrated Bishop	03.01.1926
Created Cardinal	20.06.1927
Coat of arms	
Motto	Da mihi animas cetera tolle
Apostolic Administrator of Upper Silesia (Poland)	07.11.1922 – 28.10.1925
Bishop of Katowice (Poland)	28.10.1925 – 24.06.1926

President of the Polish Episcopal Conference	1926 – 22.10.1948
Metropolitan Archbishop of Poznań (Poland)	24.06.1926 – 03.05.1946
Metropolitan Archbishop of Gniezno (Poland)	24.06.1926 – 22.10.1948
Cardinal-Presbyter of St. Mary of Peace	22.12.1927 – 22.10.1948
Founder of the Society of Christ for Polish Immigrants	08.09.1932
Metropolitan Archbishop of Warszawa (Poland)	13.06.1946 – 22.10.1948
Cardinal and Religious of the Salesians of St. John Bosco	
Servus Dei. He was Provincial for 3 years, Apostolic Administrator for 3 years, Archbishop of Warszawa for 23 years and Cardinal Primate of Poland for 21 years. Cause for canonisation is underway	
Deceased	22.10.1948, Warsaw, Poland, † 67

[redacted]	
Born	27.09.1907, Talca, Chile
Ordained priest	03.07.1938
Consecrated Bishop	29.11.1959
Created Cardinal	19.03.1962
Coat of arms	
Motto	Caritas christi urget nos
Bishop of Valparaíso (Chile)	24.10.1959 – 14.05.1961
Metropolitan Archbishop of Santiago (Chile)	14.05.1961 – 03.05.1983
President of Caritas Internationalis	1962 – 1965

Cardinal-Presbyter of St. Bernard at the Baths	22.03.1962 – 09.04.1999
President of the Episcopal Conference of Chile	1963 – 1968
President of the Episcopal Conference of Chile	1972 – 1976
He was Bishop of Valparaiso for 3 years, Archbishop of Santiago de Chile for 11 years and Cardinal for 22 years	
Deceased	09.04.1999, Santiago, Chile, † 91
[redacted]	
Born	26.03.1905, Francova Lhota, Czech Republic
Ordained priest	29.06.1932
Consecrated Bishop	16.11.1947
Created Cardinal in pectore	28.04.1969
Revealed as cardinal	05.03.1973

Coat of arms	
Motto	Actio sacrificium caritas
Bishop of Litoměřice (Czech Republic)	27.09.1947 – 06.04.1974
Cardinal-Presbyter of St. John Bosco in Via Tuscolana	12.04.1973 – 06.04.1974
Was Bishop of Litoměřice (Czech Republic) for 26 years and Cardinal for 5 years	
Deceased	06.04.1974, Litoměřice, Czech Republic, † 69
[redacted]	
Born	17.01.1929, Acarigua, Venezuela
Ordained priest	17.12.1955

Consecrated Bishop	06.01.1990
Created Cardinal	21.02.2001
Coat of arms	
Motto	Servus Christi pro fratribus
Titular Bishop of Utimmira	23.10.1989 – 27.05.1995
Apostolic Vicar of Puerto Ayacucho (Venezuela)	23.10.1989 – 27.05.1995
Apostolic Administrator of San Fernando de Apure (Venezuela)	27.05.1992 – 12.07.1994
Metropolitan Archbishop of Caracas (Venezuela)	27.05.1995 – 06.07.2003
Cardinal-Presbyter of S. Maria Domenica Mazzarello	21.02.2001 [24.05.2001] – 06.07.2003
He was Provincial for 6 years, Regional Councillor for 6 years, Bishop for 13 years, and Cardinal for 2 years	
Deceased	06.07.2003, Caracas, Venezuela, † 74

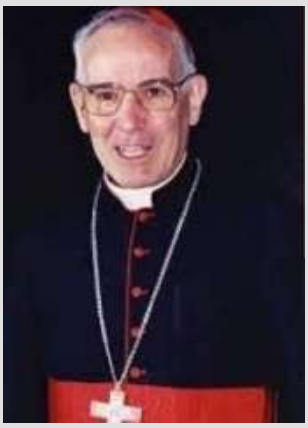
[redacted]	
Born	23.08.1910, Neunkirchen, Austria
Ordained priest	27.03.1937
Consecrated Bishop	01.11.1983
Created Cardinal	25.05.1985
Coat of arms	
Motto	Omnia et in omnibus Christus
Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical Salesian Athenaeum	1958 – 1966
Prefect of the Vatican Apostolic Library	1971 – 07.09.1983

Titular Archbishop of Bolsena	07.09.1983 – 25.05.1985
Pro-Librarian of the Vatican Apostolic Library	07.09.1983 – 27.05.1985
Pro-Archivist of the Vatican Secret Archives	09.07.1984 – 27.05.1985
Cardinal-Deacon of S. Giorgio in Velabro	25.05.1985 – 29.01.1996
Archivist of the Vatican Secret Archives	27.05.1985 – 01.07.1988
Librarian of the Vatican Apostolic Library	27.05.1985 – 01.07.1988
Cardinal-Parish priest of S. Giorgio in Velabro	29.01.1996 – 12.12.2007
He was titular Archbishop of Bolsena for 2 years and Cardinal for 22 years	
Deceased	12.12.2007, Vatican City State, † 97
[redacted]	

Born	04.09.1922, San Casimiro, Venezuela
Ordained priest	04.09.1949
Consecrated Bishop	24.05.1973
Created Cardinal	25.05.1985
Coat of arms	
Motto	Misericordia et veritas
Coadjutor Bishop of Trujillo (Venezuela)	26.03.1973 – 05.10.1981
Titular Bishop of Præcausa	26.03.1973 – 26.05.1982
Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law	12.02.1975 – 22.05.1982
President of the Disciplinary Commission of the Roman Curia	05.10.1981 – 1990
Pro-President of the Pontifical Commission for the Authentic Interpretation of the Code of Canon Law	22.05.1982 – 18.01.1984
Titular Archbishop of Præcausa	26.05.1982 – 25.05.1985

Pro-President of the Pontifical Commission for the Authentic Interpretation of the Code of Canon Law	18.01.1984 – 27.05.1985
Cardinal-Deacon of Our Lady of Coromoto in St. John of God	25.05.1985 – 29.01.1996
President of the Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of Legislative Texts	27.05.1985 – 06.12.1989
President of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See	06.12.1989 – 24.06.1995
President of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State	31.10.1990 – 14.10.1997
Cardinal-Presbyter of Our Lady of Coromoto in St. John of God	29.01.1996 – 16.10.2007
President of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State for 7 years	
Deceased	16.10.2007, Caracas, Venezuela, † 85
[redacted]	

Born	02.02.1926, La Libertad, Nicaragua
Ordained priest	10.08.1958
Consecrated Bishop	31.03.1968
Created Cardinal	25.05.1985
Coat of arms	
Motto	Omnibus omnia factus
Titular Bishop of Putia in Byzacena	18.01.1968 – 16.02.1970
Auxiliary Bishop of Matagalpa (Nicaragua)	18.01.1968 – 16.02.1970
Metropolitan Archbishop of Managua (Nicaragua)	16.02.1970 – 01.04.2005
President of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference	1971 – 1975
President of the Episcopal Secretariat of Central America and Panama	1976 – 1981
President of the Nicaraguan Bishops’ Conference	1979 – 1983

President of the Nicaraguan Bishops' Conference	1985 – 1989
Cardinal-Presbyter of St. John the Evangelist in Spinaceto	25.05.1985 – 03.06.2018
President of the Nicaraguan Bishops' Conference	1993 – 1997
President of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference	1999 – 2005
He was Auxiliary Bishop of Matagalfa for 2 years, Bishop of Managua for 15 years, Cardinal for 15 years	
Deceased	03.06.2018, Managua, Nicaragua, † 92
[redacted]	
Born	21.02.1921, Siétamo, Spain
Ordained priest	24.04.1949
Consecrated Bishop	29.06.1976

Created Cardinal	28.06.1988
Motto	
Motto	Ego vobiscum sum
Rector magnificus of the Pontifical Salesian University	1971 – 1974
Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education	20.05.1976 – 26.05.1988
Titular Archbishop of Meta	20.05.1976 – 28.06.1988
Cardinal-Deacon of S. Maria Liberatrice at Monte Testaccio	28.06.1988 – 09.01.1999
Archivist of the Vatican Secret Archives	01.07.1988 – 24.01.1992
Librarian of the Vatican Apostolic Library	01.07.1988 – 24.01.1992
Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments	24.01.1992 – 21.06.1996
Cardinal-Presbyter of S. Maria Liberatrice at Monte Testaccio	09.01.1999 [24.04.1999] – 01.02.2007
He was titular archbishop of Meta for 12 years and Cardinal for 18 years	

Deceased	01.02.2007, Rome, Italy, † 85
Óscar Andrés RODRÍGUEZ MARADIAGA	
Born	29.12.1942, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Ordained priest	28.06.1970
Consecrated Bishop	08.12.1978
Created Cardinal	21.02.2001
Coat of arms	
Motto	Mihi vivere Christus est
Titular Bishop of Pudentiana	28.10.1978 – 08.01.1993

Auxiliary Bishop of Tegucigalpa (Honduras)	28.10.1978 – 08.01.1993
Secretary General of the Episcopal Conference of Honduras	1980 – 1988
Apostolic Administrator of Santa Rosa de Copán (Honduras)	1981 – 27.01.1984
Secretary General of the Latin American Episcopal Council	1987 – 1991
Apostolic Administrator of San Pedro Sula (Honduras)	1993 – 11.11.1994
Metropolitan Archbishop of Tegucigalpa (Honduras)	08.01.1993 – 26.01.2023
President of the Latin American Bishops' Council	1995 – 1999
President of the Episcopal Conference of Honduras	1996 – 13.06.2016
Cardinal-Presbyter of St. Mary of Hope	21.02.2001 [27.05.2001] – …
President of Caritas Internationalis	05.06.2007 [09.06.2007] – 15.05.2015
Coordinator of the Council of Cardinals	13.04.2013 – 07.03.2023
Cardinal Emeritus	2023
Age	80

Tarcisio BERTONE	
Born	02.12.1934, Romano Canavese, Italy
Ordained priest	01.07.1960
Consecrated Bishop	01.08.1991
Created Cardinal	21.10.2003
Coat of arms	
Motto	Fidem custodire concordiam servare
Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical Salesian University	01.06.1989 – 04.06.1991
Metropolitan Archbishop of Vercelli (Italy)	04.06.1991 – 13.06.1995

Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith	13.06.1995 – 10.12.2002
Metropolitan Archbishop of Genoa (Italy)	10.12.2002 – 29.08.2006
Cardinal-Presbyter of S. Maria Ausiliatrice in Via Tuscolana	21.10.2003 [24.03.2004] – 10.05.2008
Secretary of State of the Secretariat of State	15.09.2006 – 15.10.2013
President of the Interdicasterial Commission on Particular Churches	15.09.2006 – 15.10.2013
President of the Interdicasterial Commission for the Church in Eastern Europe	15.09.2006 – 15.10.2013
Cardinal Protector of the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy	15.09.2006 – 15.10.2013
Member of the Cardinal Commission of Vigilance over the Institute for Works of Religion	14.10.2006 – .03.2008
Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church of the Apostolic Chamber	04.04.2007 – 20.12.2014
President of the Cardinal Commission of Vigilance over the Institute for the Works of Religion	03.2008 – 15.01.2014
Cardinal Bishop of Frascati	10.05.2008 [03.10.2009] – …
Cardinal Camerlengo emeritus of H.R.C.	2014
Age	88

Joseph ZEN ZE-KIUN	
Born	13.01.1932, Shanghai, Cina
Ordained priest	11.02.1961
Consecrated Bishop	09.12.1996
Created Cardinal	24.03.2006
Coat of arms	
Motto	Ipsi cura est
Cardinal-Presbyter of St. Mary Mother of the Redeemer in Tor Bella Monaca	
Coadjutor Bishop of Hong Kong	13.09.1996 – 23.09.2002

Bishop of Hong Kong	23.09.2002 – 15.04.2009
Cardinal-Presbyter of S. Maria Madre del Redentore at Tor Bella Monaca	24.03.2006 [31.05.2006] – ...
Cardinal Emeritus of Hong Kong	
Age	91
Raphael FARINA	
Born	24.09.1933, Buonalbergo, Italy
Ordained priest	01.07.1958
Consecrated Bishop	16.12.2006
Created Cardinal	24.11.2007

Coat of arms	
Motto	Dominus spes nostra
Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical Salesian University	1977 – 1983
Secretary of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences	1981 – 1989
Undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture	1986 – 1991
Rector of the Pontifical Salesian University	1991 – 1997
Prefect of the Vatican Apostolic Library	25.05.1997 – 25.06.2007
Titular Bishop of Oderzo	15.11.2006 – 25.06.2007
Titular Archbishop of Oderzo	25.06.2007 – 24.11.2007
Archivist of the Vatican Secret Archives	25.06.2007 – 09.06.2012
Librarian of the Vatican Apostolic Library	25.06.2007 – 09.06.2012
Cardinal-Deacon of S. Giovanni della Pigna	24.11.2007 [05.04.2008] – 19.05.2018
President of the Pontifical Commission for the Institute for Works of Religion	24.06.2013 – 22.05.2014

Cardinal-Presbyter of S. Giovanni della Pigna	19.05.2018 – ...
Cardinal Emeritus	2014
Age	89
Angelo AMATO	
Born	08.06.1938, Molfetta, Italy
Ordained priest	22.12.1967
Consecrated Bishop	06.01.2003
Created Cardinal	20.11.2010
Coat of arms	
Motto	Sufficit gratia mea

Pro-rector of the Pontifical Salesian University	01.10.1991 – 02.12.1991
Prelate-Secretary of the Pontifical Academy of Theology	1999 – 19.12.2002
Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith	19.12.2002 – 09.07.2008
Titular Archbishop of Sila	19.12.2002 – 20.11.2010
Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints	09.07.2008 – 31.08.2018
Cardinal Deacon of S. Maria in Aquiro	20.11.2010 [11.02.2011] – 03.05.2021
Cardinal-Presbyter of S. Maria in Aquiro	03.05.2021 – …
Cardinal emeritus	2018
Age	85
Ricardo EZZATI ANDRELLO	

Born	07.01.1942, Campiglia dei Berici, Italy
Ordained priest	18.03.1970
Consecrated Bishop	08.09.1996
Created Cardinal	22.02.2014
Coat of arms	
Motto	Para evangelizar
Bishop of Valdivia (Chile)	28.06.1996 – 10.07.2001
Titular Bishop of La Imperial	10.07.2001 – 27.12.2006
Auxiliary Bishop of Santiago (Chile)	10.07.2001 – 27.12.2006
Metropolitan Archbishop of Concepción (Chile)	27.12.2006 – 15.12.2010
President of the Episcopal Conference of Chile	.11.2010 – 11.11.2016
Metropolitan Archbishop of Santiago (Chile)	15.12.2010 – 23.03.2019
Cardinal-Presbyter of the Most Holy Redeemer in Valmelaina	22.02.2014 [11.10.2014] – …

Cardinal Emeritus	2019
Age	81
Charles MAUNG BO	
Born	29.10.1948, Mohla, Myanmar
Ordained priest	09.04.1976
Consecrated Bishop	16.12.1990
Created Cardinal	14.02.2015
Coat of arms	
Motto	Omnia possum in Eo
Apostolic Administrator of Lashio (Myanmar)	1985 – 1986

Apostolic Prefect of Lashio (Myanmar)	1986 – 07.07.1990
Bishop of Lashio (Myanmar)	07.07.1990 – 13.03.1996
Bishop of Pathein (Myanmar)	13.03.1996 – 24.05.2003
President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar	2000 – 2006
Metropolitan Archbishop of Yangon (Myanmar)	24.05.2003 – …
Cardinal-Presbyter of St Irenaeus in Centocelle	14.02.2015 [21.10.2015] – …
President of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences	16.11.2018 [01.01.2019] – …
President of the Myanmar Episcopal Conference	2020 – …
Apostolic Administrator of Myitkyina (Myanmar)	18.11.2020 – …
Age	74
Daniel Fernando STURLA BERHOUET	

Born	04.07.1959, Montevideo, Uruguay
Ordained priest	21.11.1987
Consecrated Bishop	04.03.2012
Created Cardinal	14.02.2015
Coat of arms	
Motto	Servir al Señor con alegría
Titular Bishop of Phelbes	10.12.2011 – 11.02.2014
Auxiliary Bishop of Montevideo (Uruguay)	10.12.2011 – 11.02.2014
Metropolitan Archbishop of Montevideo (Uruguay)	11.02.2014 – …
Cardinal-Presbyter of St. Galla	14.02.2015 [17.05.2015] – …
Vice-President of the Episcopal Conference of Uruguay	16.11.2021 [01.04.2022] – …
Age	64

Cristóbal LÓPEZ ROMERO	
Born	19.05.1952, Vélez-Rubio, Spain
Ordained priest	19.05.1979
Consecrated Bishop	10.03.2018
Created Cardinal	05.10.2019
Coat of arms	
Motto	Adveniat Regnum Tuum
Archbishop of Rabat (Morocco)	29.12.2017 – …
Apostolic Administrator of Tánger (Morocco)	24.05.2019 – 25.02.2022
Cardinal-Presbyter of St. Leo I	05.10.2019 [16.02.2020] – …

President of the North African Regional Bishops' Conference	15.02.2022 – ...
Age	71
Virgilio DO CARMO DA SILVA	
Born	27.11.1967, Venilale, Timor-Este
Ordained priest	18.12.1998
Consecrated Bishop	19.03.2016
Created Cardinal	27.08.2022
Coat of arms	

Motto	Ad Deum Patrem Omnipotentem
Vice-President of the Episcopal Conference of Timor	2016 – …
Bishop of Díli (East Timor)	30.01.2016 – 11.09.2019
Metropolitan Archbishop of Díli (East Timor)	11.09.2019 – …
Cardinal-Presbyter of St. Albert the Great	27.08.2022 [07.05.2023] – …
Age	55
Ángel FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME	
Born	21.08.1960, Gozón-Luanco, Spain
Ordained priest	04.07.1987
Created Cardinal	30.09.2023
Consecrated Bishop	2024 – ?

Coat of arms	
Motto	Sufficit tibi gratia mea
Age	63