

“Pelo Sinal da Santa Cruz. . .”

**CONFERMENT OF THE INSIGNIA
OF THE GRAN-CRUZ
OF THE
MILITARY ORDER OF CHRIST**

upon

**His Excellency, the Most Reverend D. Humberto de Sousa Medeiros, S.T.D.
Archbishop of Boston**

by

**His Excellency, Dr. Joao Manuel Hall Themido
Ambassador from Portugal to the United States of America**

The Military Order of Christ

The practice of rewarding civil and military achievements grew out of the medieval custom of conferring knighthood. The incessant private warfare that characterized early medieval times brought about a permanent military class, and by the 10th century, the institution of knighthood was well established.

At the time of the Crusades, the great military orders of knighthood were formed throughout Europe. From their earliest periods, these military orders had their counterparts in Portugal.

Important among these were the Knights Templars, who received gifts of estates and money, and soon became one of the most beneficent orders in Europe.

In 1319, King Dinis of Portugal was able, through his diplomatic efforts, to obtain permission from Pope John XXII to transfer the properties of the Portuguese Templars to a completely new order. This new order would be specifically designed to protect the Christians from Moslem raids and would be given the name: The Military Order of Christ. Thus was this new order endowed with ample property, including the stronghold Castro Marim near the mouth of the Guadiana River on the Spanish border.

By the time Prince Henry the Navigator became Grand Master a century later, the Military Order of Christ had achieved its position as Portugal's prime offensive weapon against the Moslems. Prince Henry the Navigator was able to use the order's vast resources in the wider field of overseas discoveries to which his greater imagination carried him and his country. For this reason, one finds the emblem of the Order of Christ on the banners and sails of the ships of Portugal's Golden Age of Discovery.

The decoration of the Gran-Cruz of the Military Order of Christ has been conferred upon Archbishop Medeiros by the President of Portugal, Americo Tomas, in recognition of the Archbishop's singular rise in the Catholic world. Archbishop Medeiros has attained unique distinction as a humanitarian, scholar, theologian and as a Christian soldier working in behalf of the faith of the land of his birth.

Archbishop Medeiros was born on the Portuguese island of St. Michael in the Azores. It is interesting to note that this archipelago was discovered under the auspices of that order whose highest insignia has been conferred upon Archbishop Medeiros: the Military Order of Christ.

Program

INVOCATION

Rev. Father Manuel Rocha, Ph.D., Gregorian
University of Rome, Italy; Ph.D., University of Louvain, Belgium

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NATIONAL ANTHEMS

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INTRODUCTION

Master of Ceremonies, Manuel J. Correia-Branco, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Urology, Boston University School of Medicine
Member of the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon, Portugal

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WELCOMING ADDRESS

The Honorable Jorge de Borja Araujo Freitas
Consul General of Portugal in Boston

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MAIN ADDRESS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Edmund Dinis, Esq.
Former District Attorney, S.D., Massachusetts

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MAIN ADDRESS IN THE PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE

Rev. Monsignor Antonio Avelino Goncalves, S.T.D.
Editor of the Portuguese Catholic daily newspaper, "Novidades"

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CONFERMENT OF THE INSIGNIA

His Excellency, Dr. Joao Manuel Hall Themido
Ambassador from Portugal to the United States of America

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ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

His Excellency, the Most Reverend D. Humberto de Sousa Medeiros, S.T.D.
Archbishop of Boston

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PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

The Honorable John F.X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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BENEDICTION

The Archbishop

Committee

Mons. Antonio Avelino Goncalves, Honorary Chairman

Alcinda de Aguiar
Manuel Amaral
Martin T. Camacho
Antonio de J. Cardozo
Manuel Alves de Carvalho
Manuel J. Correia-Branco
Albert Costa, Jr.
Antonio Alberto Costa
Manuel Drummond
Joseph Fernandes
Mary Fernandes
Mons. Augusto Leal Furtado
Jaime M. Goncalves
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