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Cardinal Cottier, theologian emeritus of the Papal Household, dies aged 93

Vatican City, 1 April 2016 – The Holy Father has sent a telegram of condolences to Marie Emmanuelle Pastore Cottier, following the death yesterday of her brother, Cardinal Georges Marie Martin Cottier, O.P., theologian emeritus of the Papal Household, at the age of 93.

The Pope joins in the mourning of all those who knew and esteemed the Cardinal, a zealous servant of the Gospel, and recalls with profound gratitude his steadfast faith, his paternal kindness and intense cultural and ecclesial activity, especially in the service of the popes St. John Paul II and Benedict XVI, as theologian of the Papal Household. Francis asks the Lord, by the intercession of Our Lady and St. Dominic, to grant the departed cardinal the reward promised to His faithful disciples, and offers an apostolic blessing to all those who appreciated his priestly commitment and devotion to the Church and to the Supreme Pontiff.

Cardinal Cottier's funeral will be held tomorrow, 2 April, at the altar of the Chair of St. Peter. The liturgy will be presided by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals. At the end of the Mass, Pope Francis will preside at the rite of the *Ultima Commendatio* and the *Valedictio*.
