

DECHAMPS Victor Auguste

Was born in Melle in the diocese of Ghent on 6th December 1810. Ordained priest in Malines on 20th December 1834, he became a Redemptorist and took his vows in St. Trond on 13th June 1836. He was to the fore in the affairs of the Congregation about the middle of the century. He was consultor to Father Trapanese, Vicar General, from 1849 to 1850 and provincial in Belgium from 1851 to 1854. He was consecrated Bishop of Namur on 25th September 1865 and transferred to the archiepiscopal see of Malines on 20th December 1867, in which office he played an influential role in the first Vatican Council. He was created cardinal on 15th March 1875 and died in Malines on 23rd September 1883. Cardinal Dechamps

was outstanding among the theologians of his day, particularly in the field of apologetics.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

H. Saintrain, *Vie du Cardinal Dechamps*, Tournai, 1884; M. Becqué, *Le Cardinal Dechamps*, Louvain, 1956; M. Becqué, *L'apologétique du Cardinal Dechamps*, Bruges, 1949; BG, II, 86-96; III, 282.