**Malachi Martin 1921-1999**

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin>

  

 

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Not to be confused with [Malachi Martin (Australian murderer)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin_%28Australian_murderer%29).

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| **Malachi Brendan Martin** |
| **Born** | July 23, 1921[Ballylongford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballylongford), [County Kerry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_Kerry), [Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ireland) |
| **Died** | July 27, 1999 (aged 78)[New York, New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York%2C_New_York), [U.S.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) |
| **Pen name** | Michael Serafian |
| **Occupation** | NovelistPriestProfessor ([Pontifical Biblical Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pontifical_Biblical_Institute))[exorcist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exorcist)theologian |
| **Nationality** | [Irish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_people), [American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) |
| **Relatives** | Father [F. X. Martin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F._X._Martin) (brother) |

**Malachi Brendan Martin** (Irish: *Maolsheachlainn Breandán Ó Máirtín*; July 23, 1921 – July 27, 1999), occasionally writing under the pseudonym **Michael Serafian**, was an Irish Catholic priest and writer on the Catholic Church. Originally ordained as a Jesuit priest, he became Professor of [Palaeography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palaeography) at the Vatican's Pontifical Biblical Institute. From 1958 he served as [secretary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secretary) to Cardinal [Bea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustin_Bea) during preparations for the [Second Vatican Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Vatican_Council).

Disillusioned by reforms, he asked to be released from certain of his [Jesuit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society_of_Jesus) vows in 1964 and moved to New York City, where he later became an American citizen.

His 17 novels and non-fiction books were frequently critical of the Catholic Church, which he believed had failed to act on the third prophecy revealed by the [Virgin Mary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_%28mother_of_Jesus%29) at [Fátima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_F%C3%A1tima).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-independent.co.uk-1) Among his most significant works were *The Scribal Character of The Dead Sea Scrolls* (1958) and *Hostage To The Devil* (1976) which dealt with satanism, demonic possession, and exorcism. *The Final Conclave* (1978) was a warning against alleged Soviet spies in the Vatican.

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**History**

**Early life and education**



Trinity College, Dublin

Martin was born in [Ballylongford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballylongford), [County Kerry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_Kerry), [Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ireland) to a middle-class family[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Cuneo-2) in which the children were raised speaking [Irish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_language) at the dinner table. Catholic belief and practice were central; his three brothers, including [Francis Xavier Martin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F._X._Martin), also became priests, two of them academics.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-MM-3)[[*unreliable source?*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AIdentifying_reliable_sources)]

Martin received his secondary education at [Belvedere College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belvedere_College) in [Dublin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin). He studied philosophy for three years at University College, Dublin, and on September 6, 1939, became a novice with the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-4) He taught for three years, spent four years at Milltown Park, Dublin, and was ordained in August 1954.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-galati-5)

Upon completion of his degree course in Dublin, Martin was sent to the [Catholic University of Louvain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_University_of_Leuven_%281834%E2%80%931968%29) in Belgium, where he took a doctorate in archaeology, oriental history and semitic languages. He started postgraduate studies at both the [Hebrew University of Jerusalem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_University_of_Jerusalem) and at the [University of Oxford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Oxford), specializing in intertestamentary studies and knowledge of Jesus Christ and of Hebrew and Arabic manuscripts. He undertook additional study in rational [psychology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychology), [experimental psychology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Experimental_psychology), [physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics) and [anthropology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropology).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-independent.co.uk-1)

**Work and ordination**

Martin took part in the research on the [Dead Sea Scrolls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea_Scrolls) and published 24 articles on [Semitic palaeography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palaeography) in various journals.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-6)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-7) He did archaeological research and worked extensively on the [Byblos syllabary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byblos_syllabary) in [Byblos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byblos),[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-8)[[*page needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACiting_sources)] in [Tyre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyre%2C_Lebanon), and in the [Sinai Peninsula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinai_Peninsula). Martin assisted in his first exorcism while staying in Egypt for archaeological research. He published a work in two volumes, *The Scribal Character of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, in 1958.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-9)



St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City

He was summoned to [Rome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome) to work at the [Holy See](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_See) as a private [secretary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secretary) of [Cardinal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardinal_%28Catholicism%29) [Bea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustin_Bea) [SJ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society_of_Jesus) from 1958 until 1964. This brought him into contact with [Pope John XXIII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_XXIII). Martin's years in Rome coincided with the beginning of the [Second Vatican Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Vatican_Council) (1962–65), which was to transform the Catholic Church in a way that the initially liberal Martin began to find distressing. He became friends with [Monsignor George Gilmary Higgins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_G._Higgins) and a fellow Jesuit priest, [Father John Courtney Murray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Courtney_Murray).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Cuneo-2)

In Rome, he became a professor at the [Pontifical Biblical Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pontifical_Biblical_Institute) in Rome, where he taught [Aramaic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aramaic_language), paleography, Hebrew and Sacred Scripture. He also taught theology, part-time, at [Loyola University Chicago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loyola_University_Chicago)'s [John Felice Rome Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Felice_Rome_Center).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Cuneo-2) He worked as a translator for the Orthodox Churches and Ancient Oriental Churches Division of the [Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pontifical_Council_for_Promoting_Christian_Unity) under Cardinal Bea. Thus, Martin became well acquainted with prominent Jewish leaders, such as [Rabbi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabbi) [Abraham Heschel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Joshua_Heschel), in 1961 and 1962.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Heschel-10) Martin accompanied [Pope Paul VI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Paul_VI) on a pilgrimage to the [Holy Land](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Land) in January 1964.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-RAMA-11) He resigned his position at the Pontifical Institute in June 1964.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Cuneo-2)

In February 1965, Martin requested release from the Jesuit Order.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Cuneo-2) He received a provisional release in May 1965[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Cuneo-2) and a [dispensation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dispensation_%28canon_law%29) from his [vows](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vow) of [poverty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty) and [obedience](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vow_of_obedience) on June 30, 1965[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Cuneo-2) (cf. [qualified exclaustration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exclaustration#Experimental_and_qualified_exclaustration)). After 25 years as a Jesuit, he left Rome suddenly in July.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-DON-12) Even if dispensed from his religious vow of [chastity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chastity), he remained under the obligation of chastity if still an ordained secular priest. Martin maintained that he remained a priest, saying that he had received a dispensation from Paul VI to that effect. His critics disagreed.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-galati-5)

He moved permanently to [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City) in 1966, where he first worked as a dishwasher, a waiter and taxi driver,[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Cuneo-2) and continued to write.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-galati-5) He co-founded an antiques firm and was active in communications and media for the rest of his life.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-independent.co.uk-1) After his arrival in New York, Cardinal [Terence Cooke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terence_Cooke) gave him written permission to exercise his secular priestly faculties.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)][[*dubious*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AAccuracy_dispute#Disputed_statement) *–* [*discuss*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk%3AMalachi_Martin#Dubious)]

**Communications and media**



Central Park, New York

In 1967, Martin received his first [Guggenheim Fellowship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guggenheim_Fellowship). In 1969 he got his first breakthrough with his book *The Encounter: Religion in Crisis* as a result of his expertise in [Judaism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judaism), [Christianity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity) and [Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) and with which he won the [Choice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Choice%3A_Current_Reviews_for_Academic_Libraries) Book Award of the [American Library Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Library_Association).[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-VAN-13) Afterwards came other liberally oriented books like *Three Popes and the Cardinal: The Church of Pius, John and Paul in its Encounter with Human History* (1972) and *Jesus Now* (1973). Malachi Martin became a United States citizen[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-nyt-14) in 1970.

He received a second Guggenheim fellowship in 1969, which enabled him to write his first of four [bestsellers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bestseller),[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-NYTBSL-15) *Hostage to the Devil: The Possession and Exorcism of Five Living Americans*. With this book, published in 1975, Martin references his experience as an exorcist. According to the book he assisted in several [exorcisms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exorcism). In 1996, he spoke of having performed thousands of minor exorcisms, and participated in a few hundred major [exorcisms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exorcism) during his lifetime.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Bell1-16)

During that decade, Martin also served as religious editor for [National Review](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Review)[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-17)[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-18) from 1972 to 1978, when he was succeeded by [Michael Novak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Novak). He was interviewed twice by [William F. Buckley, Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_F._Buckley%2C_Jr.) for [*Firing Line*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firing_Line_%28TV_series%29) on [PBS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PBS).[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-19) He was an editor for the [Encyclopædia Britannica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica).[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-20)

Martin published several books in quick succession the following years: *The Final Conclave* (1978), *King of Kings: a Novel of the Life of David* (1980) and *Vatican: A Novel* (1986) were "[factionals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-fiction_novel%22%20%5Co%20%22Non-fiction%20novel)". [*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Church*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Decline_and_Fall_of_the_Roman_Church) (1981), *The New Castle: Reaching for the Ultimate* (1982), *Rich Church, Poor Church: The Catholic Church and its Money* (1984) and *There is Still Love: Five Parables of God's Love That Will Change Your Life* (1984) were [non-fiction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-fiction) works. His bestselling[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-NYTBSL-15) 1987 non-fiction book, *The Jesuits: The Society of Jesus and the Betrayal of the Roman Catholic Church*, was highly critical of the Order, accusing the Jesuits of systematically undermining church teachings.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-21)

**Later life**

Martin's [*The Keys of This Blood*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Keys_of_This_Blood)*: The Struggle for World Dominion between Pope John Paul II, Mikhail Gorbachev, and the Capitalist West* was published in 1990 and was followed in 1996 by [*Windswept House: A Vatican Novel*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windswept_House%3A_A_Vatican_Novel). Martin worked closely with [paranormal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paranormal) researchers [Dave Considine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Considine) and [John Zaffis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Zaffis) on several of their independent cases.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)]

Martin continued to offer [Mass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_%28liturgy%29) privately each day in the [Tridentine Mass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tridentine_Mass) form, and vigorously exercised his priestly ministry all the way up until his death.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)] He was strongly supported by some [traditional Catholic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditionalist_Catholic) sources and severely criticized by highly liberal sources, such as the [National Catholic Reporter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Catholic_Reporter).[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-22)[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-23)[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-24) Martin served as a guest commentator for [CNN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CNN) during the live coverage of the pastoral visit of [John Paul II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Paul_II) to the United States October 4–8, 1995.

He was a periodic guest on [Art Bell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_Bell)'s radio program, [*Coast to Coast AM*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coast_to_Coast_AM), between 1995 and 1998.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)] In the last three years of his life, Martin forged a close friendship with the [Traditionalist Catholic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditionalist_Catholic) philosopher, Dr. Rama Ponnambalam Coomaraswamy (1929-2006). In the final years before his death, Martin was received in a private audience by Pope John Paul II.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-RAMA-11) Afterwards, he started working on a book with the working title *Primacy: How the Institutional Roman Catholic Church became a Creature of the New World Order*.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-DON-12)

**Death**



The footstone of Malachi Martin in Gate of Heaven Cemetery

Malachi Martin died of a [cerebral hemorrhage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cerebral_hemorrhage) due to a fall in his apartment in [Manhattan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan) in 1999, four days after his 78th birthday.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-RAMA-11) His funeral wake took place in St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Chapel of [West Orange, New Jersey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Orange%2C_New_Jersey), before the burial within the [Gate of Heaven Cemetery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gate_of_Heaven_Cemetery_%28Hawthorne%2C_New_York%29), in [Hawthorne, New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawthorne%2C_New_York).

**Writings**

In 1964, Martin, under the pseudonym Michael Serafian, wrote *The Pilgrim: Pope Paul VI, The Council and The Church in a time of decision*, an apologia for the Jews, which, among other things, told the story of *the Jewish question* and the Second Vatican Council. He produced numerous best-selling [fictional](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiction) and [non-fictional](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-fiction) literary works, which became widely read throughout the world. His fictional works gave detailed insider accounts of Church history during the reigns of Popes [Pius XII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Pius_XII), [John XXIII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_XXIII), Pope Paul VI (The Pilgrim, Three Popes and the Cardinal, Vatican: A Novel[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-NYTBSL-15)), [John Paul I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_Paul_I) (The Final Conclave[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-NYTBSL-15)) and [John Paul II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_Paul_II) (The Keys of This Blood, Windswept House).

His non-fictional writings cover a range of Catholic topics, such as [demonic exorcisms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exorcism), [satanism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism), [liberation theology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberation_theology), the Second Vatican Council (*The Pilgrim*), the [Tridentine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditionalist_Catholic) liturgy, Catholic dogma, [modernism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modernism) (*Three Popes and the Cardinal*; *The Jesuits*), the financial history of the Church (*Rich Church, Poor Church*; *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Church*), the [New World Order](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_World_Order_%28conspiracy_theory%29) and the geopolitical importance of the [Pope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope) (*The Keys of This Blood*).[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)]

**Opinions**

He spoke and wrote often about the [Three Secrets of Fátima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Secrets_of_F%C3%A1tima) and was an ardent supporter of Fr. [Nicholas Gruner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_Gruner): "Father Gruner is fulfilling a desperately needed function in the ongoing perception of Mary's role in the salvation of our imperilled world. Father Gruner is absolutely correct that the consecration of Russia as—Our Lady desired, has not been executed".[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-25)

Martin said concerning the three secrets of the Virgin Mary as [Queen of Heaven](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_of_Heaven) in Fátima in 1917, she mandated the Pope of 1960 to consecrate [Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia) to her [Immaculate Heart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immaculate_Heart_of_Mary). The [Russian Orthodox Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Orthodox_Church) would then convert to Roman Catholicism. If the mandate were not followed, devastating war in the world and destruction inside the church ([The Great Apostasy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Great_Apostasy)) would follow. He said that he stood outside the papal living quarters in 1960 whilst [Pope John XXIII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_XXIII) and Cardinal Bea and others were reading the document containing the third secret, and that, in order to assure Russian cooperation at the approaching [Second Vatican Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Vatican_Council), the Pope decided against the mandate. Later Paul VI and John Paul II decided against it for various reasons.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-MM-3)[[*unreliable source?*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AIdentifying_reliable_sources)]

He was an outspoken opponent of the alleged apparitions of the Virgin Mary at [Međugorje](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_Medjugorje) in former [Yugoslavia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yugoslavia). Martin regretted writing the foreword of *The Thunder of Justice: The Warning, the Miracle, the Chastisement, the Era of Peace*, a 1993 book by Ted and Maureen Flynn[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-26) defending, among others, the apparitions in Međugorje, stating that false pretences were used in obtaining his recommendation.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-27) Concerning the [Garabandal apparitions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garabandal_apparitions), he remained open-minded.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-28) Martin agreed the [ordinations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordination) of several [sedevacantist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sedevacantism) bishops by former Archbishop [Thục](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre_Martin_Ng%C3%B4_%C4%90%C3%ACnh_Th%E1%BB%A5c) of [Huế, Vietnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hu%E1%BA%BF), although not allowed, were [sacramentally valid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre_Martin_Ng%C3%B4_%C4%90%C3%ACnh_Th%E1%BB%A5c#Validity_controversy).[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-LACR-29)

In March 1997 Martin claimed on Radio Liberty's *Steel on Steel*, that two popes were murdered during the 20th Century:

* [Pope Pius XI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Pius_XI) was murdered on the orders of [Benito Mussolini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benito_Mussolini), because of his 1931 [encyclical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclical), [*Non abbiamo bisogno*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non_abbiamo_bisogno), which was critical of the Italian fascist state.
* [Pope John Paul I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_Paul_I) was [murdered](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_Paul_I_conspiracy_theories)[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-LACR-29)[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-ReferenceA-30) according to Martin's book, *Vatican: A Novel*, by [Jean-Marie Villot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Marie_Villot), formerly [Cardinal Secretary of State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardinal_Secretary_of_State) under Pope Paul VI, under orders from the [U.S.S.R.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union).[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-VAN-13)

Martin partially gave credence to the [Siri thesis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siri_thesis), saying that Cardinal [Giuseppe Siri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giuseppe_Siri) was twice elected [pope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope) in [papal conclaves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_conclave), but declined his election after being pressured by worldly forces acting through cardinals present at the conclaves. Martin called this *the little brutality*. On the one hand, Martin says that Siri was intimidated: on the other hand he says that Siri did indicate that his decision not to accept was made freely.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-LACR-29)[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-31)

* The first occasion, according to him, was the [Papal conclave, 1963](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_conclave%2C_1963). Martin mentioned the possibility of a nuclear threat which involved "the very existence of the Vatican state" during this conclave on pages 600–610 of his book *The Keys of this Blood*, which deals primarily with Siri and the 1963 conclave.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)]
* The second time was the [Papal conclave, October 1978](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_conclave%2C_October_1978). Martin said on Radio Liberty's programme *Steel on Steel*, in March 1997 that Siri received a written note after his initial election threatening him and his family with death should he accept.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-ReferenceA-30)

Martin claimed that Popes John XXIII and Paul VI were [Freemasons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freemason) during a certain period and that photographs and other detailed documents proving this were in the possession of the [Vatican State Secretariat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secretariat_of_State_%28Holy_See%29).[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-LACR-29) He allegorically mentioned these supposed facts in his 1986 novel *Vatican: A Novel*, where he related the masonic adherence of Popes *Giovanni Angelica* and *Giovanni De Brescia*.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-VAN-13) He claimed Archbishop [Annibale Bugnini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annibale_Bugnini) [C.M.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congregation_of_the_Mission) was a freemason and that [Agostino Casaroli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agostino_Casaroli), long-time [Cardinal Secretary of State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardinal_Secretary_of_State), was an [atheist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atheism).[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-LACR-29)

In his 1987 book. *The Jesuits*, Martin claims to prove the existence of a diplomatic agreement between the Vatican and the USSR called the Metz Accord. The Vatican allegedly promised non-condemnation of communism in exchange for participation of [Russian-Orthodox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Orthodox_Church) prelates as observers at the Second Vatican Council. In his book *The Final Conclave*, published on August 1, 1978,[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-32) the month of the 1978 [conclave](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_conclave%2C_August_1978) that resulted in the 28 August election of [Albino Luciani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albino_Luciani), Malachi Martin wrote of the unexpected election of a *Cardinal Angelico*, a figure that has been interpreted as corresponding to Luciani.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-FOOTNOTEMartin1978-33)[[*page needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACiting_sources)]

Martin stated that, along with [diabolic possession](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonic_possession), [angelic possession](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritual_possession) also exists and that angels could have use of [preternatural](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preternatural) powers in certain circumstances.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-MM-3)[[*unreliable source?*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AIdentifying_reliable_sources)][[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Bell1-16)

**Controversies**

**Alleged affairs**

There were three allegations made against Martin of having affairs with women:

* Martin was criticized most notably in the book *Clerical Error: A True Story* by [Robert Blair Kaiser](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Blair_Kaiser), [Time Magazine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_Magazine)'s former Vatican correspondent. Kaiser, a former Jesuit, accused Martin of having carried on an extramarital affair with his wife during 1964 in Rome,[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Cuneo-2) and claimed that Martin fled to the United States as a renegade from the priesthood.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-34) A friend of Martin's, William H. Kennedy, published an article in *The Seattle Catholic* disputing Kaiser's allegation and other claims made about Martin after his death.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-35) Kennedy points out that Kaiser admits in his book that he was diagnosed as having paranoid schizophrenia,[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-36) and cites passages from Kaiser's book which he believes show that Kaiser was writing from a distorted and delusional perspective due to his mental illness. With regard to being a renegade from the priesthood, evidence is cited that suggests that Martin received a special dispensation in order to become a writer, while retaining his status as a priest with limited faculties.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-MartinArticle-37)[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Green-38)
* In her 2008 book, *Queen of the Oil Club: The Intrepid Wanda Jablonski and the Power of Information*, [Anna Rubino](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Anna_Rubino&action=edit&redlink=1) wrote that Martin had a love affair with oil journalist [Wanda Jablonski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wanda_Jablonski) on a visit to [Beirut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beirut), [Lebanon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanon) in the 1950s.[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-39) The book was published long after the deaths of both Jablonski (1992) and Martin (1999).

**Laicization dispute**

The [traditionalist Catholic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditionalist_Catholic) website [*Daily Catholic*](http://www.dailycatholic.org/) said in 2004 that Father [Vincent O'Keefe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincent_O%27Keefe) S.J., former [Vicar General](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vicar_General) of the [Society of Jesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society_of_Jesus) and a past President of [Fordham University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fordham_University), stated that Martin had never been [laicized](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laicisation). According to this report, O'Keefe stated that Martin had been released from his Jesuit vows except for chastity.[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-dailycatholic.org-40)

Religious vows such as those of Jesuits include that of chastity, but a religious priest dispensed from them is still bound by the obligation of chastity that is attached to his priesthood, unless he is also laicized, which usually includes dispensation from the obligation imposed by law of celibacy.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-41) When a priest of a religious institute becomes a secular priest he must first find a bishop willing to accept him as a member of the clergy of his diocese.[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-42) No claim has been made that Martin was incardinated into any particular diocese, a requirement for dispensation from religious vows without also being laicized.

Martin himself is quoted as stating that "'In 1965, Mr. Martin received a dispensation from all privileges and obligations deriving from his vows as a Jesuit and from priestly ordination' ([Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congregation_for_Institutes_of_Consecrated_Life_and_Societies_of_Apostolic_Life), 25 June 1997, Prot. N. 04300/65)".[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-43)

The *Daily Catholic* said its 2004 statement was based on one by William Kennedy according to which the declaration of Martin's laicization was mounted in retaliation for his book *The Jesuits*, which accused the Jesuits of deviating from their original character and mission by embracing [Liberation Theology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberation_Theology).[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-44)[[*not in citation given*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AVerifiability)]

**Alleged ordination as a bishop**

During a videotaped memorial titled *Malachi Martin Weeps For His Church*, Rama Coomaraswamy, a [sedevacantist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sedevacantism) cleric, claimed that Martin had told him that he had been secretly [ordained](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordination) a [bishop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishop) during the reign of Pius XII in order to travel behind the [Iron Curtain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Curtain) ordaining priests and bishops for the underground churches of [Eastern Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Europe) and the [Soviet Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union). Coomaraswamy died in 2006.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-RAMA-11)[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-45)[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-46)[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-47)

**Alleged authorship**

* The book *The Pilgrim: Pope Paul VI, The Council and The Church in a time of decision* was written by Martin under the pseudonym Michael Serafian. This was confirmed by Martin himself and corroborated independently by [Hans Küng](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_K%C3%BCng).[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-48) Martin related that his choice of surname, *Serafian*, was due to meeting a carpet dealer in Jerusalem with that name, during the pilgrimage of Paul VI to the Holy Land in January 1964.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-RAMA-11)
* The anonymously-written book *Complaints against God by One of His Creatures* was not written by Martin but by Fr. [Andrew Greeley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Greeley), a liberal priest.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-49)
* The pseudonym of [Xavier Rynne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xavier_Rynne), used to write more than 20 books on Vatican II, is not that of Martin but of Fr. [Francis X. Murphy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_X._Murphy) [C.Ss.R.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C.Ss.R.).[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-50)[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-51)
* The 1966 article *Laures et ermitages du désert d'Egypte* published in [Mélanges de l'Université Saint-Joseph](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_Saint-Joseph) by the hand of "M. Martin" was written by [Maurice Martin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maurice_Martin), and not Malachi Martin.[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-52)

**Joseph Roddy allegations**

Journalist Joseph Roddy alleged — in a 1966 [*Look Magazine*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Look_%28American_magazine%29) article about the debate about Jews during the Second Vatican Council[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-53) — that one and the same person under three different pseudonyms had written or acted on behalf of Jewish interest groups, such as the [American Jewish Committee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Jewish_Committee), to influence the outcome of the debates. Roddy wrote that two timely and remunerated 1965 articles were penned under the pseudonym *F.E. Cartus*, one for [*Harper's Magazine*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harper%27s_Magazine)[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-54) and one for the American Jewish Committee's magazine [*Commentary*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commentary_Magazine).[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-55)[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-56)

Roddy alleged that tidbits of information were leaked to the New York press that detailed Council failings vis a vis Jews under the pseudonym of *Pushkin*. Roddy claimed two unidentified persons were one and the same person — a "young cleric-turned-journalist" and a "Jesuit of Irish descent working for Cardinal Bea ... who was active in the Biblical Institute" — he figuratively named as *Timothy O'Boyle-Fitzharris, S.J.* so as not to reveal the true identity of his source. Roddy mentioned *The Pilgrim* in a footnote to his article.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)]

In his 2007 book *Spiritual Radical: Abraham Joshua Heschel in America*, Edward K. Kaplan confirmed that Martin cooperated with the American Jewish Committee during the Council "for a mixture of motives, both lofty and ignoble ... [He] primarily advised the committee on theological issues, but he also provided logistical intelligence and copies of restricted documents." It is confirmed in the book that Martin used the pseudonyms *Forest* and *Pushkin*.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Heschel-10) Kaplan acknowledges that the *kiss and tell book about the internal workings of the Council*, *The Pilgrim* by Michael Serafian, was requested from Martin by Abraham J. Heschel, who arranged for the book to be published by [Roger W. Straus, Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_W._Straus%2C_Jr.)'s [Farrar, Straus and Giroux](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farrar%2C_Straus_and_Giroux) printing company. It was published *in the hope that it would influence the deliberations in the council*. Once Martin's identity as author was revealed, it led to protests "and the book had to be removed from circulation at considerable financial loss to the publisher". Kaplan lastly states that Malachi Martin was the primary source of information for Joseph Roddy in writing his 1966 article for Look Magazine, and that *O'Boyle-Fitzharris* was, in fact, Martin. Kaplan judges the Roddy article as "dangerously misleading [due] to the credence it gives to the claim that without organised Jewish pressure the council declaration on the Jews would not have been accepted."[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-Heschel-10)

Martin explicitly denied he was a spy, along with denying other rumors. Michael Cuneo, in his book *American Exorcism* writes that, "Martin told me that he was perplexed, and more than a little annoyed, by the swirl of rumors surrounding his personal life."

**Alleged Jewish heritage**

Rumors appearing on various Catholic or [sedevacantist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sedevacantism) websites[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-57) and magazines[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-58) alleged that Martin had [Jewish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jew) ancestry of ancestral descent from [Iberian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula) Jews migrating to Ireland and Great Britain in the 15th century, and alleged him being an [Israeli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) spy[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-MM-3)[[*unreliable source?*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AIdentifying_reliable_sources)] because of his first name, [*Malachi*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi), after a Hebrew prophet and his extensive travels in the [Levant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levant). These allegations were rebutted by William H. Kennedy (*In Defense of Father Malachi Martin*).[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-59) After having made genealogical inquiries with surviving relatives of Martin in Ireland, Kennedy concluded that Martin's father was an Englishman who moved to Ireland, and that Martin's mother was Irish on both sides. Fr. Rama Coomasrawamy confirmed this independently.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-RAMA-11) The [Irish language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_language) name *Maélsheachlainn* is usually anglicised as [Malachy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_%28given_name%29).

**Alleged photograph**

Claims that Martin features as a curial [monsignor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monsignor) in full [regalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regalia) on a prominent photograph next to Pope John Paul I and his assistant [Diego Lorenzi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diego_Lorenzi) appeared on the Internet.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-60) The photograph, published in [David Yallop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Yallop)'s *In God's Name: An Investigation into the Murder of Pope John Paul I* as number 28 between pages 120 and 121, shows a "Monsignor Martin", visibly different from Malachi Martin.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-61) This is a case of [mistaken identity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistaken_identity): the cleric in the photograph was [Jacques-Paul Martin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques-Paul_Martin), [Prefect of the Casa Pontificia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prefecture_of_the_Pontifical_Household) from 1969 to 1986.[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-62)[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachi_Martin#cite_note-63)

**See also**

* [Franz König](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz_K%C3%B6nig)
* [Alfred Kunz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Kunz_%28Catholic_priest%29)
* [Marcel Lefebvre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcel_Lefebvre)
* [Leo Joseph Suenens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Joseph_Suenens)

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  *Cuneo, Michael W (2001),* [*American Exorcism: Expelling Demons in the Land of Plenty*](https://books.google.com/books?id=KahXr20LH9cC&printsec=frontcover&dq=%22American+Exorcism:+Expelling+Demons+in+the+Land+of+Plenty%22#v=onepage&q=%22Malachi%20Martin%22&f=false)*, New York: Doubleday,* [*ISBN*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number)[*0-385-50176-5*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0-385-50176-5)

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  ["Malachi Martin Is Dead at 78; Author of Books on the Church", *The New York Times*, 30 July 1999](https://www.nytimes.com/1999/07/30/arts/malachi-martin-is-dead-at-78-author-of-books-on-the-church.html)

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  [*"Right and righteous who run with Ralph Reed"*](http://natcath.org/NCR_Online/archives2/1996d/122796/122796k.htm)*, National Catholic Reporter (editorial), December 27, 1996 – January 3, 1997*

  *Greeley, Andrew (May 22, 1998),* [*"Farrell's Hugo would be a papal Gorbachev"*](http://natcath.org/NCR_Online/archives2/1998b/052298/052298h.htm)*, National Catholic Reporter*

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