

CARLOS DUARTE, 72, LED BRAZIL CHURCH

Special to The New York Times.

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 27.—Carlos Duarte Costa, the self-styled Bishop of Maura, who founded the schismatic Brazilian Apostolic Catholic Church, died here yesterday of a liver ailment. He was 72 years old.

The Bishop of Maura, who was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1911, rose to a high place in the Brazilian hierarchy, becoming Diocesan Bishop of Botucatu in 1924. But in 1939, he broke with the Catholic Church, was excommunicated, and founded the Brazilian Apostolic Catholic Church.

That church now has Bishops in eleven Brazilian states and in Brasilia, the capital.

But Bishop Duarte died without naming a successor, who is to be chosen by a conclave of Bishops of the church.

Characteristics of the church founded by the Bishop of Maura were that its priests could marry and that mass, which follows Roman Catholic doctrine, is said in Portuguese.

The church's activities are semisecret, however, and masses are said usually in private homes. The membership is not known.