

25 Years as Bishop of HK

CARDINAL JOHN BAPTIST WU



To Our Venerable Brother
HIS EMINENCE JOHN BAPTIST CARDINAL WU CHENG-CHUNG
Bishop of Hong Kong

During the Great Jubilee of the Universal Church, now being celebrated everywhere with greater zeal and fervent faith, it has fortuitously and propitiously fallen to you, Our Venerable Brother, to celebrate the commencement of your episcopal ministry. It is twenty five years since you were appointed by Our Predecessor, Paul VI of immortal memory, as bishop of the Catholic community of Hong Kong, to which you have singularly devoted your entire episcopal office and apostolic ministry.

With this letter, expressive of our fraternal union, we have therefore desired to participate in your joy and in the fervent spirit of rejoicing with which, in July, the Clergy and the Faithful of your beloved flock will together fittingly honour this event of your life and your sacred work.

We are again moved with the same profound feelings of respect and pastoral unity for you, Our Venerable Brother, which we have personally expressed to you on other occasions, particularly twelve years ago, when, acknowledging the merits of your ministry and exhorting you to perseverance in good works, we elevated you to the purpled ranks of the Cardinal Fathers of the Church.

Conscious as we are of this continuous concern of yours for the salvation and edification of the beloved community of Hong Kong, it is Our prayerful wish that this commemoration of your episcopacy may bring you special consolation. May the good wishes of so many Catholics afford you greatly renewed strength and joy as you continue to cultivate this portion of the Lord's vineyard which has for so many years known no other spiritual master but you.

May the heavenly Divine Shepherd accompany you and gloriously bless your anniversary on 25 July, gladdening your coming years joyful with good health in mind and body. May he strengthen your pastoral energies so that our Holy Mother the Church may always rejoice in your episcopate, just as she rejoices on this present occasion.

To you, Our Venerable Brother, we impart the abundance of our Apostolic Blessing, accompanying this letter, an expression of our heartfelt congratulations and a firm pledge of heavenly favours to be shared with the whole Catholic people of Hong Kong.

From the Vatican, 15 June 2000, the Twenty Second Year of Our Pontificate.

John Paul II



Cardinal John Baptist Wu Cheng-chung