

CONVENTION ELECTIONS

A TENTATIVE plan for the election of delegates to the Hong Kong Diocesan Convention will be found on page 1 of this issue.

It should be carefully noted that 'the People of God in Hong Kong are requested to study this tentative plan and to send their comments to the Pastoral Council, P.O. Box 2984, Hong Kong, before the end of September.'

The Pastoral Council does want any comments that will help.

This exhortation should not be treated as soothing verbiage used to introduce gently an already fixed plan to make the Diocesan Convention more certainly the voice of the People of God in Hong Kong. Even if you have no comments the Pastoral Council wants us all know what is being done to give us all a voice in the Convention.

Diocesan Convention

Tentative Plan of Election of Delegates

Proposed by the Diocesan Pastoral Council

AT the 19th August meeting of the Pastoral Council, a tentative plan of electing delegates to the forthcoming Diocesan Convention was discussed. It was decided to publish it with a view to inviting public comments. A final revision of the plan in the light of these comments will be made at the October meeting of the Pastoral Council and the plan will be presented to the Bishop for approval and promulgation.

The People of God in Hong Kong are requested to study this tentative plan and to send their comments to the Pastoral Council, P.O. Box 2984, Hong Kong before the end of September.

(Rev.) Vincent Lau,
Secretary,
Pastoral Council.

I. Laity			
a) Parishioners' Delegates			
Parish up to 2,500 Catholics		1	
„ up to 5,000 „		2	
„ up to 7,500 „		3	
„ up to 10,000 „		4	
	(proportional increase upwards)		
	approx. total	125	
b) Delegates of Catholic Associations		15	
c) Lay leaders invited by Bishop		10	150
II. Priest Delegates			
a) Diocesan (representing 115 priests)		45	
b) Religious (representing 227 priests)		45	
c) Invited by Bishop		10	100
III. Delegates of Brothers & Sisters			
a) Brothers (representing 110)		11	
b) Sisters (representing 756)		76	
c) Invited by Bishop		13	100
IV. Members of Drafting Committees			
		50	50
	Total		400

Notes on Election and other matters:

- There are approximately 50 parishes and rectories in the diocese. Lay delegates to be elected by the parishes on the recommended basis may be more or less than 125, but the difference will not be great. On the basis of one delegate for every 2,500 Catholics, we would arrive at the figures of 100 delegates, but many parishes and rectories do not have 2,500 Catholics.
- The proposed allocation of 45 places each to diocesan and Religious priests means that Religious priests (227) will get approximately one delegate for every five persons, i.e. half the representation of diocesan priests (115). (Figures from 1969 Directory)
- Brothers and Sisters get one place for every ten persons.
- Parish delegates will be elected by Parish Councils. Lay Association delegates will be elected by the Central Committee of the Diocesan Apostolate of the Laity.
- Secular priests will elect their delegates at deaneries; those who are not working in parishes will be asked to vote in their nearest deaneries.
- The way Religious Delegates, both priests and brothers/sisters, are to be elected will be left with the Conferences of Major Superiors.
- The Bishop will invite 33 out of a total of 400 delegates. This will enable him to send to the Convention people who will be able to make valuable contributions but somehow were passed over at the elections. The Vicars-General will be on the presidium ex-officio.
- When electing delegates a number of alternative candidates should be elected and presented in order of precedence. These will take the places of elected members in case the latter resign on health or other grounds.