

Mgr. Peter Lei Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Hong Kong



Mgr. Peter Lei

POPE Paul VI has nominated Mgr. Peter Lei, Vicar General of the diocese of Hong Kong, to the post of Auxiliary Bishop to Bishop Francis Hsu of Hong Kong.

Mgr. Lei will be consecrated bishop on Wednesday, September 8. At Mgr. Lei's request, Bishop Hsu will be consecrator and Bishop Bianchi, retired Bishop of Hong Kong, and Bishop Tavares of Macao have been invited to act as co-consecrators.

Mgr. Lei was born at Nam-hoi, Kwongtung province, on March 29, 1922. He entered the seminary of the Hong Kong diocese in 1939. He did his philosophical and theological studies in the Regional Seminary, Aberdeen, Hong Kong, and was ordained priest in 1952.

He taught in the Minor Seminary, Saikung, N.T. from 1952 to 1955. From 1955 to 1957 he was Assistant Parish Priest at Mount Carmel Church, Wanchai. In 1957 he became Parish Priest of the Cathedral. He went to St. Peter's, Aberdeen, as Parish Priest in 1967.

In 1969 he was made Vicar General of the diocese, returning at the same time to the Cathedral as Parish Priest.

On July 2 this year, he was appointed Rector of Holy Spirit Seminary, retaining his post as Vicar General.

An Auxiliary is a bishop appointed by the Holy See to assist a residential bishop who finds his work beyond his own unaided powers. Monsignor Lei is the second Auxiliary Bishop appointed to Hong Kong. Bishop Hsu was Auxiliary to Bishop Bianchi of Hong Kong from 1967 till Bishop Bianchi's retirement and his own nomination to the See of Hong Kong in 1969.

The fact that the Holy See has appointed two Chinese bishops to Hong Kong within four years is clear indication of the Pope's keen desire to indigenize local Churches and his high regard for the fast-developing diocese of Hong Kong.

Ordination of Bishop Peter Lei

Auxiliary Bishop of Hong Kong

... The matter of the Holy Orders of Diaconate, Priesthood, and Episcopate is the imposition of hands and that alone; and the form (likewise the only form) is the words determining the application of this matter, which words signify in a univocal sense the sacramental effects — the power of Order and the grace of the Holy Spirit — and which are understood and used by the Church in this sense' — From the Apostolic Constitution 'Sacramentum Ordinis', 1947.



Bishop Francis Hsu of Hong Kong imposes hands on the head of his Auxiliary, Bishop Peter Lei, at the central moment of Bishop Lei's Episcopal Ordination. Bishop Paulo Tavares of Macao waits to impose hands.

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