



*Cardinal Wu signs the document containing the acts of the Diocesan Synod.*

## Diocesan Synod Closes

HONG KONG (SE): The Closing Ceremony of the Diocesan Synod was held on Sunday, December 30, the Feast of the Holy Family, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Cardinal John Baptist Wu presided at the Eucharistic celebration accompanied by four deacons and over sixty concelebrating priests.

The honourable guests and representatives/observers included from the Anglican Church The Most Rev Dr Peter K.K. Kwong, Archbishop, The Rt Rev Thomas Soo, Bishop of the Diocese of Western Kowloon and The Rt Rev Louis Tsui, Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Kowloon.

Also present were the Rev Dr Li Ping Kwong, President of the Methodist Church, Elder Simon Sit, ex-President of Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong and Rev Eric S.Y. So, General Secretary of the Hong Kong Christian Council.

All delegates and members of the Diocesan Synod were also present at the closing ceremony.

During the closing ceremony Fr Dominic Chan VG and moderator of the co-ordinating committee of the synod gave a short history of the synod.

On October 1, 1999, Cardinal Wu, promulgated a decree convoking the synod to enable the local church to review the past and to plan for the future in communion with the universal church's planning for the coming new era. The cardinal solemnly inaugurated the synod on March 4, 2000 at the Eucharistic celebration held in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. During the celebration, the mem-

bers of the diocesan synod made a profession of faith before the cardinal. After this Eucharistic celebration the first plenary assembly of the synod took place.

Within a month after the opening of the synod, the members chose the topics and formed the committees for discussing and drafting texts on the following topics: (1) Formation of Faith and formation of the laity and lay ministry; (2) Youth and young teenage pastoral care; (3) Social concerns; (4) Evangelization (Ad Gentes); (5) Marriage and family pastoral care; (6) Education and culture; and (7) The vocation and continuous formation for the diocesan priests.

By July 2000, the first drafts were completed. During the plenary assembly on October 25, the final drafts along with 177 concrete proposals were passed by the assembly.

This was followed by the presentation of the resolutions of the seven synodal groups and of the committee for foreigners to the Cardinal.

Cardinal Wu in his address at the

closing ceremony said that the seven major areas of concern were chosen under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Lay people and clergy representing the people of God in Hong Kong took an active part in sharing their collective insights.

The final presentation of the acts of the synod had been the fruit of months of hard work and the cardinal said that in due time he would formulate a new ten-year pastoral plan for the diocese to be announced in the first half of the coming year.

Cardinal Wu officially concluded the diocesan synod by accepting and signing the decree of closure.

During the Mass both Bishop Joseph Zen and Bishop Tong addressed the congregation: Bishop Zen in English (see page 2) and Bishop Tong in Chinese. Each thanked all the delegates and members for their hard work.

The Mass concluded with the blessings of Most Rev Dr Kwong and Rev Dr Li and the final blessings from Cardinal Wu together with all the concelebrating priests.