

Family members visit grave of cardinal



Cardinal Wu's brother and nephews lay flowers at his grave.

HONG KONG (SE): Four family members of the late Cardinal Wu came to Hong Kong in mid-September when it became obvious that the cardinal was seriously ill.

Cared for by the diocese, they visited the cardinal at his hospital sick bed during the final days of his life. After the cardinal's funeral Mass, they visited various locations he had mentioned to them during his lifetime.

The four included his fourth younger brother Wu Tak-luk and his son Wu Sze-tung, second brother Wu Ching-luk's son Wu Wan-to and third brother Wu San-luk's son Wu Wai-kuen. The group arrived on September 14 and left on October 1.

In an interview given by the group on September 30, they disclosed that they visited the cardinal at the hospital and participated in the vigil and the funeral Masses at the Cathedral. During their stay they also took the opportunity to meet priests

and nuns from the Hsinchu diocese, Taiwan where the cardinal served before he came to Hong Kong.

The four also went to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wanchai because Cardinal Wu had sent home some pictures of the church when he blessed it after it was reopened following its reconstruction in October 2001.

Another site they visited was the Holy Spirit Seminary where Cardinal Wu studied philosophy and theology from 1946 to 1952. Bishop Joseph Zen personally gave them a tour of Victoria Peak at night on September 29.

On September 30, the seventh day after the cardinal's death, they made offerings of flowers at his grave in accordance with a traditional Chinese custom.

The group, through the *Kung Kao Po*, thanked the diocese for receiving them and helping them during their

two-week visit. They also thanked all the Catholics and friends of the cardinal in Hong Kong for the loving care they gave him during his lifetime and for their condolences after his death.

They also pointed out that Cardinal Wu's Chinese name was Wu Woon-luk. He was born into a Catholic family in Wu Hua County, Guangdong. He was the eldest of four brothers. Although he left home when his youngest brother Tak-luk was only seven, he maintained regular contact with his family through his letters. The family, they said, still lives as peasants in the same county.

Cardinal Wu left his hometown to enter the then South China Seminary in Hong Kong in 1946. His first opportunity to visit his mother and family came 40 years later when he went on an official visit to Guangzhou and other parts of Guangdong Province in 1986.