

Statement on Precious Blood Golden Jubilee School

It is deeply regretted that recent events of the Precious Blood Golden Jubilee School have led to the closure of the School.

The School is a subsidized school and its operation is governed by the Education Ordinance.

The closure of the School was judged necessary by the authorities concerned when the life of the School was disrupted to such an extent that it was no longer possible for the School to function normally. Under such circumstances the students are the ones who suffered most. It is their welfare which is of paramount importance. For this reason, painful though it is, I support the decision of the Education Department and the unanimous conclusion reached by the School Management Committee. I do so in the realisation that arrangements have been or are being made for the students to continue their education under a re-organised set-up.

I will spare no efforts to see to it that the lessons of the recent events are learned by all of us concerned with the future of education in Hong Kong.

For this reason I have entrusted the recently formed Hong Kong Catholic Board of Education with the task of studying in depth and reviewing the overall Catholic education policy in Hong Kong and finding ways and means of improving communications at all levels. I should also disclose that a proposal has been put forward, to which I give my full support, for the setting up of a Conciliation and Arbitration Board in the Diocese.

I take this opportunity to welcome the appointment by the Governor of a Committee of Inquiry consisting of respected members of the community who have not previously been involved in this matter. This, I hope, will provide an opportunity to all concerned to make constructive suggestions to assist the Committee in its task of making recommendations to the Governor in the interest of education in Hong Kong.

+ John Baptist Wu
The Bishop of Hong Kong
16 May 1978