

## Diocesan Renewal

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As you have read in the Catholic press, the Diocese of Hong Kong will shortly begin a Diocesan Renewal Movement. This movement is for all the diocese - priests, laity and religious. We all must remember that it is because “by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us through the Holy Spirit” that we have become “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, God’s own people”. Under the guidance of the same Holy Spirit we will rediscover ourselves in faith, understand our abilities, use our gifts given by the Holy Spirit for the building up of God’s Kingdom now and into the future.

To begin this renewal movement, there will first of all be a renewal seminar for priests from 12 February through 3 March 1984. During this seminar, the priests working in parishes and those in diocesan organisations will be away from their parishes and works for a time of prayer, reflection and study. It is hoped that through this effort they will be able to better serve the faithful in building up our Church in Hong Kong as a true community of faith. Following this renewal seminar, there will be other activities and programmes organised

to enable all facets of our Church life to be renewed.

It is my urgent request that all of us join together in prayer for the success of this movement. Prayer cards will be sent to all the parishes for use by the faithful after Mass and in association gatherings, and all are asked to remember the intention of this movement in your private prayers. There will be a particular intention included in the Prayer of the Faithful each Sunday.

During the renewal seminar for the clergy, some parishes may find that their priests are away from the parish during the weekdays. For the convenience of those parishes, there will be centrally located pastoral service centers which will arrange for funerals and sick calls. On Sundays, there will be regular Sunday Masses. During the weekdays when they are not present, arrangements should be made for the prayer and communion services conducted by lay leaders. Further information on the pastoral service centers and other prayer materials will be sent to parishes.

On Sunday, 1 January 1984, the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, a questionnaire will be distributed to the faithful in all the parishes. The propose of this questionnaire is to determine the basic needs of the

diocese at this time as well as to gather ideas and suggestions from all the faithful. It is essential that all make their ideas and suggestions known through this questionnaire. The questionnaire will also be published in the Catholic press.

Further inquiries and suggestions for this Diocesan Renewal Movement should be directed to the Renewal Committee, C/O Hong Kong Catholic Social Communications office, Catholic Diocese Centre, 16 Caine Road.

Again, I ask your prayers for the success of this movement in our diocese. Let us ask the Lord to pour out his gifts upon us. I ask you all to feel personally committed to this renewal of faith. Each of us should examine our own lives and faith to discern those areas that need renewal.

During this Advent Season, may we ask the Lord to help us prepare for his coming each day of our lives and may we truly live a new life in him.

**+ John Baptist Wu**  
**The Bishop of Hong Kong**  
**2 December 1983**