

On Diocesan Consultation

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“The Church, at all times, carries the responsibility of reading the signs of the time and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel, in order to carry out its task. In language intelligible to every generation, she should be able to answer the ever recurring questions which men ask about the meaning of this present life and of the life to come, and how one is related to the other. We must be aware of and understand the aspirations, the yearnings, and the often dramatic features of the world in which we live”. (Church in the Modern World, No. 4)

Keeping in mind the foregoing teaching of the Church and the future facing Hong Kong, we ask ourselves what direction our Diocese should take in the next ten years, and what are the most urgent tasks that lie ahead of us?

A year ago I established an Ad Hoc Working Group to identify areas of major concern and priorities and to propose a course of action. Their Report was submitted to me last autumn.

Earlier this year I established an “Ad Hoc Committee for Diocesan Consultation”. Their brief was to study and comment on the above Report, and to give their opinions and recommendations on the ways and means of carrying out the consultation, and on the different sectors of the diocese that should be consulted. Their Consultation Paper was presented to me in April.

Having studied and discussed the Paper with the Diocesan Board of Consultors, I have directed that it be published for general consultation. It is my hope and wish that all Catholics in the Diocese will participate wholeheartedly in this. I ask you all to study this Paper carefully, and give us your opinions and suggestions before the 15 September 1988. We will then study and collate your suggestions / recommendations, after which we will form a diocesan policy and carry it out

“Go and make disciples of all the nations; ... and know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time”. (Mt. 28:19-20) This was the last commandment and the last promise of Jesus to the disciples before his Ascension. Dear brothers and sisters, let us be deeply conscious of our vocation and mission in the Church and in the world, trusting in God Our Father who is the Lord of history, in Jesus Christ who is the Saviour of the world, and in the

Holy Spirit who is the life of the Church. Let us walk together into the future with faith and hope, courageously and confidently. United in love with Mary, Mother of the Church, let us build our Diocese into a living community of mature faith.

+ John Baptist Wu
The Bishop of Hong Kong
The Ascension of Our Lord
15 May 1988