

Legislative Council Election

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

1991 marks a significant milestone for the people of Hong Kong when, for the first time, we will be able to exercise our right to vote in direct elections to the Legislative Council. This is not only our right but also our duty. The Second Vatican Council tells us: “Let all Christians appreciate their special and personal vocation in the political community. This vocation requires that they give conspicuous example of devotion to the sense of duty and of service to the advancement of the common good” (Church in the Modern World No. 75). Pope Paul VI puts it even more explicitly, “lay people should take up as their own proper task the renewal of the temporal order... so as to infuse a Christian spirit not only into the mentality and customs of the people, but also into the laws and structures of the community in which they live”. (Pop. Prog. No. 81)

In 1991 we also celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our Diocese. The Theme of the celebration - “hand-in-hand towards the future” - emphasizes that we want to walk in solidarity with all the people of Hong Kong in the years ahead. Let us now put our words into

action by taking an active part in the elections, eagerly casting our vote, so that, by just and fair means, Hong Kong's transition may be accomplished in stable and orderly manner, leading to healthy development. This is the duty of all citizens; but as Christians it is an obligation of our faith, a necessary step in our co-operation with God to care for, renew and sanctify the world.

But to take an active part in the elections requires, first of all, that we register as electors. Thus I exhort all Catholics, eligible to vote, to register immediately - the deadline is 20 November 1990. Parishes should appeal to their parishioners to do their utmost to fulfil this duty, even organising ways of facilitating the faithful to register in time.

May Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, pray for the success of the elections, for peace and prosperity, democracy and freedom for Hong Kong.

+ John Baptist Cardinal Wu
The Bishop of Hong Kong
Our Lady of the Rosary 1990