

## Our Right and Duty to Vote

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last October I wrote to you about the Legislative Council Election and its importance for our city and community. In that letter I appealed to you to register as voters. I now write to remind you of your right and your duty to cast your votes on 15 September.

In this Encyclical Letter, *Centesimus Annus*, published in May, the Holy Father has this to say: "The Church values the democratic system inasmuch as it ensures the participation of citizens in making political choices and guarantees to the governed the possibility of electing and holding accountable those who govern them" (No. 46). Further on, in the same number, the Pope emphasizes the need to create "structures of participation and shared responsibility." The mind of the Holy Father is abundantly clear.

This August the Council of Priests, the Council of Laity, the Justice and Peace Commission and the Catholic Institute for Religion and Society, sponsored a Forum in each of the nine electoral areas of Hong Kong. The object was to give you an opportunity of meeting your area

candidates and hearing their views, and so to help you to decide whom to vote for in the coming elections. This initiative was highly significant and the results were encouraging.

In this connection I would like to quote from the Church in the Modern World of Vatican II: “Every citizen ought to be mindful of his right and his duty to promote the common good by using his vote” (No. 75). I earnestly exhort all of you who are qualified, to exercise this right and this duty on 15 September.

Let us pray for the success of the elections, for peace and prosperity, freedom and democracy in Hong Kong. May God, through Jesus Christ, do in us what pleases Him. To Him be glory for ever and ever! Amen. (Heb. 13:21)

**+ John Baptist Cardinal Wu**  
**The Bishop of Hong Kong**  
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