

## Installation of Bishop Peter Lei of Hong Kong

**B**ISHOP Peter W. K. Lei was installed as Bishop of Hong Kong in the presence of an immense over-flow congregation in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, April 20.

The Papal Bull of nomination was read by Archbishop D. Simon Lourdasamy, Secretary of the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

A strictly limited number of seats in the Cathedral had been reserved for representatives of parishes, associations and religious congregations and for a few representative individuals. The rest of the Cathedral was left free for the public at large.

The vast congregation that gathered spontaneously joined with enthusiastic ardour in the solemn ceremony.

Many of those present felt that the most impressive part of the whole ceremony was the Communion: it seemed that all the faithful were joining their Bishop in the Sacrament of Union. After Holy Communion came another striking promise of unity: the priests' pledge of loyalty to their Bishop.

## BISHOP LEI'S SERMON

**M**Y dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
A year ago we lost our beloved Bishop Francis Hsu.

I have now been called to succeed him to the Diocese of Hong Kong. To be Bishop of Hong Kong is a great responsibility which becomes awesome when it involves succeeding two Bishops whom so many of us remember and loved so much—Bishop Bianchi and Bishop Hsu—two Bishops of different talents but each of whom gave so much.

It has not been easy for me to accept, and face up to, this responsibility; it would be too much for me were it not that I can call upon so much help—help from God and help from my collaborators, the priests and religious working with me in this Diocese, and from the faithful whom we serve. All this is a source of support and inspiration.

To God I pray, especially at this my Installation ceremony, that he will give me the strength to support my weakness unworthy though I am. Without Him my work will be in vain.

To all the priests and religious working with me in Hong Kong of whatever origin and whatever nationality I give special thanks for their support and loyalty during the past year and I am confident I can count on their continued co-operation during the coming years. In this cosmopolitan society of Hong Kong, at the beginning of this our plural age, and in these material times, we need that strong spiritual leadership which can only come from a firm unity of all the various talents and experiences which we find today among the clergy and religious here—a unity which can only grow out of a selfless enthusiasm for spreading and establishing the word of God in the hearts of the Faithful: and out of a brotherly love founded on that personal sacrifice to which priests and religious are dedicated—a brotherly love which involves deep charity and care and consideration for others, irrespective of age, race and outlook—a brotherly love which involves giving more than receiving.

To all our Faithful and to those of our friends not of our Fold I express my appreciation and gratitude for the support and loyalty you give to our Diocese. Your good will and sincerity are my encouragement to take up the appointment to which I have been called.

All these matters give me the assurance and confidence to accept this appointment and to make my pledge to the Holy See.

Today, in the presence of Archbishop Simon Lourdasamy, Secretary of the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and of you all, I make my pledge of loyalty again to the Vicar of Christ, our Holy Father. I sincerely wish that he, as successor of Peter, who had been entrusted by Our Lord with the task of strengthening his brethren, will strengthen me, the least of his brethren!

The Bishop, as a father, should be ready to show love and concern to each and every one; and, as a Pastor, should be prepared to lead his flock to Christ. Such a father and pastor, I wish to be. The Good Shepherd is always ready to give all of himself for his flock, and I wish to be such a Shepherd. But to be all of this I need your prayers and God's grace.

Let us all now go forward in unity to promote God's Kingdom, a Kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace.

May almighty God bless us all!

## PAPAL BULL

### Paul, Bishop, Servant of the Servants of God

To our venerable Brother PETER LEI WANG KEI, titular Bishop of Ottaba, promoted to the Cathedral See of Hong Kong, health and Apostolic Blessing.

On the 3rd day of the month of July in the year 1971, you were elected to the titular See of Ottaba, in order to assist zealously, as Auxiliary, the residential Bishop of Hong Kong. Today you are called to undertake greater tasks in that Church: to take charge of all its pastoral activities.

Following the death of Most Rev. Francis Chen-Ping Hsu, the beloved Bishop of Hong Kong, a worthy successor had to be designated. In this matter we decided to accept the advice of the S. Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples, which—acting on the recommendation of the prelate at present in charge of the Apostolic Nunciature in China—proposed that you, venerable Brother, be appointed. Consequently, by virtue of our Apostolic Authority, we release you from the titular See of Ottaba and promote you to the Cathedral See of Hong Kong, granting you all the rights and imposing on you all the obligations which pertain to your new dignity and office.

We dispense you from renewing the profession of faith, anything to the contrary notwithstanding. You shall, however, take the oath of loyalty to Us and our Successors, in the presence of a Bishop of your choice, and the formulary of the oath, properly signed and sealed, you shall return to the S. Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples.

We order, moreover, that this letter, in the manner you will yourself dispose, be read publicly in the Cathedral Church, in a day of obligation, to the clergy and people. Taking this occasion, we exhort your clergy and people not only to receive you, whose gifts of mind and heart they know so well, as their pastor and father, but also to obey henceforth all orders you, in your prudent judgment, will deem more conducive to their own greater benefit.

Lastly, venerable Brother, we join our prayers to yours, beseeching that God, the giver of everything that is good, may grant you to ponder unceasingly over whatever concerns the upholding and the advancement of the Christian religion, and to carry out your conclusions with the utmost diligence.

Given in Rome, at St. Peter's, on the 25th day of the month of October, in the year of the Lord 1973, 11th of our Pontificate.

John Card. VILLOT,	Secretary of State.
Edward Martinez,	Joseph Del Ton, Protonotary Apost.
Assessor	Eugene Sevi, Protonotary Apostolic.