

# **Catholic Church updates: April 2010**

## **13 general Updates and two at the end on Matteo Ricci.**

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Agenzia Fides - [www.fides.org](http://www.fides.org)  
ASIA/CHINA

Month of May opens with pilgrimages to Marian Shrines

Hai Ning (Agenzia Fides) – At the beginning of this month of May, China's Catholics are manifesting deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary with pilgrimages to the various Marian Shrines in the country and also in preparation for the World Day of Prayer for the Catholic Church in China on 24 May, launched by Pope Benedict XVI. Xia Shi parish in the city of Hai Ning, in the Chinese province of Zhe Jiang, opened the month of May with a solemn pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine of She Shan, following the indications contained in the Letter addressed by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, in 2007 to Chinese Catholics. Hundreds of parishioners set out at dawn on Saturday 1 May for the Marian Shrine of She Shan. After hymns, meditation, prayers, the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross, on arriving they took part in a solemn Mass presided by 90 year of Bishop Jin Lu Xian of Shang Hai, to live together the opening of the month of May dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The diocese of Ji Nan, Shan Dong Province, opened Marian celebrations at the local Shrine dedicated to Our Lady. Some 2,000 faithful of the diocese of Ji Nan gathered at the local Marian Shrine with the diocesan Bishop, clergy and women religious. This initiative marked the first of a month of deeply spiritual events planned in the diocese. The Bishop of Ji Nan, Bishop Zhang, said the aim was to “lead the faithful through Mary to Jesus”. (NZ) (Agenzia Fides 05/05/2010 - righe 22; parole 228)

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UCA News - [www.ucanews.com](http://www.ucanews.com)

CHINA - Young newshounds quiz priests and nuns closely

Published Date: May 6, 2010

YUEQING, China (UCAN) — About 130 high school and university students have got to know a little more about Religious life and the inner selves of priests and nuns at a recent vocation camp in Wenzhou diocese, Zhejiang province in eastern China.

During a mock “press conference” session, the young Catholics got the chance to put the priests and nuns on the spot with questions like: Do you regret becoming a priest? Why don’t you get married? Did you ever fall in love before taking up religious orders?

“Their sharp and to-the-point questions came as a surprise, but we tried to give frank answers to help them understand that a Religious is also an ordinary person,” Sacred Heart Sister Jin Delan told UCA News.

“I believe they now have a better understanding of what vocation is all about through this interaction,” she noted.

The vocation camp was held as part of the Year for Priests celebrations in Yueqing parish May 2-3 during the Golden Week holidays in mainland China. As well as the “press conference,” the camp also included Masses, prayers, Bible sharing and entertainment programs.

Mengyi, a high-school student, told UCA News that she had never visited a seminary or convent, so the camp allowed her to learn more about Religious life.

Though she did not know if she would become a nun in the future, Mengyi said she would be willing to experience life in a convent.

Father Lu, parish priest of Yueqing, said the camp was designed to be fun and light hearted as most of the participants do not have a solid foundation in their Catholic faith.

Father Xue, the assistant parish priest, said the camp was a much needed activity since the diocese is currently experiencing a “vocational drought” with no new priestly vocations for a decade.

“We do not expect an immediate effect but we hope the activity might sow the seeds of vocation in their hearts. It is God’s work whether they walk the vocation path or not,” he said.

As well as the local priests and nuns, Brother Michael from the Congregation of St. John the Baptist and nuns from neighboring Jiangxi province also helped stage the camp.

The first Wenzhou diocese vocation camp was held in 2004 at Brother Michael’s suggestion. He said three young women among the 32 participants at that camp eventually joined the Sacred Heart Sisters.

Such an activity has profound meaning to young people living in a world of consumerism and secularism, Brother Michael said.

CH09642/1600 May 6, 2010 38 EM-lines (416 word)

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## **Vatican Posts Canon Law in Chinese**

**VATICAN CITY, MAY 4, 2010 (Zenit.org).- The Holy See added the Code of Canon Law to the Chinese section of its Web site, L'Osservatore Romano reported.**

**The Vatican's semiofficial newspaper noted that an online Chinese version of canon law is now available, and that additional texts from the Second Vatican Council would become available in that language in the coming months.**

**The Holy See launched the Chinese section of its Web site over a year ago, which includes both traditional and simplified Chinese characters.**

**In March, the Holy See added the Catechism of the Catholic Church to the Chinese section. Earlier additions to the site have included the Bible and various documents from the Second Vatican Council.**

**The Web site of the Holy See is currently available in eight languages: Italian, English, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Latin and Chinese.**

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**\_\_\_Agenzia Fides - [www.fides.org](http://www.fides.org)**

**ASIA/CHINA**

## **Catholics celebrate the Feast of the Patron Saint of Workers and the opening of the Marian month of May, looking towards 24 May, World Day of Prayer for the Catholic Church in China**

**Cang Zhou (Agenzia Fides) – On the eve of the opening of the Marian Month of May and the celebration of the Patron Saint of Workers, St Joseph, many Catholics in China went on pilgrimage to Marian Shrines to pay homage to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to her “most chaste spouse”, Saint Joseph. Local sources told Fides News Agency that many chose to visit the She Shan Marian Shrine, in the diocese Shang Hai, in response to Pope Benedict XVI's Letter to Chinese Catholics dated 27 May 2007, and to prepare**

for 24 May, World Day of Prayer for the Catholic Church in China. Chinese Catholics, deeply devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, live the month of May with spiritual intensity.

In the diocese of Cang Zhou, He Bei Province, Fan Ga Da Catholic parish dedicated to St Joseph started the Marian month on 30 April with an evening pilgrimage to the Marian shrine known as the Village of Our Lady of Lourdes. The faithful were guided by three priests. The following day the parish celebrated the feast day of St Joseph the Worker, Patron Saint of workers and of the parish, with a solemn Mass during which 4 women religious of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus made temporary vows. The parish is preparing to welcome Catholics from Beijing, Tian Jin and other dioceses, on 9 May, as part of an inter-diocesan pilgrimage for the Month of Mary. The St. Francis Caritas group in Pu Ning parish, Guang Dong province, paid homage to St Joseph with an 'ecological' feast, in the footsteps of Saint Francis, offering thanks to God, Creator of all creation.

The Franciscan Tertiary community of Xian Yang, in Shaan Xi province, welcomed 37 new members on the eve of the Month of Mary. Among those present for the ceremony, which took place in St Peter's parish, the Assistant spiritual Director of Franciscan Tertiary International, the Director of the Asia zone and the Director of Hong Kong. (NZ) (Agenzia Fides 03/05/2010 - righe 30; parole 349)

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\_\_\_UCA News - [www.ucanews.com](http://www.ucanews.com)

## **CHINA - Catholics and Buddhists join in quake aid effort**

**Published Date: May 4, 2010**

**HONG KONG (UCAN) — Catholic relief workers are cooperating with Tibetan Buddhist lamas to bring relief aid to the earthquake victims in Qinghai province.**

**By the end of April, the joint operations had delivered five electricity generators and 30 tons of fresh vegetables to Yushu county, the center of the damage from the quake.**

**One of the beneficiaries of the aid, Venerable Minam Rinpoche, 44, a lama who runs a four-story library near the epicenter of the quake said he was touched by the interreligious cooperation.**

**It was “opening a new page in history,” he told Hebei Faith Press, a sister organization of Catholic social services group Jinde.**

**He hoped to see further cooperation that would enhance friendship between Catholics and Buddhists as well as between ethnic Han and Tibetans.**

**“As the disaster area has no electricity yet, we have encountered difficulties in daily life such as using mobile phones and computers. The generator can really help our library a lot,” Rinpoche said.**

**His library, which opened in 2007, was severely damaged when 90 percent of the town’s buildings were collapsed. However, all 50,000 books and scriptures of Buddhist, Christian and other religions remained intact, he said.**

**Even before the joint work with the Buddhists, Catholic social service groups were banding together to bring relief to survivors of the April 14 quake.**

**The Relief Office, jointly set up by the Shijiazhuang-based Jinde Charities and the Catholic Social Services Center of Xi’an diocese, sent a 2,000-kilowatt electricity generator to a resettlement zone on April 28 to solve the survivors’ lighting problem.**

**After discussions with Buddhist lamas and workers, the office donated another four generators to Buddhist institutions in Yushu – the library, a temple, an orphanage and an institute for higher education.**

**They also helped arrange transportation of relief aids donated by Buddhist faithful in Beijing and Shanghai.**

**Pang Baoliang, the Relief Office’s vice-director from Xi’an, told UCA News that working with the lamas had made the delivery of relief materials easier and faster.**

**More than 2,000 died in the quake and 10,000 were injured, mostly ethnic Tibetans.**

**Despite instances of mountain sickness, Church workers had begun to deliver relief immediately after assessing the victims’ needs with the help of priests of Xining diocese, Pang said.**

**To centralize resources, the relief office was then formed in Xining, provincial capital of Qinghai. They also invited Catholics from the local and neighboring Lanzhou dioceses to join as they are more accustomed to a higher altitude environment.**

**HK09607/1600 May 4, 2010 42 EM-lines (409 words)**

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**— Agenzia Fides - [www.fides.org](http://www.fides.org)  
ASIA/CHINA**

**Catholics on the continent living faith intensely during Easter Season**

**Beijing (Agenzia Fides) – During the Easter Season, Chinese Catholics are living out their life of faith through various initiatives, such as pilgrimages, formation meetings, and retreats. According to information received by Fides, 32 Tibetan faithful on pilgrimage in the Diocese to Xi An were deeply moved after attending the Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Joseph Dang, diocesan bishop, as they had never seen a bishop in their lives. Some of them really cannot even see a priest more than once a year. To respond to the pressing desire of these pilgrims to attend a Mass celebrated by a bishop, both Bishop Dang himself and the pastor of the Cathedral showed their maximum availability in changing the Mass schedule. Four Tibetan faithful, wearing the distinctive luxurious Tibetan dress and visibly moved, brought gifts to the altar at the offertory. Then they knelt before the Eucharist for a long time. According to the faithful present, it was a "moving experience of faith" through which they could live an "intense spiritual pilgrimage," experiencing the grace of the Lord, and feeling "a duty to bear witness to the faith." Moreover, the Marian Shrine, the Shrine of the Cross of the Diocese of Xi An, welcomed the Tibetan Catholics on their pilgrimage with warmth and sympathy.**

**Among other initiatives that have marked the life of the ecclesial communities in China at this time, we recall the annual retreat on the theme: "Encounter with God in Love," which brought together seventy faithful in the area of Fu Hu, in the An Hui Province. In three days of intense spiritual "re-charge," under the guidance of priests and religious, the participants shared their thoughts and their prayers on three themes: "God is the God Who Lives With Me," "Suffering with Jesus," and "Renewed Love." The 21 main lay groups of the Diocese of Nan Chong have been able to hold a formation meeting with the faithful of Wan Zhou. Bishop He Ze Qing, Bishop of Wan Zhou, presided at the opening of the meeting, encouraging those present to have a vision of the Universal Church and be ready to preach the Gospel with determination. (NZ) (Agenzia Fides 29/04/2010)**

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## **Taizé Leader Presents Pope With Chinese Bible Community Distributed 1 Million Copies in 2009**

**By Anita S. Bourdin**

**VATICAN CITY, APRIL 27, 2010 (Zenit.org).- When Brother Alois Loser, the leader of the ecumenical Taizé community, met with Benedict XVI last week, he brought with him a Bible in Chinese.**

**Last Thursday, Brother Alois presented to the Pope the ecumenical community's latest initiative to aid the Christian community in China by publishing and distributing free of charge one million Bibles throughout the country.**

**In a letter written from China, Brother Alois explained that the project is a "a sign of friendship and gratitude to the Christians in China."**

**The initiative, carried out through Operation Hope, was announced in 2008 at a meeting of young people in Brussels. Brother Alois noted at that time that the community would publish 200,000 complete Bibles and 800,000 New Testaments with the Psalms.**

**The Bibles were printed in Nanjing, China, and from there the books were sent in successive stages throughout the country during 2009.**

**Brother Alois has met annually with Benedict XVI for the last five years, thus following in the footsteps of Taizé's founder, Brother Roger, who met every year with John XXIII, Paul VI and John Paul II.**

**Since the first months of his new ministry, accompanied by other brothers, Brother Alois has also visited other Christian leaders, such as Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, the members of the Ecumenical Council of Churches gathered in Porto Alegre, Brazil, deceased Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexis II and the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams.**

**"With these visits, I would like to show that with my brothers we seek passionately communion among Christians," explained Brother Alois. "In Taizé we would like to contribute to give greater visibility to the communion that, in Christ, already exists among all the baptized."**

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**\_Agenzia Fides - [www.fides.org](http://www.fides.org)  
ASIA/CHINA**

## **Catholic aid continues to reach earthquake zone, where sisters offer medical and psychological attention**

**Xi Ning (Agenzia Fides) – Aid for earthquake victims continues to be collected and distributed through the network of the Chinese and international Catholic community, in response to the appeal made by Pope Benedict XVI. Five 2,000-kilowatt generators of electricity and 30 tons of fresh vegetables arrived in the earthquake zone of Yu Shu in the Province of Qinghai that was affected by the severe 7.1 earthquake on April 14 of this year.**

**According to a report sent to Fides from Jinde Charities, the idea of sending generators and vegetables came about from a casual conversation between Fr. J. B. Zhang – head of the Chinese Catholic institution responsible for coordinating charity efforts in**

**collaboration with Caritas International and Caritas in different countries - with a Tibetan monk.**

**On April 24, during his layover at the Beijing Airport en route to the earthquake zone, Fr. Zhang met a Tibetan monk that was also working as an aid coordinator for the earthquake victims. Asking his opinion about the needs of earthquake victims, the monk suggested precisely the generators and fresh vegetables, which he thought were the most urgent needs. Fr. Zhang immediately contacted the Emergency Office of Jinde Charities, Caritas Germany, and the Center for Social Services of the Diocese of Xi An, who are collaborating closely to assist earthquake victims. On April 26, just two days later, 5 electric generators and 30 tons of fresh vegetables, nutritious and easy to store, reached the recipients. The five electric generators were allocated to the orphanage, the Tibetan Buddhist temple, the Buddhist Institute, the municipal library, and the authority of the Tibetan Autonomous Region of Yu Shu.**

**Meanwhile, the Chinese religious, from different religious congregations mainland, continue their rescue work tirelessly. Although some symptoms begin to appear as a result of the altitude (the site of the earthquake is in an inaccessible area, at 4,300 meters above sea level and has sharp contrasts in temperature), the sisters are active in every area, without neglecting, of course, their prayer life. Every day they go to various centers to offer medical and psychological support to earthquake victims. The 10 religious visit an average of about 200 patients a day, at times walking distances of tens of kilometers. 4 religious are serving in two orphanages. Only on April 24, after 8 days of non-stop rescue work, the sisters were able to eat a hot meal for the first time. (NZ) (Agenzia Fides 28/04/2010)**

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**Agenzia Fides - [www.fides.org](http://www.fides.org)  
ASIA/CHINA**

**Day of Prayer for Vocations in China marked by priestly ordinations, renewal of vows, prayer for vocations and for earthquake victims**

**Zheng Zhou (Agenzia Fides) – The priestly ordinations, renewal of vows, prayers for vocations and for the earthquake victims of Yu Shu all formed a part of the celebration of World Day of Prayer for Vocations in Catholic communities in several mainland Chinese, in communion with the Universal Church, yesterday, Sunday, April 25, IV Sunday of Easter. According to information received by our agency, following the theme set by the Holy Father Benedict XVI for the World Day 2010 - “Witness Awakens Vocations” - the different Chinese Catholic communities had the Sunday Mass in which several priests were ordained and religious took their first vows or renewed their vows, praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Everyone joined in**

praying for the earthquake victims, as well as for the priests, nuns, and all those who are still working hard on the frontline, offering assistance.

Fr. J. B. Zhang, head of Jinde Charities, the Chinese Catholic institution that coordinates aid from the Catholic Church on an international level along with Caritas from different countries, arrived in the earthquake zone with many Chinese priests and superiors of female religious congregations, to study the best way in which to continue the work of aid. On this Day of Prayer for Vocations, they prayed for all priests and nuns who work on the frontline in relief for earthquake victims, as well as for an increase in vocations from China and worldwide.

In the Cathedral of the Diocese of Zheng Zhou, the faithful and the whole community prayed during the ordination of diocesan Deacon Zhang Yun Yan, for vocations for the diocese and for the people affected by the earthquake. The faithful actively participated in the ceremony, appreciating the close connection between the life of the Church and society. (NZ) (Agenzia Fides 26/04/2010)

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\_\_UCA News - [www.ucanews.com](http://www.ucanews.com)

## **CHINA - Haimen ordains new bishop with papal mandate**

**Published Date: April 21, 2010**

**NANTONG, China (UCAN) —** The new bishop of Haimen in eastern China's Jiangsu province says he will give top priority of his episco-pal ministry to formation and charitable service.

**Bishop Joseph Shen Bin, 40,** was ordained with both papal mandate and government recognition at the Good Shepherd Cathedral in Nantong city on April 21.

The ordination was a sign that China may be making greater con-cessions and will tolerate some bishop candidates with papal mandates, Church observers told UCA News.

In the past, China did not allow any bishop candidate to be or-dained if it knew he had papal mandate, they said. Both sides were now more realistic and prepared to make compromises.

The ordination took place three days after Bishop Paul Meng Qinglu was ordained the bishop of Hohhot in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The main celebrant was Bishop Johan Fang Xinyao of Linyi from Shandong province, assisted by Bishops Francis Lu Xinping of Nanjing and Joseph Xu Honggen of Suzhou, both from Jiangsu.

Coadjutor Bishop John Wang Renlei of Xuzhou, also from Jiangsu, concelebrated the ordination Mass. All prelates are Vatican approved except Bishop Wang, who was ordained without a papal mandate in 2006.

Some 30 priests and 1,500 laypeople attended the liturgy.

Bishop Shen told UCA News that he will give top priority to the ongoing formation of his priests, nuns and laypeople.

The diocese would also expand its services to the needy, he said.

Born to a Catholic family in 1970, Bishop Shen graduated from the National Seminary in Beijing and was ordained a priest in 1996. He served in parishes until he worked in the diocesan curia since 2002. He was appointed vicar general in 1999.

His predecessor Bishop Matthew Yu Chengcai, who was not recognized by the Vatican, died at the age of 89 in 2006.

The diocese currently has nine priests, 21 nuns, three seminarians and 30,000 Catholics, who are mostly farmers and workers.

Haimen was one of the first native apostolic vicariates and its first Bishop Simon Zhu Kaimin was among the first batch of six Chinese bishops ordained by Pope Pius XI in Rome in 1926.

CH09500/1598 April 21, 2010 36 EM-lines (351 words)

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**[UCA News - www.ucanews.com](http://www.ucanews.com)**

**CHINA - First mainland bishop ordained in two years**

**Published Date: April 19, 2010**

HOHHOT, China (UCAN) — The diocese of Hohhot in northern China welcomed a new bishop on April 18 after five years without one.

Bishop Paul Meng Qinglu, 47, was ordained the seventh bishop of Hohhot, based in the capital of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

He was the first bishop ordained in mainland China since December 2007.

During the ordination at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral, Bishop Meng lay prostrate before the altar as the congregation prayed the Litany of the Saints. He then knelt in front of the main celebrant, Bishop Paul Pei Junmin of Liaoning, to receive the miter, episcopal ring and crozier.

Concelebrating prelates included Bishops John Liu Shigong of Jining and Matthias Du Jiang of Bameng, both from Inner Mongolia, and Bishop Joseph Li Jing of Ningxia, who conducted a three-day retreat for Bishop Meng right before the ordination.

Some 80 priests from Hohhot and four other dioceses in Inner Mongolia, who were mostly his classmates and students from the seminary, also concelebrated the Mass.

Local Catholics said all the 500 tickets for seats in the church and 2,000 tickets for places in the courtyard were taken up.

Many laypeople could not enter the church compound to attend the ordination Mass.

Bishop Meng told UCA News April 19 that since the diocese has had no bishop for five years, the priests have become used to managing their parishes in their own way. Bringing diocesan management back 'on track'

"I will strive to bring diocesan management back on the right track so that pastoral and evangelistic work will be gradually enhanced," he said.

The bishop received a papal mandate and the approval of the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China (BCCCC) for his ordination.

He was elected as bishop candidate in June 2005, a month after his predecessor Bishop John Baptist Wang Xixian died, aged 79.

Bishop Meng recalled that he had endured pressure and difficulties during the five years he has been preparing for his episcopal ministry.

His application to the BCCCC had been put on hold during the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 and the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China last year, he said.

Born to a Catholic family, Bishop Meng entered the Inner Mongolia Seminary in 1985 and was ordained a priest four years later. He had taught moral theology and other subjects as well as served as the academic dean until 1999.

Bishop Wang assigned him to build new churches and serve as parish priest from 2000 to 2003. He has also taken up leading posts in the government-sanctioned Catholic Patriotic Association and Church Affairs Committee of Inner Mongolia since 2001.

When Bishop Wang became gravely ill in 2004, he entrusted diocesan affairs to the then Father Meng.

Hohhot diocese currently has 21 priests serving 65,000 Catholics.

The regional seminary has suspended operation four years ago for want of students but did not officially close down. Seminarians are sent to study in different seminaries across China, Bishop Meng said.

Catholicism was introduced to Inner Mongolia in the 18th century. The extensive region, including Hohhot, had been served by missionaries of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary until the 1950s.

CH09470.1598 April 19, 2010 65 EM-lines (533 words)

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**Agenzia Fides - [www.fides.org](http://www.fides.org)  
ASIA/CHINA**

### **“Fruits of faith and evangelization” harvested at Easter: new statistics on catechumens who have received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation**

Beijing (Agenzia Fides) – Fides continues to receive statistics on the number of catechumens that entered the Church during the solemn Easter Vigil celebrated by Ecclesial Base Communities in mainland China, receiving the Sacraments of Christian initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). While still awaiting the full statistics, we present these "fruits of faith and evangelization" collected during Easter.

In the Diocese of Ning Xia, a group of about ninety people received the sacraments, in the Vigil and on Easter Sunday. In the Cathedral of Yin Chuan, Bishop Joseph Li Jin administered the Sacraments of Christian Initiation to 23 catechumens. In the district of Cheng An in the Diocese of Han Dan, in the He Bei Province, which has 370,000 inhabitants, 13,000 of whom are Catholics, on Easter 2010 welcomed 99 catechumens who received the Sacraments. In the parish of Xi Liu, in the Province of Shaan Xi, 10 catechumens received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation "finally found the true meaning of life. And now they're even prepared to be witnesses of faith."

In the Cathedral of the Diocese of Tai Yuan, in the Shan Xi province, over 3,000 faithful attended the solemn celebration of the Easter Vigil, during which Baptism was administered to 55 catechumens and Confirmation and First Communion to 10. The parish of Sha Gou of the same diocese, saw 28 adults and 24 children enter the family of the children of God. The parish of Liu He welcomed 81 new members of the Church and organized a festival of brotherhood to welcome everyone, giving neophytes copy of Sacred Scripture, the Rosary, and the Liturgy of the Hours. On April 5, Easter Monday, the pastor baptized 60 babies as well. In the parish of Bo Xing, in the Province of Shan Dong, 21 adult catechumens received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Vigil, and another 5 during the Solemn Eucharist on Easter Day. The parish of Xi Gao welcomed 11 new brothers and sisters as members of the Christian family. (NZ) (Agenzia Fides 12/04/2010)

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## **CHINA - Bameng bishop says he now has space to work**

**Published Date: April 9, 2010**

**HONG KONG (UCAN) — The local Church will have more space to work on formation and evangelization following his installation, Bishop Matthias Du Jiang of Bameng (Shaanba) told UCA News April 9.**

The bishop, who was secretly consecrated in 2004, was openly installed on April 8 at the Shaanba Church.

The ceremony meant he could now perform his episcopal ministry normally, he said.

One problem caused by not being allowed to perform his episcopal ministry over the past years was that he could not ordain deacons as priests even when they had finished their seminary studies years before, the prelate said.

He expected some priestly ordinations could be held later this month.

Bishop Du said security officials had him under surveillance during his installation.

“I would say [I was] under watch” by government officials since the day before, Bishop Du told UCA News by phone. He could not be reached by phone until April 9.

“They feared I would walk away. Now they have all gone.”

Bishop Du also said that the clergy, nuns and laypeople negotiated with the government officials who demanded that Bishop Joseph Ma Yinglin of Kunming, who was ordained without papal mandate in 2006, would not be the main celebrant for the installation Mass.

Bishop Ma was seated among the priests during the Mass, he said.

The diocese has 25 priests, 27 nuns and three deacons to serve 40,000 Catholics.

CH09383/1596 April 9, 2010 26 EM-lines (229 words)

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UCA News - [www.ucanews.com](http://www.ucanews.com)

**CHINA - Beijing recognizes open Bishop of Bameng**

**Published Date: April 8, 2010**

**HONG KONG (UCAN) – Bishop Matthias Du Jiang of Bameng (Shaanba) has been openly installed on April 8, almost six years after he was clandestinely consecrated in 2004.**

The ceremony at the Sanshenggong Church meant the government now officially recognizes the Vatican-approved prelate as the head of the government-approved Church community of Bameng – or the Bayan Nur League – in the western part of Inner Mongolia.

Bishop Joseph Ma Yinglin of Kunming, vice-chairperson of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association (CCPA) who arrived from Beijing, concelebrated the installation Mass.

The 90-minute ceremony was joined by 300 Catholics and 20 priests from local and neighboring dioceses.

Among them was Father Paul Meng Qinglu of Hohhot who will be ordained on April 18 with papal mandate and approval from the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China.

Church sources told UCA News the atmosphere has been tense in recent days as there were many government officials and public security officers around. The Internet and phone systems were also under surveillance.

Bishop Du was born on Nov. 20, 1963 and ordained a priest in 1989. He has been the parish priest of Sanshenggong Church since 1997 and was appointed the vicar general of the diocese three years later.

He was secretly consecrated on May 7 2004 just before the funeral of his predecessor Bishop Francis Xavier Guo Zhengji who died on May 3.

The government did not recognize Bishop Du's episcopal status as it did not go through the process of "self-election and self-ordination."

Bishop Du has until now not been allowed to perform episcopal ministry but he could wear a red hat and crucifix in solemn Masses and Church activities without any intervention, sources said.

"I think the bishop's working in a low profile way despite encountering many difficulties has finally gained the recognition that he deserves," one of the sources said, adding that all the bishop's priests are united with him.

There are about 40,000 Catholics in the open Church community of Bameng, where in the same region there is also an underground community led by 92-year-old Bishop Joseph Ma Zhongmu, an ethnic Mongolian.

CH09366/1596 April 8, 2010 33 EM-lines (350 words)

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UCA News - [www.ucanews.com](http://www.ucanews.com)

CHINA - Bishop apologizes for priests' 'imperfections'

Published Date: April 1, 2010

XIANXIAN, China (UCAN) — The bishop of Cangzhou (Xianxian) diocese, which has the most priests in China, pledged during a Holy Thursday Chrism Mass to model his life and work on Jesus.

Bishop Joseph Li Liangui of Cangzhou presided at the Mass in the early morning of April 1, together with 104 diocesan priests and retired Bishop Luke Liu Hsien-tang of Hsinchu from Taiwan, a Cangzhou native.

About 600 Catholics attended the liturgy that began at 5.30 am at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral in Xianxian county, Hebei province.

In his homily, Bishop Li apologized for the priests' "imperfect and unsatisfactory service" and asked Catholics to pray for them.

"Jesus is our teacher and we should learn from Him continually," the 46-year-old prelate said.

He also encouraged his priests to strive to carry out their ministries despite the challenges facing the clergy in China.

The bishop explained to UCA News after the service that, due to the diocese's financial limitations, none of his priests has a car except him.

"We have considered the economic plight of our faithful and do not want to widen our gap with them," he said.

During the Mass, all priests renewed the commitments they made during their ordination. Bishop Li blessed the holy oils for his diocese and Shijiazhuang diocese as Bishop Paul Jiang Taoran of the diocese has retired.

Father Joseph Yu Rusong, diocesan chancellor and the cathedral's pastor, told UCA News that he felt strong solidarity among all diocesan clerics through the Mass.

"Our diocese does not have talented priests or good resources but solidarity is our biggest asset," he noted.

Under the leadership of Bishop Li, who was ordained in 2000, Cangzhou diocese currently has nearly 120 priests, 260 nuns and 70 seminarians, serving about 60,000 Catholics.

According to the prelate, who celebrated the 10th anniversary of his episcopal ordination in March, the diocese has the largest number of priests in mainland China. All the diocese's priests, except a few who are studying abroad and serving in other dioceses, concelebrated the Chrism Mass.

CH09300/1595 April 1, 2010 36 EM-lines (352 words)

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**UCA News - [www.ucanews.com](http://www.ucanews.com)**

**CHINA - Bishop pledges devotion to Jesus in Chrism Mass**

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VATICAN - CHINA

Cardinal Zen returns to address the Church of Baoding and the case of Mgr. Shuxin

by Card. Joseph Zen Zekiun, sdb

With "truth and charity" the Holy See is mending the unity of the Church of Baoding (Hebei) after the decision of the (coadjutor) bishop Francis An Shuxin to join the official Church, becoming vice president of local Patriotic Association. But certain interpretations put forward in an article in the magazine 30Days, penned by Gianni Valente, force Card. Joseph Zen to make some clarifications.

Hong Kong (AsiaNews) - I am sorry to have to publicly rebuke a reporter who has been my friend for a long time.

To an article by Gianni Valente that appeared in the December 2009 issue of 30 Giorni (issue No. 12), I answered by briefly pointing out only the inaccuracies of fact in his accusations against me. I could have dealt more at length with that article which was strangely tendentious. For example, he used the adjective "inquisitorial" to describe the interview with Bishop An Shuxin by the Director of the Internet site "Chinese Church On-line", an interview which, in my opinion, was conducted with surprisingly high professional fairness and which was published after revision by, and with the approval of, the person interviewed.

This time I must decidedly express my disapproval of Gianni Valente's latest article that appeared in the January 2010 issue of 30 Giorni, entitled "Litterae communionis between Rome and Baoding", which deals with the letter addressed to Bishop An Shuxin by the Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone. I cannot keep my peace, because I find this article unfairly one-sided, arrogantly judgmental, and manipulative of such an authoritative document from the Holy See, if not from the Holy Father himself.

The title "Litterae communionis" aroused in me the expectation of finding in the article the expression of something like a sincere joy for the just and balanced assessment of this sorrowful case, with the hope that this would finally bring back that harmony which, in that ecclesial community, has been for so long damaged. Instead, to my chagrin, what I find in this article is a stubborn defence of the author's one-sided position in this controversy, and a distorted interpretation of Cardinal Bertone's letter, with the danger of causing a sea of misunderstandings.

I try to prove my judgment (I am aware it is a judgment) by analyzing a few expressions in Gianni Valente's article.

1. The priests who accused Bishop An Shuxin of “betrayal” did so (rightly or wrongly), not because of the simple fact that he has come out of the clandestine situation, but because of the way he did so. I am not acquainted with those priests and I do not know whether they are all saints, and I certainly disapprove the many things they did during this past period of confrontation. However, to anybody with even a minimum of sensitivity for the mind-set of people in the underground community of Baoding, it is obvious that those priests had serious motives of perplexity, seeing their Auxiliary Bishop, just released from prison, concelebrating with the illegitimate bishop.

To their demand of clarification, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples answered with a refusal, while it would have been easy to clarify things, as it has been done now in the letter by Cardinal Bertone. The Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples in its communiqué of November 2009 denied that they sent a letter to Bishop An to put pressure on him to come out from the clandestine condition. However, they did not deny that in some way they encouraged him to do so. They even approved, albeit indirectly, that concelebration by promoting him from Auxiliary to Coadiutor Bishop. Moreover, with the letter of August 2008, they expressed unreserved approval of everything that he had done (obviously including also that concelebration).

2. Gianni Valente says that Bishop An Shuxin “chose to leave the clandestine state and exercise his pastoral ministry in fidelity to the Pope and also in accordance with the procedures and requirements imposed by the government”. This was certainly the subjective intention of the heroic Prelate, but the Holy Father, in his Letter to the Church in China, has also reminded us that “almost always” the Government imposes conditions which the Catholic conscience cannot accept (like concelebrating with illegitimate bishops and joining structures incompatible with the apostolic nature of the Catholic Church).

3. Gianni Valente says that “Benedict XVI confirms the episcopal authority of Francis An and desires that all diocesan priests recognize this, despite the position taken up by the bishop in the Patriotic Association.” This does not mean, however, that the Pope has legitimized the present situation or the decision of Bishop An to give his name to the Patriotic Association. The letter of Cardinal Bertone says, in fact, that that decision should have been avoided. This means that it was a wrong decision, not to be imitated.

The fact that the Pope did not request Bishop An to withdraw from that situation is a compromise dictated by reasons which justify it. Similarly, the legitimized Bishops in the official community were not requested to come out of those structures, with the obvious intent that they try to change, from within, the abnormal situation into a normal one. Now, what was the reason why the Pope did not ask Bishop An to withdraw from the Patriotic Association? It is an easy guess that this was in order not to provoke the Government (who might feel cheated by Bishop An) to irrational acts of retaliation (like promoting illegal episcopal ordinations).

Gianni Valente is a clever person and he should have understood all this. The Holy See is actually advising Bishop An to make the most of the good opportunities that may result from the mistake he committed.

4. The paragraph we are dealing with here is crucial in the whole letter of Cardinal Bertone. It deserves to be commented upon. Gianni Valente, however, chooses to bypass it. I ask the question: Precisely how does he understand the expression: “in the present circumstances it seems preferable for Your Excellency not to give up, on your own initiative, the possibility you have at present of acting in an official way...” The obvious explanation must be: If forced by the Government to make a choice, Bishop An has to renounce his official position and go back into the clandestine condition.

5. I should also notify an inaccuracy in the Italian translation (I suppose the Italian text is Gianni Valente’s translation from the English original). The English text does not say, as Gianni Valente quotes it in Italian: “in the present circumstances it seems preferable for Your Excellency not to give up, on your own initiative, the possibility you have at present of acting in an official way in order to accompany and lead all your priests, whether official or clandestine”. The English text says, instead: “in the present circumstances it seems preferable for Your Excellency not to give up, on your own initiative, the possibility you have at present of acting in an official way and to accompany and lead all your priests, whether official or clandestine”. The formulation of Gianni Valente’s Italian text may suggest that there is a subordination of the second clause “to accompany and lead all your priests” to the first clause “not to give up, on your own initiative, the possibility you have at present...” Actually, the two clauses are clearly independent and parallel to each other: “not to give up...”, “and to accompany and lead all your priests”.

6. It seems to me that Gianni Valente made an oversimplification by saying that the letter of Cardinal Bertone is simply a case of application “to a particular case” of “some of the guiding criteria that Benedict XVI had outlined in his Letter to Chinese Catholics of May 2007”. Now, it is not as simple as that. A tortuous path has been treaded for some time and has now been straightened by the wisdom and kindness of the Holy Father in a very difficult exercise of balance between truth and charity.

The Bishops have the difficult responsibility to make decisions, but always with respect of the principles stated in the Letter of the Pope to the Church in China. The decision of Bishop An to give his name to the Patriotic Association is not only “questionable”, but simply “wrong”, even though the Bishop had the intention of doing something good for the Church. The Holy Father did not disqualify the Bishop, because he believes in his professed loyalty and so condones his mistake of judgment.

7. It would be certainly unfair to judge Bishop An’s choice as a “cowardly and reprehensible form of surrender”. However, the letter of Cardinal Bertone says clearly that the Prelate has gone beyond the criteria and possibilities laid down by the Pope’s Letter. So it was a mistaken decision, which should not be imitated in similar situations.

8. The expression used by Gianni Valente that the Holy See invites every body to “follow him” (the Bishop) must be explained with caution: to follow him in the structures of the official community? No, especially given the correct reading of the letter, as we have explained in No. 5. Actually, when the letter tells the Bishop to accompany and guide all his priests “whether official or clandestine”, the latter are obviously to be understood as still operating in the clandestine situation.

9. I cannot help but feel deep indignation when Gianni Valente talks about “sectarian tendencies” (“derive settarie” in Italian). May God forgive him!

10. I can easily forgive, instead, his innuendo about the “undue outside pressures”. If from outside we could help the two sides of the ecclesial divide in Baoding to understand and respect each other and to reconstruct the unity in truth and charity, we would have reason to feel happy, because, as Jesus says, “Blessed are the peace-makers!”

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## **CHINA - Sheshan shrine readies for World Expo visitors**

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SHANGHAI, China (UCAN) — The popular Sheshan Marian shrine in Shanghai is preparing to handle a large influx of visitors as the Month of Mary coincides with the start of the six-month-long Shanghai World Expo.

The international fair starts on May 1, the beginning of the busiest month for the Marian shrine that is located on a hill in Shanghai.

Shrine authorities say they have already received bookings from more than 1,000 pilgrims for May 1, mostly from people from neighboring provinces.

Father Francis Li Fangyuan, pastor of Sheshan, said the shrine will increase its number of volunteers to 100 to help receive pilgrims and maintain order.

“We will only know by May” how many security guards and plainclothes police are to be stationed on the hill, he said.

As in past years, police will restrict vehicles from entering Sheshan Ring Road that goes around the foot of the hill from April 30 to May 31.

In May 2008, local sources estimated 1,000 plainclothes and uniformed police personnel were stationed on the hill as the Pope's mention of the site had sparked government worries that it could be swamped by hundreds of thousands of pilgrims.

The shrine was mentioned by Pope Benedict XVI in his 2007 letter to Chinese Catholics where he also set May 24, feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians, as the "World Prayer Day for the Church in China."

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Xing Wenzhi of Shanghai is scheduled to celebrate an opening Mass for the Marian month on April 30 at the Church of Our Lady, Help of Christians, located at the mid-level of the hill. The opening ceremony of the Shanghai World Expo will also take place that day.

On May 1, the shrine's Marian statue will be carried in procession after which Bishop Aloysius Jin Luxian of Shanghai is to celebrate Mass.

Reports say about 70 million local people and foreigners are expected to visit the Shanghai World Expo. A hundred and ninety-two countries and 50 international organizations are taking part in the exhibition.

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## **CHINA - Vatican advice leaves China bishops in a bind**

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HONG KONG (UCAN) — Several mainland bishops, approved by the Vatican and recognized by the government, say following some of the advice from the Vatican's China Commission will put them in a difficult position.

The communiqué for the third plenary meeting released on March 25 said the commission unanimously hoped that all mainland bishops could avoid gestures that run counter to communion with the Pope.

It specifies such gestures like: sacramental celebrations (with illegitimate bishops), episcopal ordinations (without a papal mandate) and participation in meetings (like the planned National Congress of Catholic Representatives of the "open" Church community in China).

UCA News spoke to three open bishops for their response to the communiqué. They spoke on condition of anonymity, and are given the pseudonyms Joseph, Paul and Peter.

Bishop Joseph noted that the communiqué puts “pressure” on bishops but lays out “a clearer and more concrete direction for the China Church toward reconciliation.”

He admitted some bishops may have difficulties following the Vatican’s advice, as local situations differ in each diocese and the “state of conscience of individual bishops is different.”

His conscience does not allow him to participate in an illicit ordination, he stressed. However, he was hesitant regarding the point on attending the national congress, which he described as “inconsistent with the Church spirit.”

Bishops Paul and Peter also stressed they would not attend episcopal ordinations without a papal mandate since Pope Benedict XVI made his position on the issue clear in his 2007 letter to Chinese Catholics.

“No matter how much my diocese and I have to sacrifice, I will definitely not go to any illicit ordination,” Bishop Paul said.

However, he said concelebrations with illegitimate bishops may happen particularly when attending meetings organized by Church authorities. “I will not join if the main celebrant is an illegitimate bishop, but if he is only one of the concelebrants I can hardly avoid it,” the prelate said.

He said the China Commission has good intentions and “neither I nor many other bishops wish to join the national congress, but it’s hard to refuse.”

The meeting is arranged by the government. “Officials will accuse you of not loving the country if you do not take part. They will aim their anger at bishops after being blamed by their superiors, and Church work in all aspects will become very difficult in future,” Bishop Paul noted.

Bishop Peter said the communiqué’s advice is difficult to follow practically, since bishops will find it “hard to say no” to government officials who will coerce them to attending the congress or illicit ordinations.

“We bishops feel perplexed about what to do. We no longer have room for maneuver since the papal letter came out. We can only choose between surviving in the cracks and breaking off relations with the government,” he lamented.

“The open community is unwilling to break the good relationship with the government, which it has struggled to build over a long period of time,” he explained.

Bishop Peter believed the national congress, which is supposed to convene later this year, will cause a split in the open community.

“I will passively attend the meeting to gain space for pastoral work and not to embarrass local officials,” he said. He believed the majority of open bishops will also attend, adding that it is unrealistic not to go.

Those who wish to follow the Vatican’s advice should be prepared for poorer relations with the authorities and stronger controls, which is another way of being God’s witness, he said.

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**CHINA-VATICAN**

### **China in the wake of Matteo Ricci; even the economy needs religious freedom**

The conference organized by AsiaNews, at the Capitoline Museums in Rome reaffirms the message of the Jesuit missionary. A fruitful encounter between East and West can only happen in a friendship that welcomes both, material and spiritual elements, creating a truly "harmonious society" within and outside the country of China. Freedom of religion and unity of the Church in China is the first urgent step.

Rome (AsiaNews) – The scientific, cultural, religious dialogue, that was started 400 years ago by Matteo Ricci is still very present in China today marked by a huge economic development, but one which also creates abysmal poverty, conflict and a spiritual vacuum that can only be bridged by a proposal that can combine science and spirit, economy and religious freedom. The Chinese leadership’s own program to build a "harmonious society, a harmonious world" also risks failure

These were the conclusions reached at the international conference on "The China of Today and Matteo Ricci," held yesterday in the sumptuous "Pietro da Cortona" hall at the Capitoline Museums in Rome, nestled between medieval and Renaissance paintings and sculptures from Ancient Greece and Imperial Roman.

Organized by AsiaNews, sponsored by the City Council and with the support of the Monte dei Paschi di Siena Foundation, the encounter became an ideal overview of the Ricci Year, which ends on 11 May 2010, 400 years after the death of the great Jesuit missionary . The conference brought together Vatican personalities and witnesses of the dialogue between intellectuals and Christians in contemporary China: Mgr. Robert Sarah, Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, Fr. Savio Hon Tai-fai, SDB from Hong

Kong, a member of the International Theological Commission, Prof. Joseph Jing, director of the China-Europe Cultural Centre, Fr. Bernardo Cervellera Editor of AsiaNews.

Prof. Zhuo Xinping, director of the Institute of World Religions of the Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, although invited, at the last moment was unable to attend due to unforeseen work commitments at the National People's Congress. On his behalf and on his own behalf, the vicar general of the diocese of Beijing, Fr. Peter Zhao Jianmin, sent a greeting to the conference and a message, written from the very place where Matteo Ricci lived, which has since been transformed into the Cathedral of the Immaculate in Xuanwumen. In message, Fr. Ricci is described as "the Western Confucius", his testimony like water which from west to east irrigated China and whose spirit remains forever.

After a greeting by Federico Rocca, on behalf of the mayor of Rome Gianni Alemanno, Mgr. Sarah spoke of the many new things brought by Ricci to Ming's China: physics, astronomy, geography, technology, phonics, geometry .. But above all he revealed that this communication took place thanks to his Christian identity and his love for China. He was an innovator in the style of Catholic mission, avoiding all military and political connections, in a style marked by apostolic friendship. In China today, he concluded, there is need to "harmonize material achievements with those of the spirit, economic benefits and respect for man, national and international commitments are in need of resources open to both reason and spirit, lived in a friendship between East and West. " He appealed for greater dialogue between China and the Catholic Church: "It is to this work and to building relationships 'of understanding, friendship and solidarity between peoples' that the Church wishes to help, in mutual respect and in freedom, to continue the work of Matteo Ricci and his successors, for the love of Christ and of China. "

Fr. Savio Hon offered an analysis of Matteo Ricci's most famous book on China, *De Amicitia*, demonstrating its continuing relevance for contemporary China, a nation still striving to achieve an image of "harmony" both inside and outside its borders, while "Chinese-styled socialism " reveals itself to be increasingly deceptive and concerns grow about the " yellow peril ". Inspired by Ricci's teaching, but with an eye to current needs - Fr. Hon said that in order for dialogue to continue between East and West, it must be based on "universal brotherhood", the "transcendence of God," as a source of friendship, on human wisdom open to the religious dimension.

Prof. Joseph Jing analyzed in more detail the problems of China in the era of globalization, the crisis of public and personal morality, the myth prosperity that which fosters nihilism, the government's attempts to revive Confucianism in the country and the world also as a prop to political power. In Chinese society there is a spiritual void that must be filled and in which the Chinese Catholic Church also has a role to play. Jing described the difficulties of Catholicism in China, a Catholicism that has only recently emerged from violent persecution, that is still under control, and still without full reconciliation between the official and underground church. In order to fulfil its commitment to society and culture, Jing says that

the rift in ecclesial unity must be healed. The scholar has recently launched a cultural centre between China and Europe to foster dialogue between Chinese intellectuals, Catholic and non.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Fr. Bernardo Cervellera noted how the China of today, while open to all nations in commercial terms, remains closed to a relationship of friendship and truth with the rest of the world, strengthening its control over the Internet, hampering the efforts of activists and religious, imprisoning people involved in dialogue between East and West. At the same time, neo-confucian materialism, which is both Marxist and consumerist, is itself creating, in addition to spiritual emptiness, a spasmodic religious quest. This is also the case within the Communist Party, which still in search of balance and harmony. Unfortunately, by and large the West does not understand this search, because it too, is buried beneath positions dictated by materialism, thus contributing in no small way to a growing crisis that may lead to a meltdown in China. The director of AsiaNews concluded by inviting everyone to work for religious freedom in China, a guarantee of a dialogue that is free and rich in cultural and spiritual values.

\* All conference interventions will be available in the May and June 2010 editions of the AsiaNews monthly magazine (In Italian), available on request, with the contribution of a small donation.

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## **ASIA - Ricci symposium brings together East and West**

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TAIPEI (UCAN) — More than 90 scholars will present papers at Fu Jen Catholic University in a four-day symposium to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of Jesuit Father Matteo Ricci.

More than 300 participants from around the world, including 25 from mainland China, gathered on April 19 to discuss East-West dialogue in terms of philosophy, history, religion, culture, science and education.

Father Ricci, an Italian missionary commonly known as Li Madou to Chinese people, was praised for his promotion of dialogue between the East and the West.

Chen Fang-chung, symposium spokesperson, told UCA News organizers had invited some mainland Church people who are involved in cultural research. They hoped this could enhance and deepen cultural exchanges between mainland China and Taiwan.

Larry Wang Yu-yuan, Taiwan's ambassador to the Holy See, told UCA News it was good to see the mainland participants coming.

There should be more cross-strait exchanges in the academic and religious circles, especially for the Catholic Church, and not just exchanges focusing on the economy, he said.

Wang was among the guests who made opening addresses for the event.

Others included Father Barthélemy Adoukonou, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture, and Cardinal Paul Shan Kuo-hsi, retired bishop of Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan. A 'master' of intercultural dialogue

In his speech delivered in French, Father Adoukonou said that Father Ricci was, in fact, not a messenger of culture but a messenger of evangelization.

"However, a good missionary should be a man of culture in the first place. Ricci was a model in both aspects," he said.

Father Adoukonou said that, as an African, he saw the theme on dialogue as very important for the times. Cultural exchange could bring about a new kind of humanism, he said.

Father Ricci was "a master of intercultural dialogue." Living in a globalized world, people these days should inherit what he has done, he said.

Cardinal Shan said in his speech that 400 years ago, Father Ricci had achieved the principles of interreligious dialogue as proposed in the Second Vatican Council, namely "mutual respect, mutual understanding and cordial cooperation."

"The secret to Ricci's success" was respecting Chinese culture without blindly following it and humbly introducing Western science and technology to China.

This went against the culture of empty talk among the Chinese scholars of his time, the cardinal said.

The international symposium also premiered a documentary film, Matteo Ricci, a Jesuit in the Kingdom of the Dragon, directed by Gjon Kolndrekaj.

Dignitaries unveiled a bronze statue of Father Ricci in front of the Ricci Building of Fu Jen.

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