

## **The Status of Catholic Bishops in China in 2017**

During the year nine bishops passed away: on January 4, Bp. Anthony Tu Shihua (塗世華, 1919-2017), Puqi; on February 14, Bp. Casimirus Wang Milu (王覓錄, 1941-2017), retired bishop of Tianshui; on April 20, Bp. Anicetus Wang Chongyi (王充一, 1919-2017), retired bishop of Guizhou; on June 9, Bp. John Liu Shigong (劉世功, 1928-2017) retired bishop of Jining; on August 13, Bp. Sylvester Li Jiantang (李建唐, 1925-2017), retired bishop of Taiyuan; on August 14, Bp. Paul Xie Tingzhe (謝廷哲, 1931- 2017), of Urumqi; on September 25, Bp. Mathew Hu Xiande (胡賢德, 1934-2017) of Ningbo; on November 17, Bp. Lukas Li Jingfeng (李鏡峰, 1922-2017) of Fengxiang; on December 7, Bp. Matthew Yu Chengxin (余成信, 1927-2017), auxiliary of Hanzhong.

Two bishops were officially installed, the underground bishop of Lanzhou, Bp. Han Zhihai (韓志海) and the coadjutor bishop of Handan, Sun Jigen (孫繼根).

At present, the total number of bishops in China is 101, of whom 36 are “unofficial” or underground (19 active), and 65 are “official” (active 58). [There are three other “unofficial” bishops whose consecration is doubtful]. ST