

# Bishop Yang's Response to Pope's Call

In an interview with Swiss journalists on 19th November, Bishop Yang Gaojian, who is vice-chairman of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and bishop of the central city of Changde, said: "The fine words of John Paul are not sufficient. If he wants to restore ties with the Catholic Church in China, the Vatican must show its goodwill by deeds."

Bishop Yang also noted that the Vatican continued to maintain ties with Taiwan -- a situation deemed intolerable by Beijing which claims to be the only "legal Government" of the whole of China, including Taiwan.

"How can we believe in John Paul's goodwill when at the same time a bishop from Taiwan said in Taipei that the Pope, in spite of his October 25 appeal, would never abandon the believers of the island and that he would never endorse the officials of the mainland?" he said.

Earlier, the Holy Father Pope John Paul II made two successive calls for a dialogue with the Mainland China. At the conclusion of the International Convention of Ricci Studies, marking the 400th anniversary of Ricci's arrival in China, at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, on 25th October. The second appeal was made at the birth place of St. Francis Xavier a missionary of the XVI century, on 6th November, during the Pope's ten day visit to Spain.

