

## *Recent Episcopal Ordinations in China*

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*Holy Spirit Study Centre*

**F**ather Paul Meng Qinglu (孟清祿), 47, was consecrated as the seventh Bishop of Hohhot, Inner Mongolia on April 18, 2010 in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Hohhot City. He had the appointment of the Holy Father. Bishop Pei Junmin of Shenyang (Liaoning Province) was the main celebrant, while Bishops Liu Shigong of Jining (Inner Mongolia), Du Jiang of Bameng (Inner Mongolia), and Li Jing of the neighboring Ningxia Diocese concelebrated the ordination Mass. Bishop Li gave Bishop Meng a three-day retreat before his consecration as bishop.

Bishop Meng was born into a family that has been Catholic for many generations. He entered the Inner Mongolia Seminary in 1985, and was ordained a priest four years later. He remained in the seminary for ten years serving as dean of studies, and teaching moral theology and other subjects. From 2000 to 2003, his predecessor Bishop Wang Xixian assigned him to build two churches and to serve in a parish.

Today, the Hohhot Diocese has over 20 priests and approximately 65,000 Catholics.

Fr. Shen Bin (沈斌), 40, was consecrated Bishop of Haimen on April 21, 2010 in the Cathedral of Christ the Good Shepherd in Nantong City. Bishop Shen had the appointment of the Holy Father. Bishop Fang Xingyao of Linyi (Shandong Province) was the chief consecrator and the main celebrant at the Mass.

Bishop Shen was born into a Catholic family in 1970. He graduated from the National Seminary in Beijing in 1996, and served in several parishes after he was ordained a priest. In 1999, he became vicar general of the diocese, and since 2002 he had been working in the Diocesan Curia.

Today the Haimen Diocese has 9 priests, 21 religious Sisters, 3 seminarians, and 30,000 laity. Haimen was among the first six local Chinese dioceses in China in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1926, Pope Pius XI consecrated its first bishop, Zhu Kaimin, and the other five Chinese bishops in Rome.

Fr. Cai Bingrui (蔡炳瑞) was consecrated Bishop of Xiamen (Fujian Province) on May 8, 2010 in the cathedral of the diocese. Bishop Fang Xingyao of Linyi (Shandong Province) was the chief consecrator and the main celebrant at the Mass. The emeritus Archbishop of Taipei, Cheng Tsai-fa, also concelebrated the Mass; he is a native of Xiamen.

Bishop Cai was born in 1966. He entered Sheshan Seminary in Shanghai in 1985, and was ordained a priest in 1992. He became administrator of the Xiamen Diocese in 1996. In 2009, the Xiamen Diocese elected Father Cai as its candidate for bishop by a unanimous vote. He obtained the appointment of Pope Benedict XVI, and was the first Bishop of Xiamen in 19 years, since his predecessor, Bishop Huang Ziyu, passed away in April 1991.

Today, the Xiamen Diocese has about 30,000 laity, 10 priests, and 16 religious Sisters.

On April 8, 2010 Bishop Matthias Du Jiang (杜江) was installed as Bishop of the Bameng Diocese (Inner Mongolia). Bishop Du himself was the main celebrant of the Mass.

Bishop Du was born on November 20, 1963. He was ordained a priest in 1989, appointed parish priest of the cathedral in 1997, vicar general in 2000, and in 2004 the Pope appointed him as Bishop of Bameng. He was consecrated bishop almost immediately. However, the local officials did not accept his identity as bishop, and it is only now that the question of his consecration as bishop has been settled.

Today, the Bameng Diocese has about 100,000 laity. There are 25 priests and 27 religious Sisters serving the church.