

China Church and News Update 2011

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Death of Bishops

- February 17, 2011: Bp. Augustine Hu Daguo (1922-2011), unofficial Bishop of Anlong / Shiqian Diocese, Guizhou.
- March 9, 2011: Bp. Andrew Hao Jinli (1916-2011), unofficial Bishop of Xiwanzi Diocese, Hebei.
- April 23, 2011: Bp. Peter Li Hongye (1920-2011), unofficial Bishop of Luoyang Diocese, Henan.
- April 30, 2011: Bp. Lu Shouwang (1966-2011), official Bishop of Yichang Diocese, Hubei.
- November 22, 2011: Bp. Anthony Zong Changfeng, unofficial Coadjutor Bishop of Kaifeng Diocese, Henan.

Ordination of Bishops

- March 30, 2011: Fr. Paul Liang Jiansen was ordained Bishop of Jiangmen, Guangdong, with the approval of both the Holy See and the Chinese authorities.
- May 20, 2011: Fr. John Lü Peisen was ordained Bishop of Yanzhou, Shandong, with the approval of both the Holy See and the Chinese authorities.
- June 21, 2011: Fr. Sun Jigen was ordained Coadjutor Bishop of Handan, Hebei, secretly by his old bishop Yang Xingtai. Although approved by both the Holy See and the Chinese authorities, the ceremony, originally scheduled for June 29, was cancelled by the authorities, since the diocese refused to have the illegitimate bishop Guo Jincai participate in the ordination ceremony.
- June 29, 2011: Fr. Paul Lei Shiyin was ordained Bishop of Leshan, Sichuan, without the mandate of the Holy See.
- July 14, 2011: Fr. Joseph Huang Bingzhang was ordained Bishop of Shantou, Guangdong, without the mandate of the Holy See.

- November 30: Fr. Luo Xuégang was ordained Coadjutor Bishop of Yibin, Sichuan, with the approval of both the Holy See and the Chinese authorities.

MAIN EVENTS

January 2011

- January 8-15: A Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association official, Liu Yuanlong, elected vice-president and secretary-general of the CCPA at the 8th Catholic National Congress in December 2010, was one of 10 delegates of the China Committee of Religion and Peace, who met Archbishop John Hung Shan-chuan of Taipei, president of the Chinese Regional Bishops' Conference, in Taipei on January 11. The delegation also visited the Tainan Diocese and met Cardinal Paul Shan Kuo-hsi, the retired bishop of Kaohsiung, renewing the previous invitation made by Wang Zuo'an inviting him to visit China. However, as the time for the trip in June approached, the cardinal was the only one of the delegation who could not get a visa. So he had to cancel his trip.
- January 13: Public Security officers took Fr. Peter Zhang Guangjun, 40, of Xuanhua Diocese, Hebei, from the home of a Catholic family in Zhuolu county. He has not been heard from since.
- January 24: China's State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) held a meeting on January 10 in Haikou, Hainan, to evaluate its work. It published the 2010 work report and the 2011 priority agenda. The participants decided that in 2011 they will guide Protestants, who worship at unregistered churches, to worship at government-sanctioned ones. SARA will also *"guide the 'one Association and one Conference' of the Catholic Church to fully implement the spirit of the 8th National Assembly of Catholic Representatives, strengthen the efforts in education for administering the Church autonomously and independently as well as education in its democratic management. They will also deepen the formation of more than 1,000 members of the clergy through organizing 6 training courses for them."*
- The officials of SARA also resolved to strengthen regulation over the religious activities of foreign nationals within China's borders, and resist foreign infiltration under the pretext of religion.

- January 27: Jia Qinglin, at a meeting for offering Lunar New Year's greetings to religious circles, called on the country's religious figures to make a greater contribution to economic and social development by innovating and improving social services.

February 2011

- February 5: The episcopal ordination in Rome of a Chinese theologian from Hong Kong, Fr. Savio Hon Tai-Fai, SDB, as archbishop, after he had been appointed General Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. After his ordination Archbishop Han returned to Hong Kong, and then paid a visit to Taiwan, before taking up his new office.
- February 17: Death of Bp. Augustine Hu Daguo, 89 (1922-2011), unofficial bishop of Anlong / Shiqian Diocese. Bishop Hu was born into a Catholic family in 1922. He studied at Guiyang diocesan seminaries from 1934 until he was ordained a priest in 1951. He served as a teacher in the major seminary and as an assistant parish priest until he was arrested for his faith in 1955. He was sentenced to reform-through-labor and was released from detention in 1979. Since then, he has served as a parish priest. In 1987, Bp. Peter Joseph Fan Xueyan of Baoding ordained him secretly as a bishop. The Holy See recognized him later.
- February 21-25: A meeting of the leaders of the Catholic "One Association and One Conference" took place in Kunming, Yunnan. Among other things, the participants decided on a plan for the next episcopal ordinations.
- February 23: A group of 180 police officers, led by the chiefs of the local public security and religious affairs bureaus in Yangdang, Zaoyang County, Hubei Province, raided a Christian legal center, causing havoc among members of the center, who were studying the regulations of the Religious Affairs Bureau. They used tear gas, beat up those present, including two women, and one elderly person, and smashed the center's equipment. The Christians of Yangdang issued a statement criticizing the attack.

March 2011

- March 1: The Hengshui Diocese opened a Social Services Center in Hengshui City, headed by Fr. Luo Weimin. Among the services provided is psychological counseling, under the responsibility of Fr. Hu Qiucheng and Sr. Yang Ronghua.
- March 9: Bp. Andrew Hao Jinli (1916-2011), unofficial bishop of Xiwanzi, Northern Hebei, died at Gonghui village church at the age of 95, after a long sickness. Bp. Hao was born into a Catholic family in 1916 – his two brothers were also priests – and ordained in 1943. He was sentenced to 10 years' in prison for his faith in 1958. The authorities then sent him to Gonghui for reform-through-labor. Upon his release in 1981, he returned to serve as a parish priest. He was secretly ordained as a bishop in 1984 and succeeded Bishop Melchior Zhang Kexing as the ordinary of Xiwanzi in 1988.
- March 13: The police took into custody 12 Christians in Ma'an Village, Beihe County, Henan, who were worshipping in a private house. They also destroyed Bibles and religious articles. Later they released 10 of them, but kept 2 in detention.
- March 20: The Hong Kong Diocese published the Chinese edition of *A Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, a book which took part-time translators six years to finish. Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, who was visiting Hong Kong at the invitation of Cardinal Joseph Zen, launched the book at a ceremony organized by the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission.
- March 30: Fr. Paul Liang Jiansen, 46, was ordained Bishop of Jiangmen, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Jiangmen City, Guangdong. Both the Holy See and the Chinese authorities had approved him. Bp. Joseph Gan Junqiu of Guangzhou was the main consecrator. Bp. Joseph Liao Hongqing of Meizhou and Paul Su Yongda of Zhanjiang, in Guangdong, were the co-consecrators. Bishops John Baptist Li Suguang of Nanchang, John Baptist Tan Yanquan of Nanning, Joseph Shen Bin of Haimen and about 20 priests concelebrated the ordination Mass. Priests and laypeople from the neighboring dioceses of Hong Kong and Macau were also present. Bishop Liang said that his coat of arms bore the images of Saint Francis Xavier and Father Matteo Ricci. He

expressed the desire to model himself on them. Bp. Liang entered the seminary shortly after he was baptized in 1985. He became a priest in 1991, and has served in the Jiangmen parish since 1995. His predecessor, Bp. Peter Li Panshi, appointed him vicar general in 2004. Bp. Li died in 2007.

April 2011

- April 8: Dozens of plain clothes police officers from Xuanhua arrested Fr. Joseph Chen Hailong of Xuanhua, while he was traveling with two young people to visit Catholics. He and his companions were taken to a guesthouse in Yanqing Then Religious Affairs Bureau officials took the priest away from there the next day. His whereabouts are still unknown.
- April 9: The Beijing Diocese launched the Year for Evangelization by the Laity.
- April 19-20: The Research Committee on "An analysis of the religious phenomenon and concerned problems in China" held its first symposium at People's University in Beijing.
- April 23: Bp. Peter Li Hongye (1920-2011), unofficial Bishop of Luoyang, died shortly after suffering a heart attack while presiding at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. Bp. Li was born into a Catholic family in 1920 and entered the seminary at the age of 17. After being ordained a priest in 1944, he served in a parish until he was arrested for his faith in 1955. Upon his release in 1985, he returned to work in Luoyang Diocese. He was consecrated secretly as the Bishop of Luoyang in 1987. The authorities detained him in 2001, and placed him under house arrest at Mother of God Church in Luoyang City, until he contracted heart disease in 2004. He then returned to his home town to convalesce.
- April 24: Police stopped members of the Shouwang Protestant Church from taking part in outdoor Easter celebrations in Beijing's Zhongguancun District. They arrested at least 36 worshippers and clergymen. Dozens more were placed under house arrest. The Chinese authorities have stepped up their campaign against Shouwang Church, detaining hundreds of people in their homes, and evicting the congregation from their rented quarters. Pastor Shi

- Enhao, president of the Chinese House Church Alliance, was later arrested and sentenced to two years of re-education-through-labor.
- April 28: China published the statistics of its recent Sixth National Census. The country has a population of 1.37 billion people (51% male, 49% female). The government announced that its excessive population growth is now under control; the illiteracy rate has declined, (dropping from 7% in 2000 to 4% in 2010); the urban population has reached 666 million (nearly 50% of the total).
 - April 30: Death of Bp. Lu Shouwang (1966-2011), official Bishop of Yichang, Hubei. Born in 1966, Bp. Lu graduated from the South-Central Theological and Philosophical Seminary in Wuhan and was ordained a priest in 1991. After serving in a parish for a year, he began teaching Moral Theology and Biblical Studies in the seminary. In 1999, his predecessor Bp. Paul Francis Zhang Mingqian appointed him vicar general. He was ordained bishop with papal mandate and government recognition in 2007, two years after Bp. Zhang died. The Tujia ethnic prelate, who had been critically ill since September 2010, died of acute pancreatitis at a hospital in Wuhan, the provincial capital. He was 45 years of age.

May 2011

- May 1: All the underground Catholics of Tashan Village, Ningde District, in Mindong Diocese, closed the church door and defended it against the attempt of the official and illegitimate Bishop Zhan Silu and local civil authorities to occupy it, and to send an official priest to substitute for the underground one.
- May 4: In response to an American religious commission's annual report on international religious freedom, published on April 28, which criticized China's lack of religious freedom, the Chinese authorities urged the commission "to abandon prejudices, respect facts and stop intervening in China's domestic affairs by means including the issuing of reports... The Chinese government guarantees citizens' religious freedom according to the country's laws, and the Chinese people also enjoy complete freedom of religious belief in accordance with the law."
- May 10: The Holy See announced the appointment of Archbishop Fernando Filoni, present Substitute for General Affairs of the

- Secretariate of State, as Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. He succeeds Cardinal Ivan Dias, whose resignation the Holy See has accepted, since he has reached the age of retirement.
- May 10-11: On May 10, Chengdu Diocese in Sichuan Province held an election for bishop. Fr. Simon Li Zhigang was elected by obtaining 41 out of 45 votes cast. On May 11, Shantou Diocese in Guangdong Province also held an election for bishop under the watchful eye of public security officials. Seventy-two people cast their ballots, including 15 priests, 5 nuns, 2 seminarians and 50 laypersons. The result was 66 votes in favor and 3 votes against Fr. Joseph Huang Bingzhang, the only candidate. There were three abstentions.
 - May 11: Leaders of 17 Protestant 'house churches' in China appealed to China's lawmakers to provide legal protection for religious freedom after police detained dozens of Christians from the Beijing Zion Church. They had been trying to hold outdoor services, since the police closed their church. The petition, delivered by hand to the National People's Congress, was the first of its kind, and was the boldest statement by the unofficial Protestant leaders to the central government.
 - May 18: At the end of the morning general audience in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict XVI spoke briefly about the Church in China. He looked forward to May 24, the feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians, who the Catholics of Shanghai venerate with great devotion at the Shrine of Sheshan on this day. The Holy Father invited the faithful everywhere to join in prayer with and for the Church in China. Beijing reacted by requesting the Holy Father to acknowledge China's existing religious freedom and the autonomy of the Church in China.
 - May 20: Bp. Fang Xingyao of Linyi, chairman of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, was the main celebrant at the episcopal ordination of Fr. John Lü Peisen of Yanzhou, Shandong Province. Both the Holy See and the Chinese authorities had approved the ordination of Bp. Lü. Bishops Zhao Fengchang of Liaocheng, Li Mingshu of Qingdao, Yang Yongqiang of Zhoucun and Zhang Xianwang of Jinan concelebrated. All bishops were legitimate. The ordination took place at the Heyanmen Church in

Jining City, 30 kilometers from Yanzhou. Bp. Lü, originally from Jinan Diocese, was transferred to Yanzhou in October, 2010. The local priests elected him Bishop of Yanzhou. The diocese has seven priests and 10,000 Catholics. Bp. Lü had been a seminary professor at Holy Spirit Seminary in Jinan for 17 years. Bp. Lü was born on August 7, 1966 to a Catholic family in Shandong province. From 1984 to 1989, he studied at Holy Spirit Seminary. He was ordained a priest on December 17, 1989 and served in Tai'an Parish from 1990-1994. Since 1994 until now, he had worked at the seminary. He succeeds Bp. Zhao Fengwu who died in August 2005.

- May 24: Day of prayer for the Church in China.

June 2011

- June 1-4: On the occasion of the 4-day official visit of China's Vice-President Xi Jinping to Italy to attend the celebration of Italy's 150th anniversary of unification, Archbishop Savio Hon Tat-Fai, the Secretary General of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, gave an interview to the Italian daily *Avvenire* (May 25) and to the news agency *Asia News* (June 3).
- June 6: The Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts signed and published the Declaration on the Correct Application of Canon 1382 of the Code of Canon Law. The Chinese text was published on June 13. The Vatican states that people involved in illicit ordinations could be excommunicated.
- June 8: The episcopal ordination, without papal mandate, of Fr. Joseph Shen Guo'an originally scheduled to be held in Wuhan (Hankou) on June 9, was cancelled. Fr Shen said that he "was informed" about the cancellation, but did not know the reason for it.
- June 13-21: SARA organized an updating course for about 150 young and middle-aged Catholic clergy (5 days of theory and then visits to Shanghai and Zhejiang).
- June 18: Death of Fr. Li Zhigang (48), official episcopal candidate for the Chengdu Diocese, elected on May 11, of liver cancer.
- June 18: The Board of Directors of the Montecorvino Major Seminary in Taiyuan dismissed the rector Fr. Chang Tongxi for mismanagement. The latter had the support of the local religious

- affairs' bureau officials. The conflict lasted until November when the seminary reopened and a new temporary leadership appointed.
- June 23: Fr. Yang Yu, the spokesman after the 3rd meeting of the leaders of the "One Association and One Conference" just held in Beijing (with SARA director Wang Zuo'an giving the major speech), reiterated that it is the urgent duty of the Church in China to choose and ordain bishops for the 44 still vacant episcopal sees (out of 97), for the sake of the development of the Church and of evangelization.
 - June 26: Security officials detained the episcopal candidate for Handan, Fr. Joseph Sun Jigen (1967-). His ordination had originally been scheduled for June 29, but the Chinese authorities cancelled it. Detained with him were Fathers John Huai Jianting and Peter Liu Xiuhua. They were taken under custody to Shijiazhuang. However, Bp. Stephen Yang, 89, secretly ordained Fr. Sun as his Coadjutor Bishop in the early hours of June 21. The government opposed the ordination, because the diocese had rejected the government's order for the illegitimate Bp. Guo Jincai to preside at it. Bp. Sun was released three days after his detention, together with Fr. Liu. But Fr. Huai had to wait until September 3 to be released and return to Handan.
 - June 29: The episcopal ordination of Fr. Paul Lei Shiyin (1963-) as Bishop of Leshan, Sichuan, without the mandate of the Holy See, with the attendance of about 1,000 guests and government officials at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Emeishan city. Bishop John Fang Xingyao of Linyi, president of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, was the main celebrant. Six other prelates took part in the ceremony, namely Bishops Joseph Li Jing of Ningxia, Joseph Li Shan of Beijing, Joseph Zhao Fengchang of Liao Cheng, Paul He Zeqing of Wanzhou, Paul Xiao Zejiang of Guiyang and Peter Fang Jianping of Tangshan. The main consecrator and all of the co-consecrators were Vatican-approved.
 - June 29: More than 100 Catholics, led by Cardinal Joseph Zen, Bishop Emeritus of Hong Kong, staged an evening demonstration outside the Liaison Office of China to denounce China's inhuman treatment of Church clergy, and to demand the release of detained Church people.
 - June 30: The retired "underground" Bishop Joseph Zhu Baoyu (1921-) of Nanyang Diocese, in Henan Province, was installed as a

government-recognized bishop. The prelate, who was secretly consecrated in 1995 with Vatican approval, spent many years in detention or in undergoing reform-through-labor sentences. Catholic sources said that Bishop Zhu decided to seek recognition from the civil authorities in order to claim back Church properties. Bishop John Baptist Yang Xiaoting of Yan'an, vice-president of the government-sanctioned Bishops' Conference, officiated at the installation ceremony. The old bishop's decision did not have the support of all the members in his diocese, including Coadjutor Bishop Peter Jin Lugang and almost half the 21 diocesan priests. Government officials only allowed priests whom they trust to attend the installation ceremony. Bp. Jin was forbidden to leave his church, sources reported, adding that they feared that Bishop Zhu's installation would split the diocese.

July 2011

- July 4: The State Administration for Religious Affairs published the "Norms for the Appointment of Parish Priests of the Catholic Church in China," with immediate effect.
- July 4-8: Twenty-four lay missionaries of Bameng Diocese, in Inner Mongolia, received the missionary mandate from the diocesan bishop Matthias Du Jiang. Previous to receiving their missionary assignments, seven parishes of the diocese had organized five days of meetings for them to discuss the topic of evangelization.
- July 4: Publication of the Holy See's Statement on the illegitimate episcopal ordination of Fr. Paul Lei Shiyin. "Rev. Lei Shiyin, ordained without the Papal mandate and hence illegitimately, has no authority to govern the diocesan Catholic community, and the Holy See does not recognise him as the Bishop of the Diocese of Leshan. The effects of the sanction, which he has incurred through violation set forth in the norm of Canon 1382 of the *Code of Canon Law*, remain in place. The same Rev. Lei Shiyin had been informed, for some time, that he was unacceptable to the Holy See as an episcopal candidate for proven and very grave reasons. The consecrating bishops have likewise exposed themselves to the grave canonical sanctions laid down by the law of the Church (in particular, Canon

- 1382 of the *Code of Canon Law*; cf. *Declaration of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts* of 6 June 2011)...”
- July 7: Fr. Yong Yu, the official spokesman of the Catholic Patriotic Association and the Bishops Conference, reacted to the Vatican Statement: “We deeply regret the Vatican statement... It is inevitable for the Church in China to elect and ordain its own bishops...”
 - July 11: Minister Li Bin of the National Population and Family Planning Commission gave a ground-breaking speech to mark World Population Day, saying “a major shift in China's family planning policy will result in a greater focus on population management than on quantity control, to improve people's quality of life.” Although Li did not address Beijing's one-child policy, the statement signals that some population control measures may be revised, since the speech emphasizes moving away from “quantity control.”
 - July 12-21: A summer camp for about 80 major seminarians from all over China was held in Shijiazhuang, on the premises of the Hebei Major Seminary.
 - July 12: The Hong Kong Justice and Peace Commission organized a demonstration in front of the Liaison Office and published a statement requesting the release of all religious prisoners and the cancellation of the scheduled Shantou episcopal ordination.
 - July 12: The Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, in its Fides Agency's new blog “Catholics in China,” published a detailed explanation of the consequences of the recent illegitimate ordination of Fr. Paul Lei Shiyong of Leshan.
 - July 13: Cardinal Joseph Zen published an appeal in *Apple Daily* to China President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao to cancel the upcoming scheduled episcopal ordination of Fr. Huang Bingzhang in Shantou, while Bishop John Tong sent out a message to the Hong Kong Diocese alerting the faithful about the same ceremony.
 - July 14: Fr. Joseph Huang Bingzhang (1967-) was ordained Bishop of Shantou, without the mandate of the Holy See. Bp. Fang Xingyao of Linyi, president of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, was the main celebrant. Four of the consecrating bishops were from Guangdong: Bishops Joseph Gan Junqiu of Guangzhou, Paul Liang Jiansen of Jiangmen, Joseph Liao Hongqing of Meizhou and Paul Su Yongda of Zhanjiang. The rest were Bishops Paul He Zeqing of Wanzhou, Joseph Shen Bin of Haimen and Coadjutor Bishop John

Baptist Li Suguang of Nanchang. Fr. Huang has been a deputy of the National People's Congress since 1998 and is a vice-chairman of the CCPA. Early in the morning, police sealed off all roads around the cathedral in Shantou and no one could get near it without an entry permit.

- July 14: The Xinhua Net published an English text of the Assessment Report on the National Human Rights Action Plan of China (2009-2010).
- July 16: The Holy See expressed regret over the attempted ordination of Fr. Huang Bingzhang as bishop of the Shantou Diocese, published a statement that he is subject to the penalty of excommunication for violating Canon 1382 of the *Code of Canon Law*. On the same day, Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* reported that Cardinal Joseph Zen, at a press conference in the USA, expressed his displeasure at the illicit episcopal ordinations in mainland China.
- July 22: The *China Daily* reported in an interview with different people, namely Bp. Guo Jincai, Prof. Zhuo Xinping and Fr. Yang Yu, that China was planning to ordain seven more bishops, out of urgency for the good development of the Church. On the same day, *UCANews* published an interview with Prof. Ren Yanli in which he condemns the illicit ordination of bishops, which "disturbs the harmony and stability of society."
- July 25: Xinhua News Agency published the "Statement of the State Administration of Religious Affairs on the Vatican's criticism of the Catholic Church in China's ordination of bishops in Leshan and Shantou." It acknowledged the negative effects of the excommunications, which "...seriously hurt the Catholic Church in China, causing the priests and laypeople to be grieved. We have given serious attention to the matter." Several mixed reactions by people inside and outside of China followed.

August 2011

- August 3: Four clergymen of Heze Diocese, Shandong, were arrested during the night at a house in Luquan (Dongming County), where they were holding a spiritual retreat for fellow priests. Security police climbed over the walls of the house and entered the premises,

claiming that they were looking for “thieves.” Instead, they caught the four priests asleep and forced them to go with them. Fr. Wang Chengli, 48, the Diocesan Administrator, Fr. Zhao Wuji, 50, Fr. Li Xianyang, 34, and Fr. Sun Guichun, 38, were detained. On August 7, Fathers Zhao and Li were released, and on the following day, Fr. Sun, who, however, was soon arrested once again. On August 26, the news was received that Administrator Wang was sentenced to a three year re-education program.

- August 5: The release of Fr. Joseph Chen Hailong, of Xuanhua Diocese, was reported, after he spent four months in detention.
- August 7: Lobsang Sangay, 43, a Harvard-trained legal scholar, was sworn in as the new head of the Tibetan government-in-exile, taking over the post from the Dalai Lama.
- August 9: *UCANews* reported that the Church-run Jinde Charities, based in Shijiazhuang, has formally become a foundation, after 14 years of service. It was granted foundation status in May, but it only started operating under its new name, “Hebei Jinde Charities Foundation” last week. It also has a new donation account number and a new official stamp. It has become a legally tax-exempt foundation and can issue receipts to donors that are standardized and printed by the State’s financial department.
- August 10: The *People’s Daily* printed an article, criticizing the Vatican for recently using the severe way of excommunication to deal with the recent episcopal ordinations and inviting it to adapt to modern society.
- August 22: In a joint meeting of the leaders of “One Association and One Conference” after planning the work of the next half year, the leaders appointed a new board of directors for the National Major seminary. Bp. Fang Xinyao is now the president and Bp. Ma Yinglin vice-president and rector of the seminary.
- August 23: *UCANews* reported the detention of a number of underground church leaders of Tianshui Diocese, Gansu, during the weekend. They include the Diocesan Administrator Fr. John Baptist Wang Ruohan. Local Church sources believe they have been ordered to attend study sessions for four hours a day. Sources suspect the latest incident may relate to the appointment of a new bishop, which was listed as a priority undertaking in a report published by the

Communist Party's Gansu United Front Work Department last year. All of them were released on August 26.

- August 23: A concelebrated Mass in Beijing Cathedral, presided over by Bp. Li Shan, ended a one week study session for leaders of the "open" Church. Hosted jointly by the United Front Work Department and the State Administration for Religious Affairs, it began on August 16 in the northeastern city of Harbin, and included a sightseeing tour. About two dozen people participated, most of them leaders in the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and the Bishops' Conference. The group was made up of 16 bishops, a few priests, laypeople and one nun.
- August 26: Fr. Shang Kanfa, the 46-year-old parish priest of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, in Hailun City, Harbin Diocese, Heilongjiang, was arrested for allegedly killing a man surnamed Gao, while intervening in a row between him and his separated wife. The incident took place at the reconstruction site of the church, and was witnessed by many people.
- August 29 –September 14: A group of 21 Sisters at the invitation of Hong Kong's Catholic Institute for Religion and Society arrived in Hong Kong for a formation course. The top officials of the CCPA and the Bishops' Conference, whom they met before leaving Beijing, approved of their trip. On September 8, Bp. John Tong met the group and encouraged them to foster unity within mainland Church and with the universal Church.

September 2011

- September 2: A delegation of Anglican primates, from 11 countries across South America, Africa and Southeast Asia, visiting China since August 31 at the invitation of the State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA), paid a visit to the headquarters of the CCPA and the Bishops' Conference, for informal talks. Bp. Ma Yinglin said that it was the first meeting between Chinese Catholic leaders and Anglican bishops from those regions.
- September 3: Sister Xie Yuming was severely beaten, and a priest, Fr. Wang Xueqing, suffered minor injuries, while trying to reclaim two former Church properties, which formally belonged to Kangding

- Diocese, in Sichuan. Sister Xie suffered head and chest injuries and was brought to the hospital.
- September 14-15: Thousands of Catholics from all over China went on a pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of the Cross on Mount Paowo (nicknamed "the Calvary of the East"), in the district of Meizhou in Zhouzhi Diocese, Shaanxi Province, on the occasion of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and for the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.
 - September 14: China criticized the U.S. State Department's "July-December, 2010 International Religious Freedom Report" (released on September 13): "China is firmly opposed to the U.S. attacking its religious rights situation by issuing reports of this nature year after year and interfering with China's internal affairs." A meeting of representatives of the five Chinese religious official communities, on September 16, also criticized the report.
 - September 18: Information from Beijing confirms that the Chinese authorities have drawn up a list of 23 names of Catholic people they consider "close to the Vatican." They have been prevented from entering or working in China. Some people speculate that it may be in retaliation for the Holy See's excommunication of two bishops recently ordained without the papal mandate.
 - September 25-27: The 1st meeting of the Committee for Pastoral Work and Evangelization, under the official Bishops' Conference took place in Ningde, Fujian Province. This committee, presided over by the illegitimate Bishop Zhan Silu, is one of the nine committees that were formed at the National Assembly of Catholic Representatives held in December 2010. Ten bishops, 13 priests, 1 nun and 8 laypersons participated. Officials of the United Front Work Department, SARA and local civil authorities addressed the meeting. Zhu Weiqun, the deputy minister of the United Front Work Department stated that the primary task of the Church is to hold fast to patriotism, and "to walk a path compatible with China's socialist society."

October 2011

- October 7: The Zhejiang Catholic Intellectuals Association started its three day annual meeting in Wenzhou, with 68 participants, coming from four dioceses and ten cities.

- October 11-14: The Xi'an Diocese organized a four-day symposium on "The Theology of Evangelization": organizer was Fr. Zhang Xiaojin, the main speaker Fr. Mi Shen from Bincun, Ningjin, Hebei Province.
- October 12: Celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Diocesan Major Seminary.
- October 15-18: The 6th Plenary Session of the CCP's 17th Central Committee was held in Beijing. It approved a final statement on deepening the reform of China's cultural system and promoting the development of the cultural industry, which is expected to play a more critical part in the country's economic and social development. The country will work to improve Chinese citizens' sense of identity and confidence in Chinese culture. China is facing a difficult task in protecting "cultural security" and is feeling the urgency of enhancing the international influence of its own culture. The Government will devote more resources to boosting public cultural services.
- October 21: *UCANews* reported that Bp. Paul Pei Junmin of Shenyang Diocese, Liaoning, has been put under strong pressure and kept under guard since July, because he did not attend the illicit episcopal ordination of Fr. Huang Bingzhang in Shantou, Guangdong, on July 14. Bp Pei was forced to give up his post as vice president of the Chinese Bishops' Conference, and was "suspended" from being the head of the Catholic Patriotic Association and the Church Affairs Commission of Liaoning Province.
- October 27: Ordination of five new priests at Haimen by Bishops Shen Bin and Li Shan. Two of the priests belonged to Haimen Diocese, while the other three, namely Fathers Chen Zifa, Wang Feijing and Zeng Qingyao, belonged to the Shantou Diocese. Huang Bingzhang, the illegitimate Bishop of Shantou, presented the dimissorial letters for the latter three priests, but did not attend the ceremony.

November 2011

- November 10: In Yanjing Church in the Mengkang District, of the Tibet autonomous region, volumes of the Bible and a Biography of the Virgin Mary, translated into Tibetan in 1931 and 1932, were discovered. The documents were still in a well preserved condition.

- November 16-18: A three-day Symposium on Liturgy and Inculturation organized by the Faith Institute for Cultural Studies was held in Shijiazhuang. Eighty persons participated and 30 experts gave input.
- November 22: Death of Bp. Anthony Zong Changfeng (1932-2011), irregular underground Coadjutor Bishop of Kaifeng Diocese, Henan. Born to a Catholic family in 1932, Bishop Zong entered the seminary at the age of 12. He was forced to return home after the seminary was disbanded amid growing political turmoil. However, he maintained his priestly vocation during the Cultural Revolution, while working as a livestock breeder and a brick maker. In 1979, when religious activities revived, he was ordained a priest and then served in parishes in Zhouzhi. In spite of many difficulties, he organized the Catholics to pool their resources to build 13 churches. Bp. John Baptist Liang Xisheng of Kaifeng in neighboring Henan Province secretly ordained the then Fr. Zong as his Coadjutor Bishop in 1998. However, the government prevented Bishop Zong from assuming office. The bishop continued to serve the Zhouzhi Diocese until his retirement from ill health in 2008. He then lived with a nephew in Nanyu Village until his death.
- November 22-23: The Theological Research Committee, under the Chinese Bishops Conference, held a Symposium on Inculturation in Beijing, with 42 participants in attendance. Bp. Ma Yinglin presided. Bp. Fang Xingyao, with other leaders of the One Association and One Conference, and officials from the United Front, the State Administration for Religious Affairs, and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences attended.
- November 30: Fr. Peter Luo Xuegang (1964-) was ordained as Coadjutor Bishop of Yibin Diocese, Sichuan, with both papal and government approval. Bp. John Chen Shizhong, 95, Ordinary Bishop of Yibin, was the main consecrator, assisted by other Vatican-approved co-consecrators, namely Bishops Paul He Zeqing of Wanzhou, Joseph Li Jing of Ningxia, John Baptist Yang Xiaoting of Yulin and Coadjutor Bishop Paul Xiao Zejiang of Guiyang. Lei Shiyin, the illegal bishop of Leshan, also participated in the consecration ceremony. Sixty-one priests, 35 Sisters and about a thousand of Catholics attended the ceremony. Bp. Luo and Fr. Lei were ordained priests together in 1991. Bp. Luo was seconded to

Yibin from neighboring Leshan Diocese in 2009. In 2010, he was elected as candidate for bishop and received the papal mandate. Yibin Diocese now has two bishops, seven priests and about 30,000 Catholics. Bp. Luo is the third Chinese bishop of the diocese.

December 2011

- December 1: Fr. Federico Lombardi, director of the Holy See's Press Office, responded in the following way to the presence of the illegitimate bishop Lei Shiyin at the ordination ceremony of Bishop Luo Xuegang: "In the wake of three recent episcopal ordinations without pontifical mandate, the fact that there is a new bishop in communion with the Pope and all the Catholic bishops of the world is certainly positive, and will be appreciated not only by Chinese bishops and faithful, but also by the universal Church. Nonetheless, the participation of an illegitimate bishop whose canonical status, as is well known, is one of excommunication, is not a step in the same direction and arouses the disapproval and dismay of the faithful, even more so because he participated as a consecrating bishop and concelebrated the Eucharist. His repeated disobedience to the norms of the Church unfortunately aggravates his canonical position."
- December 2: An agreement providing for mutual recognition of qualifications between ecclesiastical universities around the world, linked to the Holy See, and universities recognized by the Taiwan Ministry of Education was signed in Taipei, by Card. Zenon Grocholewski, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education and Taiwan's Education Minister Jiang Yi-huah.
- December 11: A road accident on the Jinzhou section of the Hebei provincial highway, killed one priest, Fr. Shi Liming, 39, and six seminarians belonging to the unregistered Church. Another seminarian was seriously wounded.
- December 16: The election of Fr. Qu Hailin as episcopal candidate for the official "Hunan Diocese".

STATISTICS

According to Holy Spirit Study Centre (December 2011)

<i>Number of Catholics</i>	About 12,000,000
<i>Number of churches and chapels</i>	6000
<i>Number of dioceses:</i>	
With priests serving regularly	116
Without regularly serving priests	22
<i>Number of bishops:</i>	
Open Church bishops	69
Underground Church bishops	38
<i>Number of priests:</i>	
Open Church priests	1,900
Underground Church priests	1,300
<i>Number of seminaries:</i>	
National seminary	1
Regional seminaries	5
Provincial seminaries	4
Diocesan seminaries	10
Underground Church seminaries	About 16
<i>Number of seminarians:</i>	
Open Church major seminarians	560
Open Church minor seminarians	550
Underground Church seminarians	About 350
<i>Number of Sisters:</i>	
Open Church Sisters	3,400
Underground Church Sisters	1,600
<i>Number of Sisters' novitiates:</i>	
Open Church novitiates	40
Underground Church novitiates	20

According to Catholic Church in China, 2011, No. 1 (pp. 6-9)

Bp. Ma Yinglin, in his report at the 8th Assembly of Chinese Catholic Representatives, reported the results of the pastoral and missionary work in the six years since the 7th Assembly (2004-2010):

- New episcopal ordinations: 25 ordinary bishops, 10 coadjutor bishops, 1 auxiliary bishop;
- 2 installed bishops, 5 retired bishops

- Churches: 300 newly built, raising the total number to 6,300.
- Priests: 300 newly ordained, raising the number of young/middle age priests to 2,700
- Seminarians in minor and major seminaries: 1,300
- Sisters: about 5,000 in 106 convents
- In formation: 1,300

- In the 97 official dioceses, more than 4,700 people received spiritual formation, 1,800 attended courses for catechists, more than 20,000 faithful took part in catechetical courses, more than 2,200 attended summer camps, about 5,000 parish leaders received training, more than 10,000 attended liturgical courses, and 616 courses for catechumens were held. More than 100,000 new Catholics were baptized.

- Orphanages: 9
- Homes for handicapped children: 7
- Old folks homes: 52
- Clinics: 136
- Hospitals: 8
- Kindergartens: 43
- Schools: 175

- The total number of Catholics is 6 million.