

# *Obituary of Five Bishops*

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*Staff of the Holy Spirit Study Centre*

We mourn the passing of five elderly bishops who served the Church in China through many challenging years.

## **Bishop Emeritus Casmir Wang Milu of Tianshui Diocese**

Bishop Emeritus Casmir Wang Milu of Tianshui Diocese, Gansu Province, passed away on February 14, 2017 at the age of 74. His original name was Wang Tai. He was born into a Catholic family in January, 1943, and was ordained a priest in 1980. In 1981, he was among the first three bishops secretly consecrated by Bp. Fan Xueyan of Baoding Diocese, at a time when the Church and the faithful were decimated in China.

## **Bishop Anicetus Wang Chongyi of Guiyang Diocese**

Bishop Anicetus Wang Chongyi of Guiyang Diocese, Guizhou Province passed away on April 20 at the age of 98. He was born in 1918 and was ordained a priest on October 23, 1949. On December 4, 1988 he was consecrated as Bishop of Guiyang. He was approved by the Holy See and recognized by the Chinese government. In 1999, the open Church merged Anlong, Guiyang and Shiqian dioceses to form Guizhou Diocese. Bishop Wang became the overseer of the Diocese.

## **Bishop John Liu Shigong of Jining Diocese**

Bishop John Liu Shigong of Jining Diocese, Inner Mongolia Province passed away on June 9, 2017 at the age of 89. He was born on August 28 1928 and was ordained a priest in 1956. On October 12, 1995 he was consecrated Bishop of Jining. He was approved by the Holy See and recognized by the Chinese government. Because the authorities demanded compliance with regulations that bishops be elected, and that they could assign any

bishop as consecrator or co-consecrator, Bishop Liu did not officially consecrate his Vatican-appointed successor.

### **Bishop Silvester Li Jiantang of Taiyuan Diocese**

Bishop Silvester Li Jiantang of Taiyuan Diocese, Shanxi Province, passed away on August 13, 2017 at the age of 92. He was born in 1925 and was ordained a priest in 1956. In 1990 he was appointed by the Holy See as Coadjutor Bishop of Taiyuan and was consecrated as Bishop of Taiyuan on December 4, 1994. He was the rector of the Shanxi Seminary (closed in 2012) from 2000 to 2001. Bishop Li also founded the Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Convent of the Diocese.

### **Bishop Paul Xie Tingzhe of Urumqi Diocese**

Bishop Paul Xie Tingzhe of Urumqi Diocese, Xinjiang Province passed away on August 14, 2017 at the age of 86. He was born in 1931. He grew up in Lanzhou, Gansu, and attended Lanzhou Minor Seminary. He spent 20 years in a reform-through-labour farm in Urumqi from 1961 to 1980. He was ordained a priest in 1980, and chose to serve the Church in Urumqi. On November 25, 1991 he was consecrated secretly as Bishop of the Diocese. Urumqi is 2,400 kilometers northwest of Beijing. The Diocese covers 1.6 million square kilometers in a majority-Muslim region.