

# *A Chronology of the Catholic Church in China in the Context of Selected Dates in World and Chinese History<sup>1</sup>*

*Prepared by Holy Spirit Study Centre Staff*

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|-----------------------|---|
| 770 B.C.-<br>221 B.C. | Eastern Zhou Dynasty (including Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods).  |
| 770 B.C.              | Founding of Rome.   |
| 563-483 B.C.          | Gautama Buddha, Indian religious leader and founder of Buddhism.  |
| 551-479 B.C.          | Confucius, Chinese philosopher and teacher, whose body of thought and writings became the basis for order in Chinese Society. |
|                       | Laozi, Chinese philosopher reputed to have founded Daoism. (Exact dates unknown).   |
| 428-348 B.C.          | Plato, Greek philosopher.   |
| 384-322 B.C.          | Aristotle, Greek philosopher and student of Plato.  |
| 372-289 B.C.          | Mencius, Confucian disciple.  |
| 300 B.C.              | Book of Rites, code of etiquette for the ruling class.  |
| 240 ? B.C.            | Dao De Jing, a book of nature mysticism in verse, attributed to Laozi.  |
| 221 B.C.-<br>206 B.C. | Qin Dynasty. Emperor Qin Shihuang unifies all of China and builds the Great Wall (3460 kilometers in 2860 sections).          |

## Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD)

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 100-44 B.C. | Julius Caesar, Roman general, statesman and historian. |
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<sup>1</sup> All items referring to the Church in China are set out in bold type.

- 27 B.C.-14 A.D. Augustus Caesar, first Roman emperor.
- 4? B.C. Birth of Jesus Christ
- 65 A.D. Buddhism introduced in China.
- 100 A.D. Silk Road, an ancient trade route linking China to Rome.
- 265-618 A.D. Jin Dynasty, Southern and Northern Dynasties and Sui Dynasty.
- 312 Conversion of Constantine,
- 581-618 Rebuilding the Great Wall
- 570?-63. Muhammed.

Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.)  
(Capital: Xian)

- 635 **Alopen, a Syrian monk, arrives in the Tang Capital of Chang'an (Xian), introduces Nestorian Christianity into China. Emperor Taizong officially permits practice of Christianity.**
- 638 **First Nestorian Church erected in Xian. Over a hundred churches and monasteries develop in the surrounding cities and towns.**
- 645 Xuanzang brings Buddhist Scriptures to China from India and directs their translation into Chinese.
- 680 Construction of Grand Canal begins.
- 781 **Nestorian Stone erected in Chang'an (Xian) in honor of Nestorian Bishop Wang Shezheng; the introduction of Christianity recorded in China in Chinese and Syriac languages.**
- 742-814 Charlemagne, king of the Franks and emperor of the Roman Empire.
- 845 **Religious persecution of Nestorian Christian missionaries. Nestorianism gradually dies out. China bans Buddhism.**
- 907-979 Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms.

Song Dynasty (960-1279)

Northern Capital: Kaifeng; Southern: Hangzhou

- 1054 Eastern Schism: Beginning of Eastern Orthodox Church.
- 1095-1291 The Crusades.
- 1100-25 Development of mathematics and botany in China.
- 1175 Construction of "the great wall city" (Yangzhou); completed in 1557.
- 1181-1223 Francis of Assisi; Founding of the Franciscan Order, 1209.
- 1215 Magna Carta granted by King John of England.
- 1234 Founding of the Order of Preachers by St. Dominic.
- 1245 **Pope Innocent IV sends John of Plano Carpini, a Franciscan friar, and two others with official letters to open diplomatic relations with the Mongols.**
- 1253 King of France, Louis IX, sends William of Rubruquis and companions with letters to Kubla Khan.
- 1260 Polo brothers, Nicolo and Maffeo, Venetian merchants and travelers set sail for the Orient.
- 1269 **Polo brothers from Venice return from China with a letter from the Great Khan to Gregory X, requesting 100 theologians for his court.**

Mongolian Dynasty (Yuan) (1279-1368)

Capital: Peking (Beijing)

Kubla Khan (b. 1216) reigns from 1259-1294.

- 1275 Young Marco Polo arrives at court of the great Khan.
- 1280 Completion of Grand Canal; links north and south China.
- 1289 **Nicholas IV sends John of Montecorvino on a diplomatic mission to the first Yuan emperor; the emperor establishes a Bureau of Christian Affairs.**
- 1291 **John of Montecorvino, O.F.M., arrives in the Mongol**

**Empire (d. 1328).**

- 1294 **John of Montecorvino begins the evangelization of the Mongols.**
- 1299 **First Catholic Church founded in Beijing.**
- 1305 **Montecorvino sends a letter to Europe stating there are 6000 Catholics in China; that he has built a church across from the Imperial Palace and will translate the Psalms and New Testament into Mongolian.**
- 1307 **Pope Clement V creates the Archdiocese of Beijing. Archbishop Montecorvino cares for the religious affairs of China and East Asia.**
- 1308-1377 **Popes at Avignon under the King of France.**
- 1313 **Montecorvino is made Archbishop of Beijing.**
- 1322 **The Franciscan Odoric of Pordenone arrives in Quanzhou, then moves to Beijing where he stays for three years and baptizes 20,000.**

Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)

founded by Emperor Zhu Yuanzhong  
Capital moves to Beijing from Nanjing

- 1370 **There are 60,000 Catholics in Beijing when Montecorvino dies, leaving no successor. Catholicism gradually disappears.**
- 1407 **Emperor Yongle moves capital from Nanjing to Beijing and builds the imperial city.**
- 1447 **Tibet has its first Dalai Lama.**
- 1492 **Columbus discovers America.**
- 1493 **Treaty of Tordesillas: newly discovered lands divided by the Pope between Spain and Portugal: beginning of Padroado system in which the Portuguese claim to have control over the Catholic Church in the Orient and have the right to appoint bishops. This system was operative until after the Opium War.**
- 1497 **Vasco da Gama rounds Cape of Good Hope.**
- 1500-1700 **Renaissance period in Europe.**

- 1514 Portuguese arrive off coast of China after conquering Goa, 1510; Malacca, 1511.
- 1517 Protestant Reformation begins.
- 1534 Foundation of Jesuits; Paul III gives approbation, 1540.
- 1545-1563 Council of Trent.
- 1552 Matteo Ricci, born on October 6, in Macerata, Italy.
- 1552 Francis Xavier arrives at Shangchuan Island, South China, on December 2 where he dies without entering the mainland.
- 1553 Portuguese occupy Macao.
- 1575-76 Diocese of Macao erected; China, Japan and Southeast Asia comes under its jurisdiction.
- 1583 Matteo Ricci arrives in China (previous year in Macao), settles first in Zhaoqing in Guangdong Province.
- 1599 Ricci settles in Nanjing on February 6.
- 1601 Ricci settles in Beijing.
- 1603 Baptism of Paul Xu Guangqi (1562-1633), scholar, government official, Grand Secretary to the Ming emperor, confidant and collaborator of Ricci.
- 1603 Ricci approves Chinese Rites.
- 1603 Ricci publishes *Tianzhu Shiyi, The True Meaning of the Lord of Heaven*.
- 1610 Ricci dies in Beijing on May 11.
- 1617 Nicholas Trigault, S.J. on June 27, obtains permission from Paul V for Jesuits to translate the Bible into literary Chinese, to use the Chinese language for Mass, breviary, and administration of sacraments. (Permission never used).
- 1618 Trigault and 22 Jesuits sail from Lisbon to China (six die during the journey); among the Jesuits are Adam Schall von Bell and Johan Terrenz Schreck; Schreck brings a 7,000 volume science library and telescope.

- 1622 **Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith created to supervise missions. German Jesuit Adam Schall von Bell (1592-1666) arrives in China after spending a year in Macau. He eventually becomes President of the Mathematical Tribunal at the Court of the Emperor and Mandarin of the First Class; authors 137 treatises in Chinese and reluctantly manufactures cannons for the emperor.**
- 1625 **Discovery of the Nestorian Monument, Xian.**
- 1631 **Dominicans (Order of Preachers, O.P.) come from Taiwan to China.**
- 1639 **Franciscans begin preaching in Guangzhou (Canton) and Wuzhou.**
- 1643 **Dominican Juan Morales goes to Rome and submits "doubtful questions" on the Jesuit interpretation of the Chinese Rites; the Chinese Rites Controversy begins.**
- Qing Dynasty (1644-1911)  
Capital: Peking (Beijing)
- 1645 **First prohibition of Chinese Rites by Rome.**
- 1654 **First Chinese priest, Gregory Luo Wenzao, O.P., ordained in the Philippines, on July 4.**
- 150,000 Catholics now in China.**
- 1656 **Rome rules in favor of the Jesuit view of the Rites.**
- 1659 **Rome sets up apostolic vicariates in China: Nanjing and Beijing.**
- Founding of the Missions Etrangères de Paris**
- 1665-1668 **"Guangzhou Conference" on Chinese Rites; 19 Jesuits, 3 Dominicans, 1 Franciscan imprisoned by Chinese government.**
- 1674 **Pope Clement VIII appoints Luo Wenzao Bishop of Nanjing.**
- 1676 **Domingo Fernandez de Navarette, O.P., publishes *An Account of the Empire of China: Historical, Political, Moral and Religious*: critical of the Jesuit interpreta-**

- tion of Chinese Rites.
- 1685            **Gregory Luo Wenzao ordained first Chinese bishop by Bernadine della Chiesa, O.F.M., vicar apostolic of Beijing.**
- 1688            **Ferdinand Verbiest, S.J. becomes Director of the Bureau of Astronomy and the Calendar; in 1687 demonstrates the first working model of a steam-driven automobile.**
- 1689            **Sino-Russian Treaty of Nerchinsk determines that large areas of the Heilong and Wusuli River basins belong to China.**
- 1692            **Emperor Kangxi grants *Edict of Toleration* on behalf of Christianity.**
- 1693            **Charles Maigrot, M.E.P., Vicar Apostolic of Fujian, issues "Mandate" against Chinese Rites.**
- 1701            **Foreign missionaries in China: 6 Augustinians, 8 Dominicans, 29 Franciscans, 59 Jesuits, 15 M.E.P.**
- 1703-1706      **Mission of Charles Tomas Maillard de Tournon, Patriarch of Antioch, Apostolic Commissar and Visitor of the China Mission, Papal Legate *a latere*, sent to the Court of the Emperor Kangxi at Beijing by Clement XI concerning the Chinese Rites. Maillard de Tournon opposes the Jesuit interpretation. After unsuccessful negotiations with Emperor Kangxi, he publishes the 1704 proscription against the Rites in Nanjing in 1707.**
- 1704            **Pope Clement XI rules against Christians participating in Chinese ancestor rites.**
- 1704            **There are now 250 churches and 300,000 Catholics in China.**
- 1706            **Emperor Kangxi banishes Maillard de Tournon from China on December 12.**
- 1715            **Archimandrite Hilarion starts first Russian ecclesiastical mission in Peking to assist Russians made prisoner in seige of Albasin on July 7, 1684.**
- 1720            **Charles Ambrose Mezzabarba, Patriarch of Alexandria, Papal Legate from Clement XI to the Court of Emperor Kangxi arrives on December 26. In the 59th**

- year of his reign Kangxi Emperor forbids the preaching of Christianity in China.
- 1724 **Edict of Emperor Yongzheng forbids preaching of Christianity under penalty of death. Missionary activity limited to Macao and Guangzhou. Some Jesuits, however, remain at court in Beijing.**
- 1742 ***Ex Quo Singulari* of Benedict XIV, final suppression of Chinese Rites, on July 11.**
- 1773 Suppression of the Jesuits, *Dominus ac Redemptor*, issued by Clement XIV on August 16.
- 1775 **Lazarists (Vincentians) take over from Jesuits in Beijing.**
- 1775 American Revolution.
- 1789 French Revolution.
- 1800 **There are now 210,000 Catholics in China**
- 1802 **Ban on foreign missionaries renewed; a few allowed to remain in Beijing for civil service.**
- 1807 Robert Morrison, first British Protestant missionary arrives in China.
- 1814 Restoration of the Jesuits by Pius VII, *Sollicitudo Omnium Ecclesiarum*, on August 7.
- 1815 Napoleon defeated at Waterloo.
- 1818-1883 Karl Marx, German economist, philosopher and socialist; founder of the theories of Marxism.
- 1829 David Abeel and Elijah Coleman Bridgeman, the First Protestant American missionaries to China, begin their work in Guangzhou (Canton).
- 1832 **Chinese Christians of Jiangsu Province petition Jesuit General Jan Phillip Roothan for the return of the Jesuits to China.**
- 1840 Opium War between China and England.
- 1842 **Treaty of Nanjing: China cedes Hong Kong to the British; opens five ports and begins series of unequal treaties. Missionaries allowed in these ports.**



- 1848 Communist Manifesto of Karl Marx.
- 1851-64 Hong Xiuquan's Taiping Uprising.
- 1853 Taipings capture Nanjing.
- 1856 Second Opium War.
- 1858-1860 **Treaties of Tianjin and Beijing: missionaries allowed into the interior of China, protected by foreign governments.**
- 1858 The Pontifical Foreign Missions Institute (P.I.M.E.) arrives in Hong Kong.
- 1859 Darwin publishes *Origin of Species*.
- 1860 Treaty of Peking (Beijing) gives the British rule over the Kowloon peninsula as far as Boundary Street.
- 1861-1865 American Civil War.
- 1863 Abraham Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation, January 1.
- 1864 Pius IX issues *Quanta Cura, the Syllabus of Errors* on December 8.
- 1865 **Belgian Scheut Fathers arrive in China.**
- 1865 The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank opens in Hong Kong.
- 1866 Birth of Sun Yat-sen in Guangdong.
- 1869-1870 **Vatican Council I. At the Council the vicars apostolic for China meet for 15 sessions (no Chinese representation), opt for status quo--French protection, opposition to native Chinese hierarchy, no interference in other vicars' missions, no ambassador from the Vatican to China.**
- 1869 Completion of Suez Canal.
- 1870 **Tianjin Massacre, anti-Christian movement.**
- 1870-1924 Vladimir Illyich (Josif) Lenin, Russian revolutionary leader and Soviet Premier from 1918-1924.

- 1872            Zikawei (Xujiahui) Observatory established at Shanghai.
- 1879            **Pope approves a resolution of Propaganda to divide Chinese Empire into five ecclesiastical regions (April 27).**
- 1885-1887      **Leo XIII attempts to establish diplomatic relations with China; France objects; plan fails.**
- 1879            **Society of the Divine Word (S.V.D.) comes to China.**
- 1893            Birth of Mao Tse-tung.
- 1894-5          Japan victorious in Sino-Japanese War. China cedes Taiwan to Japan.
- 1895-1896      **Marist Brothers come to Shanghai.**
- 1898            US defeats Spain and occupies the Philippines.
- 1898            New Territories come under British rule.
- 1899            Foreign powers divide China into spheres of influence.
- 1900            **Boxer Uprising; 18,000 Catholics, including 5 bishops, 40 priests and numerous women religious massacred.**
- 1900            **Church numbers over 742,000 Chinese Catholics and 470 Chinese priests.**
- 1903            **Ma Xiangbo (1840-1939), distinguished Catholic, founds Aurora University, Shanghai.**
- 1904            Japan victor in war with Russia.
- 1905            Sun Yat Sen founds the Tung Meng Hui (United League) in Tokyo to overthrow the Qing Dynasty.
- 1905            First Russian Revolution.
- 1907            Pius X condemns Modernism.
- 1908            **Belgian priest Frederic Vincent Lebbe (1872-1940) insists that Church policy should be "China to the Chinese, the Chinese to Christ"; launches lay apostolate at Tianjin.**
- 1910            Japan invades Korea.

- 1911 Chinese Revolution: Sun Yat Sen overthrows Qing Dynasty (October 10).
- 1911 Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America (Maryknoll) founded.
- 1912 Abdication of Emperor Puyi (February 12).

Founding of Chinese Republic (1912-1949)  
Capital: Nanjing - Sun Yat-sen, President

- 1912 The Tung Meng Hui absorbs four smaller parties and changes its name to the Nationalist Party or the Kuomintang.
- 1912 **Catholic population in China reaches 1,292,000 with 521 Chinese priests.**
- 1913 **Catholics, Protestants, Buddhists, Muslims, and Taoist jointly oppose Confucianism as a state religion.**
- 1913 **Establishment of Catholic Action in Shanghai with Joseph Lo Pahong as president.**
- 1914-1918 First World War.
- 1916-27 Period of Warlordism.
- 1914 Completion of the Panama Canal.
- 1917 October Revolution in St. Petersburg; Soviet Socialist government set up in Russia (November 7).
- 1918 **First Maryknollers arrive in China. This is the first mission of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America.**
- 1919 May 4th Movement. Beijing university students protest China's treatment in Treaty of Versailles.
- 1919 **Benedict XV issues encyclical, *Maximum Illud* on the missions, the development of local clergy and an indigenous hierarchy (November 30).**
- 1920 **Fr. Vincent Lebbe, C.M., protests against church's use of "unequal treaties" in Tianjin. He is sent back to France.**
- 1920 First female students admitted to the University of

Beijing.

- 1921 First Congress of Chinese Communist Party in Shanghai (July 23-31).
- 1922-1928 Chinese Nationalism: anti-foreign, anti-Christian movement.
- 1922 **Pius XI elected pope, the "Pope of the Missions"; appoints Archbishop Celso Costantini first Apostolic Delegate to China.**
- 1922 Second Party Congress held in Shanghai (July 16-23).
- 1923 Third Party Congress held in Guangzhou (June 12-20).
- 1924 **First Plenary Council of China opens at Xujiahui (May 15)**
- 1925 Death of Sun Yat Sen in Beijing (March 12).
- 1925 **There are now 2,300,000 Catholics now in China.**
- 1925 Fourth Party Congress held in Shanghai (January 11-22).
- 1926 Chiang Kai Shek takes over power; breaks with the Communists.
- 1926 **Six Chinese consecrated bishops in Rome on October 28; the first since Luo Wenzao.**
- 1927 Fifth Party Congress held in Wuhan, with 80 delegates representing 57,900 Party members (April 27-May 9).
- 1928 Chiang Kai Shek conducts the Northern Campaign and sets up the National government in Nanjing.
- 1928 Sixth Party Congress held in Moscow, with 84 delegates representing 40,000 Party members (June 18-July 11).
- 1931 Japan invades Manchuria.
- 1932 Japan bombs Shanghai.
- 1933 Hitler becomes German Chancellor.
- 1934-1935 The Long March of the Red Army.
- 1936-39 Spanish Civil War.

- 1937 Sino-Japanese War. Japan bombs the Great Wall. Most Catholic hospitals serve as military hospitals.
- 1937 **Pius XI publishes *Divini Redemptoris* on atheistic Communism (March 19).**
- 1937 **Joseph Lo Pahong, industrialist and distinguished Catholic philanthropist, assassinated (December 30).**
- 1937 **Catholic population reaches 3,100,000.**
- 1939 **Pius XII lifts interdict on Chinese Rites.**
- 1939-1945 Second World War.
- 1940 Mao Zedong publishes *The New Democracy*.
- 1941 Japanese bomb Pearl Harbour (December 7); United States declares war on Japan.
- 1943 Unequal Treaty system abrogated.
- 1943 **Xie Shoukang, first ambassador from China to the Vatican.**
- 1945-1949 Civil War in China. Communists emerge the victors.
- 1945 Seventh Party Congress held in Yanan with 547 delegates representing 1.21 million Party members (June 11).
- 1945 United States drops the atomic bomb on Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9). Japan surrenders.
- 1946 **Thomas Tian Gengxin becomes China's first Cardinal.**
- 1946 **Pius XII establishes Chinese hierarchy. China now has 20 ecclesiastical provinces, 79 dioceses and 20 vicariates**
- 1946 **Archbishop Antonio Riberi becomes first Internuncio to China from the Vatican.**
- 1946 **John C.H. Wu (Wu Jingxiong) appointed China's Minister Plenipotentiary to the Vatican.**

People's Republic of China (October 1, 1949)  
Proclaimed by Mao Zedong

- 1949 Chiang Kai-shek flees to Taiwan after the People's Liberation Army captures Nanjing.
- 1949 Mao goes to Moscow (December).
- 1949 **Catholics number 3,000,000. There is a drop in membership.**
- 1950 Mao concludes Sino-Soviet alliance.
- 1950 **Ignatius Gong Pinmei made first Chinese bishop of Shanghai (July 15). He had been consecrated on October 7, 1949.**
- 1950 **A group of Catholics in Sichuan issues declaration calling for a movement of "Self Support and Reform in the Church." Action immediately condemned by Archbishop Riberi, the Vatican Internuncio. This was the beginning of the Three-self Principles: Self-support, Self-administration and Self-Propagation (November 30).**
- 1950-53 Korean War and Chinese intervention in Korea.
- 1951 **Catholic representatives meet Premier Zhou Enlai (January 17).**
- 1951 Agrarian Reform Law. By December 1951, 300,000,000 peasants receive 700,000,000 mu of land (6 mu = 1 acre).
- 1951 Mao begins the suppression of counter-revolutionaries.
- 1951 **Chinese Communist government takes over Fu Jen University in Beijing, operated by the Society of the Divine Word.**
- 1951 **Pius XII encyclical letter: *Evangelii Praecones* on the indigenization of Church. (June 2).**
- 1951 **Chinese Communists expel Vatican Internuncio Archbishop Antonio Riberi, (September 4).**
- 1951 **Chinese Communist Party closes the Jesuit Aurora University in Shanghai.**

- 1951            **Arrests, persecution and harassment of priests, Sisters and lay Catholics by Communists begin in earnest.**
- 1951            **All Catholic institutions nationalized.**
- 1951            **Pius XII appoints 12 more Chinese Bishops.**
- 1951            **China occupies Tibet (May).**
- 1951            **Anti-Corruption Campaign (December).**
- 1952            **Pius XII issues apostolic letter *Cupimus Imprimis* (January 18) in the effort to encourage Chinese Catholics in their adversity.**
- 1952            **Communists imprison 220 Chinese priests and 94 foreign missionaries.**
- 1952            **Early archaeological evidence of the Catholic Church in China found on Yangzhou tombstone of Catherine de Viglione, dated November 1352.**
- 1953            **Stalin dies (March 5).**
- 1953            **Korean Cease-Fire signed (July 27).**
- 1954            **Geneva Convention on Vietnam**
- 1954            **First People's Congress; Mao named State Chairman (September).**
- 1954            **Pius XII issues *Ad Sinarum Gentes*; second letter encouraging Chinese Catholics in their adversity and criticizing Three-Self Movement (October 7).**
- 1954            **Khrushchev visits Peking (Beijing).**
- 1954            **China adopts its first constitution. Article 88 guarantees freedom of religious belief.**
- 1955            **Lin Biao and Deng Xiaoping become Politbureau members (April).**
- 1955            **Mao announces collectivisation of land (May).**
- Bishop Gong Pinmei of Shanghai, 21 priests and over 200 Catholics are arrested ( September 7); Bishops of Baoding, Hankou, Taizhou are arrested (September 25). A second wave of mass arrests of Catholics in Shanghai (September 26).**

- Private businesses socialized (October).
- 1956 **More bishops, priests and lay people imprisoned.**  
Hungarian Uprising.  
"Hundred Flowers Campaign" (May).  
**A number of Catholics released from prison.**  
Meeting of the Eighth Party Congress in Beijing, with 1026 delegates representing 10.73 million members (September 15-27).
- 1956 **Meeting in Beijing of 36 (38 invited) Catholic representatives with government officials, in preparation for setting up a nationwide Catholic Patriotic Association (July 19-25).**
- 1957 **Two hundred and forty-one delegates from 104 dioceses and prefectures with officials from the Religious Affairs Bureau and the United Front Work Department formally establish the Catholic Church Patriotic Association (CCPA); Archbishop Pi Shoushi of Shenyang elected chairperson. Church divides into factions: The Patriotic Catholics and the Rome Loyalists (June 17-August 2).**  
End of the "Hundred Flowers Campaign"; many critics of the Beijing regime arrested.  
"Anti-rightist" (those who criticized Mao during the Hundred Flowers period) campaign begins (July).
- 1958 **The Great Leap Forward**  
**"Xinge", Shanghai Catholic magazine, calls for self-elected bishops.**  
**CCPA'S appeal to the Vatican for approval of China appointed bishops; request is turned down.**  
**First consecration of bishops without Roman approval (April 13).**  
**Benedict Dong Guangqing of Hankou and Mark Yuan Wenhua of Wuchuan elected and consecrated bishops by CCPA.**



- Pope Pius XII's third decree to Catholics in China, *Ad Apostolorum Principis* condemns CCPA and the illegal election of bishops (June 29).
- Lin Biao elected State Vice-chairman.  
Establishment of communes (August).
- 1958-1962      **Nominations and ordinations of 52 bishops without Vatican approval.**
- 1959            **John XXIII announces the Second Vatican Council (January).**
- 1959-1960      The " Great Leap Forward" leads to drop in harvest; famine rampant throughout China. It is estimated that 20,000,000 die in spite of strict rationing.
- 1960            **Last foreign missionary in China, Bishop James E. Walsh, M.M., arrested in October 1958 is sentenced to 20 years imprisonment (March 18). Bishop Gong Pinmei is sentenced of life imprisonment (March 17).**
- Revolt in Tibet (March).
- Liu Shaoqi named head of State.
- 1960            Break with USSR. Soviet advisors and technical personnel working in China recalled to USSR.
- 1961            John Kennedy becomes 35th President of the United States (January 20).
- 1961            **John XXIII sends letter to Taiwan hierarchy: *China and the Catholic Church* (June ).**
- 1962            **Second Conference of Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association held in Beijing. Seven more bishops elected by CCPA. Bishops in open Church number 45 (January 2).**
- Many priests jailed or sent to labour camps.
- Vatican Council II opens (September 8).
- 1963            **Death of John XXIII (June 3).**
- Election of Paul VI (June 21).
- Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas (November 22). Vice-President, Lyndon Johnson becomes US President.

- 1964            Mao's *Little Red Book* published for the general public.  
China successfully explodes its first atomic bomb (October 16).  
**Paul VI's encyclical "Ecclesiam Suam" condemns Communism and admits that dialogue is almost impossible, but Pope seeks to understand atheists.**
- 1965            President Johnson moves American troops into Vietnam (January).  
Singapore is separated from Malaysia.  
Paul VI addresses the United Nations (October 4).  
**Paul VI sends New Year's telegram to Chairman Mao (December 31).**
- 1966-1976      Mao launches the Cultural Revolution beginning a decade of political and religious upheaval.
- 1966            Original Cultural Revolution group, Peng Zhen, Luo Ruiqing, Lu Dingyi, and Yang Shangkun, dismissed. Radical new team set up: Chen Boda, Jiang Qing, Kang Sheng (May). The final team, usually referred to as the "Gang of Four", and those who came to trial, was made up of Jiang Qing, Mao's fourth wife, Zhang Chunqiao, Wang Hongwen and Yao Wenyuan.  
  
Red Guards organize. These were primarily students in their teens or early twenties who supported the leftist struggle against Liu Shaoqi and his followers. They were the radical vanguard of the Cultural Revolution.  
  
**All churches are closed. Priests, religious, and bishops, including bishops elected by CCPA, are sent to prison or forced labour. Secularization of priests and religious. Churches either demolished or converted to other uses.**
- 1967            **Pope prays for the people of China on feast of Epiphany making *An Appeal to China for Liberty and Peace* (January 6).**  
  
Liu Shaoqi humiliated and condemned (January-April).  
First Chinese H-bomb exploded (June).

- Israel occupies Sinai in Six Day War with Arabs.
- 1968 Richard Nixon elected President of the United States (November).
- 1969 Ninth Party Congress held in Beijing from April 1-24 with 1,512 delegates representing 22 million members.
- American Spacecraft, Apollo II, lands on the moon. Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the moon (July 21).
- 1970 **Release of American Bishop James E. Walsh, M.M. (July 10).**
- 1970-74 Under the leadership of Zhou Enlai, political stability gradually restored; universities virtually closed in 1966 now re-open, evaluation of development needs and foreign contracts sought.
- 1970 China launches its first satellite (April).
- 1970 **Mass celebrated for foreigners at Beijing's Nantang Cathedral.**
- Pope Paul VI visits Hong Kong and addresses a message to China calling for dialogue (December 4)**
- 1971 Ping-pong Diplomacy--Zhou Enlai meets United States table tennis team (April 10-17).
- Kissinger makes first visit to Beijing (July).
- Lin Biao dies under questionable circumstances in a plane crash in Mongolia (September 13).
- PRC admitted to the United Nations (October 25).
- India invades Pakistan. Result: Eastern Pakistan becomes Bangladesh.
- 1972 President and Mrs. Richard M. Nixon and party of 113 visit China (February).
- Alden J. Stevenson, S.J. first American Jesuit and Catholic priest permitted to visit China since 1949.**
- Prime Minister Tanaka of Japan visits Beijing (September).

1973 Jiang Qing and followers wield powerful influence in high places. Confucius and Confucianism criticized; Lin Biao criticized.

Deng Xiaoping returns to political scene.  
Tenth Party Congress held in Beijing with 1,249 delegates representing 28 million members (August 24-28).

1974 Lin Biao condemned as a "rightist".

Zhou Enlai falls out of favor.

**Louvain Conference: Protestants and Catholics from various countries meet to study the China experience and to try to develop communications with China.**

1975 Deng Xiaoping elected Vice-Chairman of Central Committee. Zhou Enlai ill but seriously pleads for the country to undertake a Four Modernizations program, at the Fourth National People's Congress (January). The Four Modernizations refer to agriculture, industry, science and technology and defence.

Zhou Enlai attacked and denounced (March).

Chiang Kai Shek, 87, dies in Taiwan (April).

**Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples establishes Centre for Chinese Studies of the Institute of Missionary Research of the Pontifical Urban University (May).**

Mao levels criticism towards Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping (August).

Deng presents plan for restoring scientific work at Dazhai Conference (September).

## 1976

January 8 Zhou Enlai, 77, dies.

February Richard Nixon revisits China.

March Press begins attacks on Deng Xiaoping.

April Deng Xiaoping dismissed. Hua Guofeng declared Party Chairman.

- April 5            Tianamen Incident: large scale and violent demonstrations take place in Beijing and other major cities in memory of Zhou Enlai and to criticize Mao's associates and enemies of Zhou.
- June              Gang of Four (Jiang Qing, Zhang Chunqiao, Yao Wenyuan and Wang Hongwen) exercise power in many spheres.
- July 6             Zhu De, 89, leading general from the Long March, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and one of the "founders" of the Red Army, dies.
- July 28            Severe earthquake devastates Tangshan, Hebei Province. Death toll estimated at 242,000 people.
- September 9      Mao Zedong, 83, dies.
- October 7-14      The Central Committee of the Communist Party circulates notice on Jiang Qing which eventually results in the arrest of the Gang of Four.
- October 7          Hua Guofeng replaces Mao as Chairman of the Communist Party.
- November          Gang of Four denounced throughout the entire country.  
China continues to conduct nuclear tests.
- December 5        CPC Central Committee issues circular rehabilitating victims of Cultural Revolution.

## 1977

- January            Zhou Enlai's death commemorated throughout the country.
- April              China begins modernization program; stress on industry and economic development.  
Selected words of Mao Zedong published.
- May                US President Carter speaks of China in terms of "force for global peace."
- July                The Third Plenum of the 10th CPC Central Committee restores Deng Xiaoping to his posts and elects him

- Vice-Chairman of the Communist party. The Gang of Four is expelled from the party and dismissed from all posts.
- August 12-18 11th Party Congress convenes in Beijing, with 1,510 delegates representing 35 million members. Hua Guofeng announces the end of the Cultural Revolution.
- August 19 Hua Guofeng elected Party Chairman at the First Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee.
- August 13-September 26 National Conference on college and university enrolment restores practice of entrance examinations abolished during the Cultural Revolution.
- August 30-September 8 With the visit of Josip Tito, the Party restores relations with the Yugoslavian Communist party signalling the beginning of relations with Communist Parties worldwide.
- September Mao Zedong Memorial Hall opens on first anniversary of his death.
- November Deng Xiaoping gaining more and more acceptance and power.

## 1978

- February Deng Xiaoping heads Political Consultative Conference.
- February 9 **Pope Paul VI accepts credentials of new ambassador from Taiwan.**
- March 18-31 National Science Conference held in Beijing. Hua Guofeng delivers speech, "Raise the Scientific and Cultural Level of the Whole Nation." Deng Xiaoping praises intellectuals and calls for training in science and technology.
- June-August Modernization program includes increase in number of Chinese students studying abroad. About 4,000 expected to enroll in language and science courses in Western and Eastern Europe.
- August 12 China and Japan sign peace and friendship treaty.
- November 5 First Big Character posters appear on Beijing democra-

cy wall entitled, "The Fifth Modernization" stating that without democratization the Four Modernizations can not succeed. Posters are the work of Wei Jingsheng. He was arrested on March 29, 1979 and sentenced to 15 years in prison on October 16, 1979.

November 14 With the approval of the CPC Politbureau the Party Committee of Beijing rehabilitates all those connected with the April 5, 1976, Tiananmen Incident calling it a revolutionary event.

December 10-19 Seminar on Atheism, held in Nanjing, sponsored by the Institute of World Religions of the Academy of Social Sciences and the Philosophy Department of Nanjing University.

December 18-22 Third Plenum of the 11th Central Committee commits China to the "Four Modernizations" program and adopts the concept as the official Party line.

**Third Plenum also restores freedom of religious belief after 13 years of religious suppression.**

**Two Catholic bishops and fourteen leaders of other religious groups appointed delegates to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.**

## 1979

January 1 United States establishes diplomatic relations with China.

January 1 The Standing Committee of the 5th National People's Congress sends message to Taiwan regarding reunification.

January 9 **More than 800 representatives from the Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist and Islamic religions and cadres from related departments meet in Shanghai. Representatives repudiate Cultural Revolution. All false charges against religions will be dropped and Municipal Revolutionary Committee pledges to restore the Religious Affairs Department and implement the Constitution on religious freedom.**

January 28 Lunar New Year lures 250,000 Hong Kong Chinese to mainland China.

- February 5  
February 17-  
March 16      **Deng Xiaoping visits the USA.**  
**Chinese troops win victory over Vietnamese forces. All Vietnamese troops out of Chinese territory by March 1.**
- March 16      **The Department of Religious Affairs and the United Front rehabilitated.**
- March 21      **First Chinese Christian delegation from Hong Kong visits China and makes contacts with Christians.**
- March 30      **Deng Xiaoping lists four basic principles to realize the four Modernizations: Socialism, proletarian dictatorship, Communist Party leadership and Mao Zedong thought.**
- April          **Six Catholic Churches re-open in: Beijing, Shanghai, Taiyuan, Wuhan, Tianjin and Guangzhou.**
- April-May      **Ten scholars from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences visit the USA.**
- June          **Pope visits Poland and receives generous coverage in Chinese Press.**
- June 18-  
July 1          **National Congress proposes the stabilization of the nation's population.**
- August 19:      **Pope John Paul II expresses hope of re-establishing relations with the Church in China. More churches reopen for Chinese Catholics.**
- August          **The first religious delegation from China attends World Conference on Religion and Peace in USA. Some delegates openly criticize Art.46 of the 1978 Chinese Constitution which, while allowing freedom of religion, permits the propagation of atheism only. They intend to request the Government to change the policy.**
- August 15-  
September 3      **In Beijing, first United Front Conference held since 1965. The Communist party resumes pre-Cultural Revolution policy of collaboration with minor political parties and religious leaders.**
- September 29      **China celebrates 30th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.**
- October 16      **Wei Jingsheng, initiator of Big Character poster campaign, sentenced to 15 years in prison for anti-revolu-**



- tionary crimes and is stripped of his political rights for 3 years.
- October 21      **Reopening of Sacred Heart (Stone House) Cathedral, Guangzhou.**
- October-  
November      **Bishop Georg Moser of West Germany first high level dignitary of Catholic Church to visit China.**
- November      Hua Guofeng visits Europe.
- December 6-7      **The China meeting of the US Catholic Mission Council held at Maryknoll, N.Y.; first meeting of this kind in 30 years. Purpose: to share thinking and plans regarding China and to get a broader understanding of Chinese reality.**
- December 21      **Michael Fu Tieshan, 48, of Beijing is the first bishop to be consecrated for the open Church after the Cultural Revolution.**
- December 27      Soviet Union invades Afghanistan.
- December      **Release of many priests from prison and work camps.**

## 1980

- January      **Vatican Radio broadcasts Mass in Chinese language to China.**
- Party Central publishes "Open Letter" on population problem and need for drastic 20-30 year population control program.
- February 11      **Twenty-three Catholic missionary congregations attend China meeting sponsored by SEDOS in Rome.**
- February 23-29      Fifth Plenum of 11th Central Committee dismisses Wang Dongxing and rehabilitates Liu Shaoqi (d. 1969).
- March      **Cardinals Etchegaray and Koenig visit China.**
- April 14      Italian Communist party delegation pays friendly visit to China and relations between the two Communist Parties are restored.
- April 15-17      The Ventnor Ecumenical Consultation sponsors China

- meeting with 50 representatives from Catholic, Protestant and Evangelical groups in USA.
- May 22-30 **The Third National Conference of Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association. Bishop Zong Huaide, Jinan Province, elected president.**
- June 2 **Establishment of the Chinese Bishops' Conference and the Church Administrative Committee.**
- June 9 **Bishop Dominic Tang of Guangzhou released after 22 years imprisonment. Gong Pinmei, bishop of Shanghai, remains in prison.**
- July **Government approved Catholic bishops number 33.**
- August 15 **Catholic Cathedral in Tianjin reopens.**  
August 30-  
September 10
- The Third Session of the 5th National People's Congress dismisses Premier Hua Guofeng. He is replaced by Zhao Ziyang.
- September 7 **Pope John Paul II sends Bishop Tang greetings for his Golden Jubilee of religious profession.**
- September War between Iraq and Iran.
- October Poland's Solidarity Movement obtains legal recognition.
- November Trial of the "Gang of Four".
- November 5 **Bishop Dominic Tang, Bishop of Guangzhou, arrives in Hong Kong.**
- December **Shanghai Cathedral at Xujiahui reopens.**
- December **Twelve Catholic churches now opened in China and 33 bishops in active ministry.**

## 1981

- January 25 The People's Republic of China sentences Gang of Four members: Jiang Qing and Zhang Chunqiao receive death sentence, but are given a two year reprieve. Wang Hongwen, Yao Wenyuan and others receive prison terms. All are stripped of their political rights.
- February 18 **Manila message of Pope John Paul II to the Chinese**

people, appealing for a dialogue saying it is possible to be truly Christian and authentically Chinese at the same time.

Cardinal Cassaroli comes to Hong Kong and speaks with Bishop Dominic Tang, the bishop of Guangzhou, who is there for medical treatment.

June 6 **Pope John Paul II appoints Msgr. Dominic Tang Archbishop of Guangzhou resulting in strong negative reaction from the Patriotic Association and the Chinese government.**

June 22 **Religious Affairs Bureau removes Bishop Dominic Tang as bishop of Guangzhou.**

**Patriotic Association accuses Vatican of creating an underground Church.**

**China consecrates 14 more bishops for the open Church.**

June 27-29 The Sixth Plenary Session of the 11th party Central Committee accepts Hua Guofeng's resignation from the chairmanship of the CPC Central Committee and the chairmanship of the Military Commission. Hu Yaobang becomes party chairman.

August 26 Deng Xiaoping elaborates "one country, two systems" concept towards the reunification of Taiwan.

August Government discloses its 10 point policy for setting up economic zones in Guangdong and Fujian Provinces.

August Zhao Ziyang visits Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia.

September 20 China successfully launches three space experimental satellites and one carrier rocket.

September 30 Ye Jianying, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, lists nine-point policy to realize the peaceful reunification of Taiwan with the Motherland.

October 2-9 **International Conference held in Montreal on the Church in China attended by ecumenical Chinese delegation including three Catholic leaders.**

October 6 Egypt's President Sadat assassinated.

- October            **Conferences and Exchange Visits of Chinese Christian leaders to Canada and Europe.**
- November 1        **Forty-three churches now open for worship.**
- November 26      **Four priests and about 16 lay people arrested in Shanghai because they "have followed the wishes of the Roman Curia, engaged in criminal activities against China and the Chinese people and tried to undermine the independence of the Chinese Churches."**
- November 30-  
December 13      **The Fourth Session of the 5th People's Congress stresses need for steady economic improvement and proposes trimming China's bureaucracy.**

## 1982

- January 6          **Letter of Pope John Paul II to the bishops of the world, asking for prayers for China but also affirming Roman primacy. The official Chinese church reacts angrily.**
- January 8-10      **Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury visits China.**
- March 31          **"Publication of Document 19: The Basic Viewpoint and Policy on the Religious Question during Our Country's Socialist period".**
- April 27          **New Chinese Constitution reaffirms freedom of religious belief (Article 36).**
- July 1             **National census reveals China's population now reaches 1,008,165,000.**
- September 1-11 **The 12th National Congress of the Communist Party opens in the Great Hall of the People with 1,545 delegates. Title of Party Chairman abolished; Hu Yaobang elected General Secretary and Deng Xiaoping head of military committee. Congress adopts a new Constitution of the CPC.**
- October 10        **Sheshan Seminary in Shanghai reopens, the first to be reopened after all seminaries were closed in 1957.**
- New arrests of Catholic priests in Shanghai.**
- China and the world celebrate the 400th Centenary of Matteo Ricci's arrival in China.**

- October 25      **John Paul II calls Ricci a bridge between the Church and Chinese culture.**
- November 26-  
December 10      National Assembly of the People's Consultative Congress adopts propaganda campaign for population control. People's Congress Standing Committee passes new State Constitution, the fourth since 1949.

## 1983

- January 1      **Statistics of January 1 reveal there are 48 active bishops in the open Church; 300 churches open and 1,300 active priests.**
- Joint National Assembly of the Catholic Patriotic Association and Catholic Administrative Commission 25th Anniversary celebration of independent consecration of Chinese bishops attended by high government officials.**
- March 13      Communist Party marks centenary of Karl Marx's death with mass rally attended by 10,000 people.
- June 6-21      Sixth meeting of the National People's Congress and Chinese Communist Party Central Committee with 2,977 delegates. Li Xianxian elected president, Zhao Ziyang elected premier of the State Council and Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the Central Military Commission.
- July 1      Publication of *Selection Works of Deng Xiaoping* (1975-82) and the whole Party is urged to study them earnestly.
- July      **Pope John Paul II renews appeal for a dialogue.**
- June 10      **Francis Zhu Shude, S.J., of Shanghai is sentenced to 12 years imprisonment followed by 3 years of deprivation of his civil rights. Charges not clear. Father Zhu Shude has already served 30 years in a labor camp.**
- August      **Three hundred Catholic churches now open in China.**
- September      **Chinese Sisters of the Immaculate Conception reorganize and are restored as a religious congregation by the Guangzhou Synod.**
- October 4      **Reopening of the National Catholic Seminary in Beijing. Other seminaries also reopen.**

- November            Spiritual Pollution Campaign launched.
- December 16        **Bishop Fan Xueyan, 80, Baoding, Hebei, is reportedly sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for counterrevolution activities. Also sentenced: Fr. Huo Binzhang, 70+, vicar general of the Baoding diocese.**
- December 22        China claims it has produced its first super-computer.
- Bishop Xu Zhenjiang of Shenyang, Liaoning, consecrated on July 24 1981, by the official Church, dies.**
- State Population Statistic: 1,024,950,000. This is an increase of 9.54 million over 1982

## 1984

- January 9-23        Premier Zhao Ziyang visits United States and Canada. First such visit since 1949.
- January             **Francis Zhu Shude, Jesuit priest from Shanghai, dies in Anhui Province, (exact date unknown).**
- The Guangqi Society, the publishing house of the Shanghai Catholic Church, resumes its work early in the year.**
- January 27         **Jinan Holy Spirit Minor Seminary, Shangdong Province, formally begins classes.**
- February 28        **Pope tells delegation of Taiwan bishops that they have the "task of being a bridge-Church for your mainland compatriots."**
- February 11        **Yuri Andropov, General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party and President of the Supreme Soviet, dies. He is replaced by Konstantin Chernenko.**
- March 5-19         President Li Xianxian visits Turkey, Pakistan, Jordan and Nepal in an effort to foster world peace.
- March 23-26        Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone visits China at the invitation of Chinese government.
- March 26-  
April 6:             Secretariat of the Party Central Committee and State Council meeting with representatives from coastal cities suggest opening up 14 coastal cities to foreign investment.

- April 18 China breaks ground for 70 storey Bank of China in Hong Kong, designed by I.M. Pei.
- April 28-May 1 President Reagan and wife Nancy visit China to explore ways of fostering mutual trust and better relations.
- April 30 Vietnam invades Laoshan and Zheyinshan, Yunnan Province, and Chinese troops counterattack.
- May 4-9 Hu Yaobang, General Party Secretary, visits North Korea to strengthen Sino-Korean ties.
- May 6 **Pope John Paul II appeals to Chinese Catholics to return to Universal Catholic Church.**
- May 6 **Sichuan Seminary opens.**
- May 15-31 Second Session of the 6th National People's Congress stresses restructuring of the economy and opening to the outside world, and calls for more urban reforms.
- May 29-June 16 Premier Zhao Ziyang visits Western Europe and explains China's independent and peaceful foreign policy.
- June 4 **Vatican requests that all 29 foreign bishops from former sees in China present their resignations. This is seen as a sign that the Vatican wants to enter into dialogue with Chinese authorities.**
- July 23 Modification in One-Child Family Policy for those who live in thinly populated areas, whose one child is disabled or for those couples who themselves are single children.
- July 29-August China garners 15 gold, 8 silver and 9 bronze medals at the 23rd Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.
- August 20-September 2 President Li Xianxian visits Romania and Yugoslavia.
- August 22 Deng Xiaoping turns 80.
- September 26 Sino-British Joint Declaration on the future of Hong Kong initialed.
- September 27 A 200,000 year old fossilized human skeleton unearthed in Yingkou, Liaoning Province, Northeast China.
- September 28 **Xian in Shaanxi Province begins to build a regional seminary to serve Shaanxi, Gansu, Ningxia, Xinjiang and Qinghai Provinces.**

- September 24-29 **Five Asian bishops visit China and meet with open Church Catholic leaders and leaders of other religions.**
- October 1 Massive cultural and military parade in Beijing to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the People's Republic.
- October 6 **More than 120 religious leaders of major denominations meet in Beijing to discuss their participation in China's modernization program and a fuller implementation of China's religious policy.**
- October 22 Deng Xiaoping defends China's policy of openness as necessary to catch up with the developed world within 30-50 years and assures the Central Advisory Commission at the Third Plenary Session of the 12th CPC Central Committee that China will not turn capitalistic.
- October 23 **Officials totally repudiate Cultural Revolution; religious figures rehabilitated and 3 million yuan given to restore church property.**
- October 31 Indian Prime Minister Indira Ghandi is assassinated and her son, Rajiv Ghandi succeeds her.
- October 27-  
November 6 **Cardinal Sin visits China, only the third cardinal to visit since 1949.**
- November 6 Ronald Reagan is re-elected President of the USA.
- November 26 **Pope John Paul II writes personal letter to Catholics of Hong Kong following statement by Bishop Wu on behalf of Hong Kong Catholics and 1997.**
- November 12 Chinese President Li Xianxian and his wife visit Spain, Malta and Portugal in an effort to strengthen relations. This visit is the first ever by a Chinese head of State to these countries.
- December 7 **Hebei Seminary opens.**
- December 19 Premier Zhao Ziyang and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in the Great Hall of the People, sign Sino-British Joint Declaration on the future of Hong Kong.
- December 29 Writers at Fourth National Writers' Congress want Party leadership to allow more artistic creativity.



Arrests of bishops, priests and laity continue.

**1985**

- January 27 **Jin Luxian and Li Side consecrated Auxiliary bishops of Shanghai.**
- January 14-24 **Mother Teresa visits Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macao and Beijing.**
- February 12 **The Communist government promises to return the Beitang, Beijing's largest cathedral, to the Catholic Church. The Beitang formally re-opens in December.**
- March 4-8 Chinese President Li Xianxian visits Burma and Thailand.
- March 21 Formation of the Amity Foundation, by Chinese Protestant Christians, "an organized response to China's social needs" with headquarters in Nanjing.
- March 25-30 **Bishop John Baptist Wu of Hong Kong visits China and becomes the first Hong Kong bishop to visit China officially since 1949.**
- March 27-April 10 Zhao Ziyang speaks of the need for private enterprise for efficiency, espouses economic reforms at the Third session of the Sixth 6th National People's Congress, Beijing.
- April 4 **Bishop Liu Dianchi of Jilin, consecrated in the open Church on October 10, 1962, dies after long illness.**
- April 21 **Taiyuan Minor Seminary opens.**
- May 23-June 6 Deng Xiaoping announces decision to cut China's army by 1 million men at a meeting of the Central Military Commission.
- May 27 CPC Central Committee issues "Decision on Reform of Educational System."
- June 8-17 China's Premier, Zhao Ziyang, visits the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany.
- July 3 **Bishop Gong Pinmei of Shanghai released on parole after 30 years imprisonment.**
- July 14-31 President Li Xianxian visits the United States and

- Canada. The trip aims at increasing friendship and understanding as well as strengthening economic ties.
- July 16 **Bishop Jin Luxian leads Shanghai Catholic Delegation on a visit to Hong Kong, Macao and Philippines.**
- July 23 President Ronald Reagan (USA) welcomes Chinese President Li Xianxian in ceremony on White House lawn.
- September 1 China celebrates 20th anniversary of the founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region.
- September 18 The 5th Plenum of the 12th CPC Central Committee promotes younger Party members "who are politically and professionally sound" to replace some of the retiring or aged cadres and Deng Xiaoping speaks of the need for reform and to find "a way to build Socialism with Chinese characteristics."
- October 24 Premier Zhao Ziyang addresses the UN General Assembly on the 40th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.
- October Hu Yaobang, Secretary General of the Communist Party, emphasizes need to adopt the technologies and administrative methods of capitalist countries, but not their fundamental political principles.
- October 28-  
November 12 Premier Zhao Ziyang visits Colombia, Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela in an effort to form closer ties with the Latin American continent. This is the first trip ever by a Chinese premier to South America.
- November 2-11 **Chinese Catholic Friendship Delegation, led by open Church Bishop Fu Tieshan of Beijing, visits Louvain and other Catholic institutions in Belgium, the first such group to travel abroad since 1949.**
- December More than 5,000 religious leaders elected as deputies to congresses or as members of political consultative conferences.

## 1986

- January 21-  
February 1 **Bishop John B. Wu visits Guangdong, his home province, and reaffirms the bridge role of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese.**

- February 25 Corazon Aquino becomes President of the Philippines through "People Power".
- April 1-10 **Director Ren Wuzhi of China's Bureau of Religious Affairs visits Hong Kong at the invitation of Hong Kong's six major religions.**
- May 1 The 30th anniversary of the "Hundred Flowers Campaign" is marked by a call for more artistic and intellectual freedom of expression.
- May 1 Although for Communists religion is still "the opium of the people," Jiang Ping, the deputy director of the Party's United Front Work Department, acknowledges, in an article written in the May 1 issue of *Red Flag*, that religious believers should not be pressured into accepting the Marxist view of religion.
- May 5 Publication of 50 volumes of *Collected Works of Marx and Engels* in Chinese. The work comprises 32 million Chinese characters.
- June-July 27 Premier Zhao Ziyang visits six nations: Romania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Spain, Turkey and Tunisia on goodwill tour.
- June 26-30 World Conference on Religion and Peace meets in Beijing. Religious leaders from 30 nations attend, representing 11 world religions.
- July 11 China officially applies for resumption of full membership in GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).
- August 8-16 Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa visits Beijing, Shanghai and Xian.
- September 6: **Dedication of new buildings at Seshan Seminary. The seminary has an enrollment of 115 students.**
- September 28 General Wojciech Jaruzelski, Chairman of the State Council of Poland, arrives in Beijing for a working visit. Jaruzelski expresses support for China's reforms.
- September 28 The Sixth Plenary Session of the 12th Party Central Committee passed the "Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the Guiding Principles for Building a Socialist Society with an Advanced Culture and Ideology."

- September 30 **First delegation of Chinese Catholic bishops and lay leaders of the open Church visit the United States: San Francisco (University of San Francisco), University of Notre Dame, Seton Hall University, Maryknoll Society headquarters. This is the first such delegation from China to visit the United States since 1949.**
- September 20-October 5 China sports teams win 94 gold, 82 silver and 46 bronze medals at the 10th Asian Games held in Seoul, Korea.
- October 5 Chinese President Li Xianxian meets with Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang and supports Korea's efforts at reunification.
- October 7 Marshal Liu Bocheng, 94, dies. He was Chief of the General Staff of the Central Military Commission during the Long March and held numerous important posts.
- October 11 The State Council announces the "Provisions for the Encouragement of Foreign Investments." Provisions become immediately effective.
- October 12 President Ronald Reagan meets Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Reykjavik, Iceland. Talks revolve around nuclear arms and missiles and Star Wars program.
- October 12-18 China leaders and people warmly welcome Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip during their visit to Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Xian and Kunming.
- October 20-26 Erich Honecker visits China and receives assurances from the Chinese government that they respect and approve of his government's policies.
- October 22 Marshal Ye Jianying, Communist party, State and army leader dies at age 90. Ye Jianying was instrumental in overthrowing Jiang Qing and the Gang of Four in 1976.
- November 8-9 Japanese Prime Minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone, pays brief visit to China and holds discussions on bilateral relations and international issues.
- November 18-29 **Fourth Catholic Patriotic Association Conference with 278 delegates takes place in Beijing. Delegates pass new constitution for the Association adding the words, "to support socialism" and "to make a contribution to the unification of the motherland."**

- November 30     **More than 1000 Catholics attend the three hour consecration ceremony for four new bishops of the open Church in Beijing. According to the Beijing Review, "the new bishops vowed to adhere to the principle of independence and self-government in local Catholic affairs.**
- December 1     Party leader, Hu Yaobang praises Marshal Zhu De on the 100th anniversary of his birth and ten years after his death. Zhu De was one of the principal founders of the Chinese People's Revolutionary army "wrongly criticized during the Cultural Revolution."
- December     China decides to open 192 more counties and cities to foreigners. This raises the number of open cities and counties to 436. These open areas include 9 cities and counties in Tibet and Xinjiang.
- December 30     Deng Xiaoping speaks up against bourgeois liberalization, student demonstrations and against Fang Lizhi. Deng maintains Fang Lizhi should be expelled from the Party.

**Open Church Statistics**

**Bishops now number 48; 22 of whom have been independently elected and consecrated in China since 1981. Dioceses number 112 and Catholics number approximately 3.3 million.**

**Other Statistics**

Since 1973, more than 20,000 students from 144 foreign countries have studied in China. Current enrollment: 2,400.

**1987**

- January-December     **Nine more bishops consecrated for the open Church.**
- January 16     Hu Yaobang forced to resign as Secretary General of the Chinese Communist Party and replaced by Zhao Ziyang.
- January 17     Fang Lizhi, astrophysicist, and writers Liu Binyan and Wang Ruowang, expelled from Communist party.
- January     Thousands of university students demonstrate in marches from Beijing to Kunming in favor of democracy.

- January 17 Li Peng supports intellectuals in developing socialist modernization program.
- February 22-28 **Bishops and priests, members of CCPA of Jiangsu Province, mandated to attend government study session in Nanjing.**
- March 11-20 **Second government study session mandated for Bishops and priests of Jiangsu.**
- March 25-April 11 Fifth Session of the Sixth National People's Congress meets with 2,719 delegates attending. Party calls for sustained, economic development, more economic structural reforms and more openness to the outside world.
- April 13 Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang and Portuguese Prime Minister Cavaco Silva sign the Joint Declaration between the Governments of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Portugal. According to the declaration China will reassume sovereignty over Macao on December 20, 1999.
- April 24-26 **Meeting of Bishops, priests, laity and provincial members of CPA in Beijing.**
- April **Auxiliary Bishop of Shanghai Jin Luxian visits Belgium, France and Switzerland.**
- Hong Kong Diocese sets up Strategy Task Force to meet the challenge of 1997.
- May 6-June 4 **CCPA leaders visit Canada.**
- May 19-June 4 **World Conference on Mission and Evangelization held in San Antonio, Texas; a Chinese delegation of eight attends.**
- June 4-21 Zhao Ziyang visits Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria.
- Eight men are ordained at Sheshan Regional Seminary; the first ordinations since Sheshan's re-opening in 1982.**
- June 19 **Hong Kong religious leaders meet to study texts on religion in Basic Law.**
- July 28 Taiwan lifts ban against Taiwanese entering the Mainland through Hong Kong or Macao.

- August 30            **CCPA celebrates 30th anniversary, Beijing.**
- September 4        **Deng Xiaoping resigns as Chairman of the CCP Central Committee Military Commission.**
- September 27-  
October 6            **Thousands demonstrate in favor of independence in Tibet.**
- October 25-  
November 1         **13th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party with 1,959 delegates opens in Beijing. New Central Committee younger with average age of 55. Zhao Ziyang calls for Socialism with Chinese characteristics; the primary stage of Socialism.**
- November 2         **The first Taiwan compatriots since 1949 visit Mainland after Taiwan lifts ban on travel.**
- November 14        **Zhao Ziyang resigns as premier.**
- November 24        **Li Peng appointed acting-premier.**
- November 9         **President Li Xianxian travels to France, Italy, Luxembourg and Belgium.**
- November 11        **Jaime Cardinal Sin, Philippines, visits China.**
- November 17        **Bishop Fan Xueyan, Baoding, Hebei, released from prison.**
- Publication of Constitution of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association.**
- December 17        **Fan Daojiang, 74, CCPA Bishop of Nanchong, Sichuan Province, dies.**
- Twenty-two bishops ordained in the open church since 1979.**
- Other newsworthy items for 1987:**  
China lifts a 37 year ban on travel to Shangchuan Island where Xavier died.
- Dalai Lama awarded Nobel Peace Prize.**
- Open Church Statistics for 1987:**  
China now has 2,100 churches reopened; 112 Dioceses, 56 bishops and 1,200 priests; 220,000 persons were baptized between 1980-1987. Seven major seminaries and 4 minor seminaries have been opened since 1982 There are presently 700 in formation for the priest-

hood. Twenty convents have also opened.

## 1988

Mikhail Gorbachev is named Man of the Year (1987 by Time magazine.

- January 5 **Bishop Gong Pinmei, Bishop of Shanghai, has his civil rights restored.**
- January 13 Chiang Ching-kuo, President of the Republic of China, dies at age 77 in Taiwan.
- February 12 **Bishop Zhang Jiashu, 96, dies in Shanghai.**
- March 3 **Jin Luxian, 72, inaugurated Bishop of Shanghai.**
- March 8 **Death of Bishop Zhao Youmin, 79, Fushan City, Liaoning Province.**
- March 25-  
April 13 Seventh National People's Congress detaches Hainan island from Guangdong to make it a province and an S.E.Z.
- Yang Shangkun elected Chief of State.
- April 24 **Consecration of 5 more bishops in the open Church in Shandong.**
- April 16 Billy Graham, 69, visits China and meets with political, academic and religious leaders including Premier Li Peng.
- April 19 **Bishop Joseph Zong Huaide, 71, made head of three organizations of the official Church: President of Catholic Patriotic Association (CCPA); Chairman of Chinese Catholic Church Administrative Commission (CCCAC) and President of the Chinese Bishops Conference (CBC).**
- April 28 Hong Kong Basic Law Drafting Committee presents the Draft of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to the public to solicit opinions.
- May 1 **"Regulations on the Administrative Supervision of Religious Activity" issued for Guangdong Province.**
- May 11 **Bishop Gong Pinmei (Ignatius Kung) leaves Shanghai to visit relatives in USA.**



- May                    **Bishops in open Church now number 55. Catholics in Beijing now number 40,000.**
- June 19                **Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's prays for China "that great and beloved country."**
- June 26                Protestant Church consecrates its first bishops in 33 years; 1500 attend the consecration in Shanghai of Sun Yanli, 74, and Shen Yifan, 60.
- June 28                **John Baptist Wu (63), Bishop of Hong Kong, elevated to rank of Cardinal; sees role as improving relations between Vatican and Mainland China.**
- July 5                    China establishes ties with Qatar.
- August 20              Iran-Iraq war ends with a ceasefire.
- July 6                    State Council issues regulations designed to encourage Taiwan compatriots to invest in the Mainland.
- July                    The religious section of the newly published 70 volume Chinese Encyclopedia departs from traditional Marxist view of religion as the "opium of the people".
- July 21-25              Amnesty International maintains that the human rights of Hong Kong people are not sufficiently protected by the Basic Law.
- July                    One-Child Policy encounters lack of compliance especially with farm families. Government seeks to tighten birth control restriction to stem baby boom.
- August                  President Muhammed Zia of Pakistan killed in a plane crash.
- August 14              **Bishop Philippe Ma Qi, of Pingliang, Gansu Province, resigns after openly denouncing CCPA leaders for creating a schism within the Church and encouraging priests to renounce celibacy, and for corruption.**
- August                  **Fourteen seminarians ordained to the priesthood in Shaanxi.**
- August 21              **Pope prays to Our Lady of Sheshan.**
- August 28              Approximately 229,000 Taiwanese have applied for permission to visit their relatives in the Mainland since November 2, 1987.

- August-September Riots in Burma by students are suppressed by Government: 400 dead.
- September 15 Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore visits China.
- September 16-October 2 China awarded five gold, 11 silver, 12 bronze in Summer Olympics in Seoul Korea.
- September 20 *China Daily* reports 100,000,000 people in China have some religious affiliation.
- September 3 **Joseph Cardinal Tomko, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, sends document to all Bishops' Conferences giving directives on relations with the Church in China.**
- September 5 China's National Party Congress Standing Committee ratifies the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment. China signed the Convention in 1986. First international convention on human rights ratified by China.
- September 28 **Cardinal Sin urges Vatican to have sensitivity in dealing with Chinese Church.**
- October 14-18 Ceausescu, Romanian leader, visits China.
- November George Bush elected president of USA.
- November 10-24 Li Peng travels to Thailand, Australia and New Zealand.
- November 6 **Death of Bishop Melchior Zhang (underground), Xiwanzi, Hebei Province.**
- November **Vatican issues policy statement on China similar to policy issued in March, 1986. It is a reminder to the world's bishops not to forget the "underground" church while being mindful of those who, remaining loyal to the Pope, accommodate themselves to their country's reality.**
- November 25 Gansu Province passes first law to forbid mentally retarded from bearing children.
- December 20 **Beijing Catholics celebrate 30 years of appointing their**

own bishops.

December      **Death of Bishop Joseph Zhu Yousan (underground), Baoding, Hebei Province.**

Statistics: From 1983 to 1987:  
150,000 members expelled from the party for corrupt practices; another 500,000 penalized for violating Party discipline.

## 1989

January 5      **Bishop Francis Zhou Shanfu of Yi county near Baoding, Hebei Province dies.**

January 7      Emperor Hirohito dies in Japan.

January 8      Akihito enthroned as emperor of Japan.

February      Fang Lizhi, astrophysicist, writes open letter to Deng Xiaoping asking for amnesty for all political prisoners to mark 40th anniversary of the People's Republic of China. Prominent academicians support Fang Lizhi's call to release political prisoners in letter addressed to the National People's Congress Standing Committee and the Central Committee of the Communist party.

February 15    Last of 100,000 Soviet troops leave Afganistan.

February 17    **The Central Office of the Communist Party and of the State Council issue Document 3: *On Stepping up Control over the Catholic Church to Meet the New Situation.***

February 21    Standing Committee of the National People's Congress adopts Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

February 25-27 US President George Bush visits China, receives warm welcome.

February 26    Chinese government prevents astrophysicist, Fang Lizhi, from attending banquet for Bush in Beijing; repression of intellectuals still evident.

March          Hong Kong begins repatriation of Vietnamese.

March          China declares martial law in Tibet after monks and people attack police, government offices and Chinese

- businesses.
- March 20-  
April 4 National People's Congress holds 16 day meeting amid economic problems and social unrest.
- April 7 **Bishop Julius Jia Zhiguo (underground) of Zhengding, Hebei Province, arrested in Beijing; released September 12.**
- April 15 Hu Yaobang, 73, liberal leader, deposed in 1987 as Secretary Genral, dies of heart attack.
- April 18 **Police attack Catholic village of Youtong in Hebei Province; according to reports, 2 killed, hundreds injured; 30 Catholics taken into custody.**
- April Unrest steadily mounts with large scale demonstrations for democratic reforms.
- April 19 Eight thousand call on Li Peng to negotiate for more democracy; 100,000 demonstrate in Tiananmen Square.
- April 20 Beijing University students organize a union not controlled by the Communist Youth League.
- April 21 Students plan demonstration to coincide with Hu Yaobang's funeral.
- April 21 One hundred and fifty intellectuals petition Communist Party to refrain from violence and to dialogue with students instead.
- April 22 At Hu Yaobang's funeral students clash with police. Protests and demonstrations throughout entire nation; 100,000 chant pro-democracy slogans in largest anti-government demonstration in China's history.
- April 23 Several newspapers censured for publishing truthful accounts of happenings.
- April 24 People's Army put on alert; 10,000 troops relocated to Beijing.
- May 15 Mikhail Gorbachev arrives in Beijing for summit meeting with Chinese leaders.
- May 20 Premier Li Peng announces martial law in Beijing.
- May 20-21 Troops sent to enforce order turned back by ordinary citizens.

- May 28 One million people in Hong Kong demonstrate in support of students.
- Gorbachev initiates reforms to create new USSR.
- June 4 Students' call for democracy in Tiananmen Square ends in massacre.
- June 5 Fang Lizhi and wife, Li Shuxian, take refuge in U.S. embassy in Beijing.
- June 24 Zhao Ziyang ousted as CCP General Secretary and replaced by Jiang Zemin. Officials who supported Pro-democracy movement are purged.
- June 26 World Bank suspends US780 million in pending loan to China.
- July 28 Anti-corruption campaign launched to combat corruption among government officials.
- September 20 Chen Boda, Mao's secretary for many years, dead at 85. Chen was imprisoned for his involvement with the "Lin Biao revolutionary gang." He was freed in October 1988.
- September 29 Beijing celebrates 40th anniversary of the founding of the PRC.
- October 16 **Bishop Liu Dengmin, 78, acting bishop of Zhouzhi diocese, Shaanxi Province, dies.**
- November 7 Fang Lizhi dismissed from the Chinese Academy of Science.
- November 9 Deng Xiaoping resigns as Chairman of the Central Military Commission. He is replaced by Jiang Zemin.
- November 9 Fall of Berlin Wall.
- November 17 **Bishop Fan Xueyan, Baoding, Hebei, released from imprisonment.**
- November 21 **Inaugural meeting in Shaanxi of Chinese underground Bishops Conference. Many arrests follow.**
- October 5-8 **Rift between Vatican and China widens as China**

forbids Pope's airplane from using Chinese airspace en route to Korea for Eucharistic Congress.

More elections and consecrations of bishops within the open Church.

December 8      **Bishop Fan Xueyan with several priests and lay leaders arrested in Baoding, Hebei.**

**Also arrested during November and December:**

**Bishop Li Side, Tianjin**

**Bishop Guo Wenshi of Qiqihar, Heilongjiang**

**Bishop Zhang Liren, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia**

**Bishop Yang Libo, Lanzhou, Gansu**

**Bishop Yu Chengti, Hanzhong, Shaanxi**

**Bishop Li Zhenrong, Xianxian, Hebei**

**Bishop Liu Guandong, Yixian, Hebei**

## 1990

- January      Mikhail Gorbachev named "Man of the Decade" by Time Magazine.
- January 3      **Bishop Matthias Wu Guohuan, 96, Zhejiang Province, dies.**
- January 10      Martial Law lifted in China.
- January      **News releases from China continue to report the arrest of underground bishops, priests and laity, especially in Zhejiang and Jiangsu Provinces.**
- February 8      Chinese Communist Party issues warning to anyone tempted to follow Russia's perestroika.
- February 11      South Africa frees Nelson Mandella after 27 years in prison.
- February 16      The Basic Law for the Hong Kong SAR, after 1997, accepted by both the British and Chinese governments.
- March      **Bishop Ye Yinyun of Guangzhou dies.**
- March      **Bishop Guo Wenzhi, 73, underground bishop of Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, arrested December 14, 1989, released.**
- April 7      China severs relations with Lesotho after Lesotho resumes diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

- April 24 Li Peng meets with Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow, first Chinese premier to visit USSR since Zhou Enlai visited in 1964.
- April 24-27 Sino-British Joint Liaison Group meets in Hong Kong for 15th meeting to discuss nationality issues and civil rights in Hong Kong now and after 1997.
- May 1 China lifts Martial Law in Tibet.
- May-August **Election and ordination of 13 more bishops in the open Church.**
- May 6 **James Lin Bingliang consecrated Bishop of Guangzhou.**
- May 31. China severs relations with Guinea Bissau after Guinea Bissau resumes diplomatic relations with Taiwan.
- June 9 **Shanghai celebrates 30th anniversary of the founding of the Shanghai Catholic Patriotic Association.**
- June 16 Deng Xiaoping emphasizes need for stability.
- June 25 Fang Lizhi allowed to leave China after spending more than a year in US Embassy in Beijing.
- July 17 **North Korean Catholic delegation arrives in China.**
- July 26 **Public Security Bureau arrests 15 underground bishops, several priests and deacons, Fujian Province. Bishops include: James Xie Shiguang, 75, and Vincent Huang Shoucheng, both of Mindong diocese.**
- July 21 Saudi Arabia establishes diplomatic relations with Beijing.
- August 2 Iraq invades Kuwait.
- August 6-13 Li Peng visits Indonesia and Singapore.
- August 10 **Vatican appointed Bishop Paul Deng Jizhou, 87, of Leshan, Sichuan Province, dies.**
- August 25 **Bishop Chen Duqing, 81, of Ganzhou, Jiangxi Province, dies.**
- August **Government issues document, *Provisional Regulations Governing Places for Religious Activities in Kunming.***

- September 5-8 **International Conference on History of Catholic Church in China held in Louvain, Belgium.**
- September 22-October 7 Chinese athletes win 183 gold medals and set 14 world records at the 11th Asian Games held in Beijing.
- October 3 Reunification of Germany.
- October 4 Singapore and China resume diplomatic relations.
- October 30 **Catholic Printing Press (Guangqi Society) in Shanghai reopens. It was shut down in 1949. Shanghai diocese prepares Chinese translation of the New Testament from Jerusalem Bible.**
- October 31 *A Regulation Concerning the Protection of Normal Religious Activities in Hunan Catholic Churches* published.
- November 6 China suspends diplomatic relations with Nicaragua following Nicaragua's resumption of relations with Taiwan.
- November 15-30 **Bishops of Northern Provinces called to Beijing to study current religious policy.**
- November 16 China establishes diplomatic relations with Marshall Islands.
- December 1 **Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association celebrates 40th Anniversary.**
- December 5-10 **National Conference on Religions held in Beijing to review and reinforce Document 19. Speakers: Li Peng, Ren Wuzhi, Jiang Zemin.**
- December 10-19 Li Peng undertakes diplomatic tour to Southeast Asia: Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.
- December 13-14 **Four bishops, about 25 priests and thirty lay people (underground), arrested in Baoding and Yixian dioceses, Hebei Province. Bishop Chen Jianzhang "disappears."**
- December 19 China opens first security exchange.
- December **Bishop Song Weili (underground) Langfang Diocese, Hebei Province, arrested in late December.**
- Numerous Protestant leaders, pastors, elders, evangel-



ists and lay persons arrested and fined throughout the year.

No special celebrations marked the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Beijing and Nanjing dioceses.

**1990 Open Church Statistics:**

**Churches: 3000.** Shanghai has 40 Catholic churches open for worship; Beijing has 13. There are 64 bishops. Six bishops appointed by Pius XII are still alive: 4 in the open Church in China, one in Hong Kong, one in USA. There are 12 Major Seminaries and 75 new priests have now been ordained in the open Church: 41 at Sheshan since the seminary opened in 1982; Shi-jiazhuang Seminary has ordained 24 and Jinan Seminary, Shandong Province, has ordained ten. There are 30 Sister Formation Centres with over 1000 young women in religious formation. The number of priests so far ordained in the underground church and the number of women religious in the underground are unavailable.

**State Statistics:**

As of December 31, 1990, China's population is 1,141,907,793; of whom 92% are Han and 8% minorities. There are 294,578,736 households or 3.8 persons per household. The ratio of male to female is 106.27:100. China's rural population is 900,925,357 or 78.9% of the total. China's urban population is 243,971,030. (*China's Ministry of Public Security, March 92*)

## 1991

January 17-  
February 28

War in Persian Gulf. Iraq agrees to UN cease-fire conditions and War in the Gulf ends.

January 30

Jiang Zemin, Secretary General of Communist Party, warns religious leaders against "hostile foreign forces" at a meeting with leaders of five major religions.

February

Bishop John Yang Shudao (underground) of Fuzhou, Fujian Province, released after 3 years of detention. Bishop John Baptist Liang Xisheng, 68, (underground) of Kaifeng diocese, Henan Province, arrested in 1990, also released.

February 28-  
December 8

Ten more bishops consecrated in the open Church.

- February 5      **Government publishes Document 6: *A Circular from Party Central and State Council concerning Certain Problems in Further Improving Religious Work.***
- March 15      **Chinese Government document revealed: "Vigilance Against Infiltration by Religious Forces from Abroad." (Privately circulated among officially recognized religious groups in mid 1990).**
- March 8      **Application to host 2000 Olympiad in Beijing forwarded to the International Olympic Committee.**
- March 25      **Li Peng cautions on economic reforms.**
- March      **James Xie Shiguang, 74, (underground) bishop of Fuan Diocese, Fujian Province, arrested in July 1990, released but restricted to his own village.**
- April      **Bishop Joseph Zong Huaide accuses underground Catholics of exciting the masses against the Government.**
- April 8      **Bishop Joseph Huang Ziyu, 80, of Xiamen, Fujian Province, dies in his native village after a long illness.**
- April 10      **"The Catholic Church in China" publishes article stressing ideological political training as priority for seminary formation. Title: *A Preliminary Proposal on Seminary Work.***
- April 24-May 10      **Bishops of Southern China called to Beijing to study China's religious policy.**
- May 14      **Jiang Qing, 77, Mao Zedong's widow commits suicide at her Beijing villa.**
- May 15-19      **Jiang Zemin, Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party visits the Soviet Union to further cooperation between the two Communist Parties.**
- May 19      **Wuhan Seminary ordains 16 priests for 9 dioceses of the open Church. This is the largest group ordained at one time since churches reopened in 1979.**
- May 23      **Tibet now 40 years under Communist regime.**
- May      **Jiang Zemin urges economic reforms through science and technology and respect for intellectuals.**
- May 29      **Rome announces Bishop Ignatius Gong Pinmei, 90,**

- raised to rank of cardinal.
- May            **One hundred and eighty students from Shaanxi Province are studying for the priesthood throughout China.**
- June 7        **Bishop Joseph Li Side (underground) of Tianjin, missing for 18 months, released from prison.**
- June 11      **Bishop Fan Zhouliang, 73, (underground), of Shanghai arrested.**
- June 25      War begins in Yugoslavia.
- June 29      **Bishop Gong Pinmei, bishop of Shanghai, and "secret cardinal" since 1979, now in residence in USA, goes to Rome to receive red hat.**
- July 2-6      Chinese Premier, Li Peng, visits Egypt hoping to promote friendly relations and cooperation with the Middle East countries.
- July 1        Party and State Leaders gather in the Great Hall of the People to celebrate 70th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party.
- July 8        China breaks diplomatic relations with Central African Republic after Central African Republic decides to resume relations with Taiwan.
- July 13      **Bishop Li Depei, 90, CCPA approved bishop of Tianjin dies in Beijing.**
- July 14-26   Australian Delegation denounces Human Rights abuses in China.
- July 24      **Meixian Diocese, Guangdong Province, holds first priestly ordination in 43 years.**
- July 31      People's Liberation Army celebrates 64th anniversary of its founding.
- July         China issues draft of "Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China" for the solicitation of opinions.
- August 5     **China's State Education Commission issues *Notice on the Prevention of Some Places Using Religious Activities to Hinder Education.***
- August 10   Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, first head of leading industrial country to visit China since June

- 1989, makes official visit to restore relations.
- August 12 Two Chinese Red Cross Officials visit Taiwan in first official contact since 1949.
- August 19 **Bishop Joseph Fan Zhongliang, S.J. of Shanghai, arrested in June, released.**
- August 20-24 Coup in Moscow fails; Communist Party banished from power.
- September 12 China normalizes relations with Vietnam.
- September **National Seminary of Philosophy and Theology, Beijing, re-located northwest of the city.**
- Anhui Minor Seminary opens.**
- September 30 China establishes diplomatic relations with Brunei.
- October Aung San Sun Kyi, of Burma, and winner in the 1990 national elections, awarded Nobel Peace Prize while still under house arrest.
- October 4 North Korean Kim Il-sung gets warm welcome on arrival in Beijing for official visit.
- October 8-10 **Anthony Li Du'an of Xian and Anthony Liu Bainian, Vice-president of Chinese Catholic Church Administrative Commission, join in World Prayer for Peace in Malta.**
- October 15-December 15 **Young priests mandated to attend three month seminar in Beijing on Marxism, Socialism and religious policy.**
- November 1 State Council publishes *White Paper on Human Rights in China*.
- November 1-3 Seminar: *An Assessment and Analysis of the Current Religious Situation in Our Country* held in Beijing, convened by the Contemporary Religion Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.
- November 6 **First students, ages 18-30, enroll at Guangzhou minor seminary for two years of study.**
- November 15 American Secretary of State, James Baker, arrives in Beijing, first visit by US official since Tianamen Square incident, June 4, 1989.

- November 29 ***Notice on the Prevention of Some Places Using Religious Activities to Hinder School Education*** circulated to all schools under the State Education Commission.
- December **Bishop Paul Shi Chunjie (underground) auxiliary bishop of Baoding, Hebei Province, dies in police custody (Exact date unknown).**
- December 4 China presents its application to host the 2000 Olympic Games to the International Olympic Committee at Lausanne, Switzerland.
- December 4 Last US hostage freed in Lebanon.
- December 11-16 Premier Li Peng makes first visit to India since 1962 Sino-Indian War to cement Sino-Indian ties.
- December 21 **Vatican appointed Bishop Han Tingbi, 83, of Hongdong Diocese, Shanxi Province, arrested in 1958, and released in 1979 after having spent 20 years working on a pig farm in Beiguanzhuang, dies.**
- December 21 USSR ceases to exist; it is replaced by a Commonwealth of independent states.
- December 25 Mikhail Gorbachev resigns as president of the Soviet Union; Boris Yeltsin takes over.
- December 27 China recognizes the government of the new Russian Federation.
- December 30 **Fifth National Christian Conference held in Beijing.**
- Arrests continue throughout the year especially among members of the underground and especially in Hebei Province.**
- December **Open Church Statistics**  
**Number of Catholics in China estimated by the government at 3,600,000 but the number may be closer to 8-10 million; churches now open are 3000; there is 1 national seminary in Beijing; 5 regional seminaries; 8 provincial seminaries, 7 diocesan seminaries; 1000 priests, 1200 Sisters, 800 seminarians and 1000 Sisters in formation. Ordinations in 1991 totalled 106.**

**1992**

- January 19      **Death of Bishop Xu Lizhi, 64, first bishop of Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province.**
- January 22      **Israel and China begin normalizing diplomatic relations.**
- January 28      **Jiang Zemin, General Secretary of CCP Central Committee discusses "Strengthening Supervision" over religion with leaders of 14 religious organizations.**
- January 28      **Bishop James Xie Shiguang, 73, Frs. Zheng Xingzong, 42, Fr. Zhu Rutuan, 29, all underground, Fuan, Fujian Province, released.**
- February 15     **Deng Xiaoping calls for radical economic market reforms (Document 2).**
- February 22     **Acting Bishop Zhong Weiye, 80, Linyi diocese, Shandong Province, dies.**
- February 25     **National Religious Affairs Conference held in Beijing, to emphasize need for full implementation of religious policy.**
- March-June      **Young priests mandated to attend study seminars in Beijing on Marxism, Socialism and religious policy.**
- March 6          **Death of Bishop Paul Han Xirang, O.F.M., 74, China appointed bishop of Qingdao, Shandong Province.**
- March 10        **Dioceses of Lanzhou, Pingliang and Tianshui, Gansu Province, jointly open seminary, and enroll 15 students.**
- March 16-17     **CCPA and Religious Affairs Commission meet to prepare for Fifth National Catholic Conference.**
- March 20-  
April 3          **The 7th National People's Congress focusses on economic development, reform and opening to the world outside.**
- March 22        **John Baptist Ye Yishi, 84, (underground), Mindong, Fujian Province, dies.**
- April 4          **Vatican and Republic of Mongolia establish diplomatic relations.**

- April 6-11      Jiang Zemin, General Secretary of the Communist Party visits Japan to explore ways of promoting friendship and developing further Sino-Japanese relations.
- April 13      **Bishop Joseph Fan Xueyan, 84, (underground) of Boading, Hebei Province, dies under mysterious circumstances; 10,000 persons attend funeral.**
- April 14-17     United Nations Secretary General Boutros-Ghali visits China for the first time since becoming the U.N. chief.
- April          **Death of Bishop Paul Li Zhenrong, S.J., 72, Xianxian, Hebei Province.**
- April 16      **Government issues document *"Governing Regulations of Religious Activities in Zhejiang Province.***
- April          **Hong Kong Catholics restructure diocese in view of 1997.**
- April          **A nine member delegation led by Bishop Zong Huaide visits Korea at invitation of the North Korean Catholic Association.**
- May          **One hundred students presently studying in Shaanxi seminaries.**
- May 4-9      **China Zentrum, Sankt Augustin, Germany, hosts conference to celebrate the 400th anniversary of birth of Johann Adam Schall von Bell, S.J.**
- May 6        **National Catholic Seminary officially inaugurates new headquarters with 60 seminarians for First Theology.**
- May          **Bishop Joseph Li Side, Tianjin, (underground), released from custody in early May.**
- May 21      **Bishop Peter Liu Guandong, 72, Yixian, Hebei, elected head of the CBCM, released. Also released: Frs. Wang Yijun, 75, Wenzhou, Zhejiang and Joseph Jin Dechen, 72, Nanyang, Henan. Releases due to efforts of American business man in Hong Kong, John Kamm.**
- May 27      **Bishop Shi Hongchen, 64, "installed" as Bishop of Tianjin, in the open Church at the Xikai Cathedral. Bishop Shi said he had communicated his belief in papal primacy to the government before the appointment was made.**
- May 29-30     **The Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong,**

- hosts Conference on "Christianity in China--Foundations for Dialogue," sponsored by Holy Spirit Study Centre and Christian Study Centre.**
- June China's Public Security Bureau (China Police) opens office in Hong Kong to help fight crimes perpetrated by Mainland citizens in Hong Kong.
- June 27-30 International symposium on Confucianism and its Contemporary Value, Sichuan Province.
- July 12 **New Regional Seminary in Xian holds first ordination, 6 priests, 7 deacons.**
- July 25 **More arrests of underground priests and laity, Yixian diocese, Hebei.**
- July 25-August 9 Chinese teams claim 16 gold, 22 silver, and 16 bronze medals at the Olympic Games in Barcelona.
- August 15 **Father Liao Haiqing of Fuzhou diocese, Jiangxi Province, arrested for illegal religious activities. It is his fourth arrest since 1950.**
- September 1 Shen Tong, founder and chairman of U.S. based Democracy for China Fund and pro-democracy movement student leader arrested on visit to China and released October 24.
- September 3-4 **Officially approved religious leaders at conference in Beijing complain that "leftist Communist officials continue to block the spread of faith across the country."**
- September 8 **One hundred and twenty Protestants arrested in Guofa, Henan Province.**
- September 15-19 **Fifth National Catholic Conference held with 272 delegates from 30 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. Results: Revised constitution for CCPA and Chinese Catholic Bishops' Conference. Meeting puts Bishops' Conference on same footing as Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association. Decision made to use vernacular in liturgy.**
- September 25 **Bishop Joseph Zong Huaide re-elected president of the Bishops' Conference and chairman of the CCPA.**
- September 28 **Hardline Communist Party leader Hu Qiaomu, 81, dies in Beijing.**



- September **Bishop Duan Yinming of Wanxian, Sichuan Province and Bishop Tu Shihua of Hanyang, Hubei Province visit Belgium and Italy.**
- September 30 **Death of Bishop Simon Liu Zongyu, 75, Chongqing, Sichuan Province.**
- September The Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China publishes White Paper on Tibet, "Tibet--Its Ownership and Human Rights Situation." The White Paper states there are only 600 Catholics in Tibet. One Tibetan seminarian is presently studying at the National Catholic Seminary in Beijing.
- October 9 **Sheshan Seminary celebrates 10th anniversary. Seventy Sheshan graduates have been ordained to the priesthood since the seminary's opening on October 11, 1982.**
- October 12-  
October 18 China introduces new market economy at the 14th National Congress of the Communist Party.
- October 16-18 **The Ricci Institute of Chinese-Western Cultural History, University of San Francisco, sponsors conference on "Significance of the Rites Controversy in Sino-Western History" to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Emperor Kangxi's Edict of Toleration.**
- October 20 Governor Patten of Hong Kong arrives in Beijing to discuss his political reforms with Chinese officials. Lu Ping, Chinese official in charge of Hong Kong affairs, threatens to change Hong Kong's government in 1997 if the governor does not change his plans.
- October 20-  
November 28 **Bishop Liu Dinghan of Xianxian, Hebei, visits Philippines.**
- October 22-25 **International symposium on "The Historiography of the Catholic Church in China" held at Fujen University, Taipei, Taiwan.**
- October 22 **Mr. Zhang Shengzuo, former director of the United Front Department of the Communist Party, appointed head of the Religious Affairs Bureau of the State Council. He replaces Mr. Ren Wuzhi, who has held the position since 1984.**
- October 23-28 **Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visit China.**

- Resentment against Japanese remains.
- October China and U.S. in on-going trade dispute.
- November 3 Bill Clinton elected president of the United States.
- November **Bishop Kong Lingzhong, 87, Kunming, Yunnan Province, dies.**
- November 13 **Death of Bishop Peter Wang Ruihuan, 88, Harbin, Heilongjiang Province.**
- November 14 **Bishop Liu Difen, 80, Anguo diocese (underground) dies.**
- November 30-December 4: Li Peng goes to Vietnam, the first visit by a Chinese Premier since Zhou Enlai's visit in 1971.
- December 12-14 **The Centro Unitario per la Cooperazione Missionaria tra le Chiese, Verona, Italy, sponsors conference on "Prospects for Catholic Cooperation with China in the Present International Context".**
- December **Bishop Yang Libo, 76, of Lanzhou diocese, Gansu Province, released from labour camp in December.**

Civil war in former Yugoslavia intensifies.

#### **Open Church Statistics: 1992**

**Catholics now number approximately 10,000,000. This is an unofficial count and may include Catholics in the underground Church. The government figures are usually as from 3-4 million; 3,900 churches and chapels have been opened for worship since 1979; there are 113 dioceses with 69 bishops recognized by government. There are 1,200 priests in open Church with 435 having been ordained to the priesthood since 1979. Sisters number 1,000; 1,000 men are studying in the open major seminaries. The open Church has received 15,000 official visitors during the course of 1992. Unfortunately, figures for the underground Church are not available. According to certain government estimates there are 75 million Christians. This number includes Catholics, Protestants as well as the indigenous Christian sects.**

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