

Bishop Lin Bingliang of Guangzhou Diocese dies

On Friday, May 25, 2001, Bishop Lin Bingliang died in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. Bishop Lin was born in May 1913, and ordained to the priesthood in 1941.

The Guangdong (Canton) Diocese, one of the largest in China, was entrusted to the Paris Foreign Mission Society in 1858. It was made an archdiocese in 1946. In 1950, Pope Pius XII appointed Dominic Deng Yiming as auxiliary bishop. He was consecrated in 1951. Bishop Deng was imprisoned in 1958 and released in 1980. In 1981, having secured permission to seek medical attention in Hong Kong, Bishop Deng also made a trip to Italy where he met the Pope. Soon after the Holy Father appointed him Archbishop of Guangzhou to the dismay of the Chinese government. Unable to return to his See, Archbishop Deng made his home in Hong Kong. In 1981, the government elected Father Ye Yinyun to replace him. On April 16, 1990, following the death of Bishop Ye Yinyun, Father Lin was elected Bishop of Guangzhou by the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association. He was consecrated on May 6, 1990.

Bishop Lin's funeral will take place on June 5, 2001, in Guangzhou's Sacred Heart Cathedral, also called the "Stone House Cathedral," one of the most beautiful and imposing church structures in all of China.

