

Deaths of Bishops Liu Hede and Pei Shangde

Tripod Staff

As the year 2001 was coming to an end, the Church in China lost two bishops in the southern and northern parts of the country respectively. The Tripod staff is deeply saddened to hear this news.

Bishop Liu Hede, OFM, died on December 10, 2001, at the age of nearly ninety.

Bishop Liu, Christian name Victor, was born on February 3, 1912. He joined the Order of Friars Minor in 1929, and in 1936 he was ordained a priest.

In 1950, at a very difficult time, Father Liu Hede was appointed Administrator of Hankou Diocese. He was arrested and put in prison on January 16, 1954, and was released after the Cultural Revolution.

After his release, Bishop Liu did pastoral work in Hubei Province. He was secretly consecrated as bishop in 1984. His main duty was to administer Hankou Diocese. He retired in the '90s, and stayed in Wuchang (Central and South) Seminary, serving as spiritual director for the seminarians.



Bishop Pei Shangde of Beijing Diocese died on December 24, 2001, at the age of 83.

Bishop Pei, Christian name Matthias, was ordained a priest in 1948. In 1950, he was sent to do manual work in a factory. During the Cultural Revolution he was sentenced to ten years of reform-through-labor. He was released in 1980. In 1989 he was secretly consecrated as Bishop of Beijing.