

## ***Two Bishops Approved by the Vatican Have Been Consecrated since the Sino- Vatican Provisional Agreement***

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*Holy Spirit Study Centre Staff*

Father Anthony Yao Shun (姚順), aged 54, of Jining (集寧) Diocese (Inner Mongolia) was ordained at the Our Lady of Rosary Cathedral in the city of Jining on 26 August, 2019.

The principal consecrator was Bishop Paul Meng Qinglu (孟青祿) of Hohhot and co-consecrators included Bishop Matthias Du Jiang (杜江) of Bameng in the same region, Bishop Paul Meng Ningyou (孟寧友) of Taiyuan in Shanxi province and Bishop Joseph Li Jing (李晶) of Ningxia in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

An approval letter by the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China (BCCCC) was read out during the ceremony, declaring that Bishop Yao had been elected "according to the tradition of bishop election by the Holy Church and the regulation of the BCCCC." "This candidate was approved by the pope," it continued.

Bishop Yao was born in December 1965. He was ordained as a diocesan priest in 1991 and taught at the National Seminary. He studied liturgy at St. John's University in Minnesota, U.S.A. He served as secretary of the liturgical commission of the Council of Chinese Bishops and the Patriotic Association from 1998 to 2004. He has been vice director of the same commission since 2004.

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Father Stephen Xu Hongwei (胥紅偉), 44, was consecrated as coadjutor bishop of Hanzhong of Shaanxi Province (陝西省漢中), on 28 August, 2019.

The principal consecrator was Bishop Joseph Ma Yinglin (馬英林) of Kunming, and concelebrants included Bishop Aloysius Yu Runshen (余潤深) of Hanzhong, Bishop John Baptist Yang Xiaoting (楊曉亭) of Yan'an (Yulin), Bishop Anthony Dang Mingyan (黨明彥) of Xi'an, Bishop Martin Wu Qinjing (吳欽敬) of Zhouzhi, Bishop Joseph Han Yingjin (韓英進) of Sanyuan, Coadjutor Bishop John Baptist Wang Xiaoxun (王曉勛) of Ankang and Bishop Tong Changping (同長平) of Weinan.

As in the case of Bishop Yao, an approval letter by the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China (BCCCC) was read out during the ceremony, declaring that Bishop Xu had been elected "according to the tradition of bishop election by the Holy Church and the regulation of the BCCCC." "This candidate was approved by the pope," it continued.

Bishop Xu was born on 16 January, 1975, in Shaanxi. He studied in the seminary in Xi'an in 1996 and was ordained as a priest of Hanzhong Diocese in 2002. He graduated with a master's degree on pastoral theology in Rome in 2008 and served in the Diocese of Vancouver in Canada until 2010.