

Year 2022: Statistics of the Catholic Church in China

Number of Catholics

About 10 million

(6 million, estimated by the Chinese Government)

Number of Dioceses

Catholic Church: 147 dioceses

Official Church in China: 98 dioceses

Number of Bishops

Catholic Church: 95 bishops in China, of whom 69
official and 26 unofficial

Official Church: 66 bishops

Number of Priests

About 4,000

At least 15 priests ordained in 2022

Number of Sisters

About 5,000

Some sisters newly professed vows in 2022

Below are the figures taken from the Official Church in China:

According to the *Report* (2016-2022) of BCCCC and CCPA delivered in August 2022 mentioned above, there were 66 bishops, with 4,202 churches and 2,238 meeting points, in 98 dioceses in China. From 2016 to 2022, there were 289 new priests, 161 sisters newly professed vows, and nearly 110,000 baptisms in the official Church of China, the *Report* reveals.

In other words, at least a third of the 98 dioceses are vacant without a bishop. The numbers showed that they considered the division of dioceses in China according to the Chinese government and not the ecclesiastical division of dioceses established by the Holy See, with 147 dioceses and ecclesiastical circumscriptions.

The *Report* noted that a total of 550,000 copies of the Bible was printed, of which over 100,000 copies were distributed free to difficult areas. The liturgical books for performing the rite of the Sacrament of the Holy Orders and for sisters' profession of vows were published.

Among the Catholics who furthered studies abroad, 400 have returned to China, of whom 35 are holders of doctorate, more than 230 holders of master's degree or licentiate. They have been involved at the theological and philosophical institutes or dioceses of China. The *Report* noted a database has been set up on overseas trained religious personnel of

the Catholic Church. About the shortage of vocations, priests and sisters have been advised to set good examples. Training resources of seminaries locally were to improve.

The *Report* included an account of activities on Sinicization of Catholicism, which ranged from theological conferences to seminars, training courses and publication of books. Thousands have joined such programs. It noted that a compilation of theology and philosophy teaching materials has been underway.