



## STATEMENT OF THE HOLY SEE STUDY MISSION

Prot. 3.843/14

Your Eminences Cardinal John Tong, Bishop of Hong Kong, and Cardinal Joseph Zen, Bishop Emeritus,

Reverend Fathers Members of the Board of Diocesan Consultors, Members of the Council of Priests, Deans, Superiors of Religious Institutes, Societies of Apostolic Life, Personal Prelature,

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have the honor to inform that the Holy Father Pope Francis, in the audience granted on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 with Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, has confirmed His Eminence, Cardinal John Tong to continue being the leader of the Diocese of Hong Kong. This decision of the Holy Father testifies the trust and esteem of the Holy See towards Cardinal Tong's pastoral ministry in Hong Kong and in the Universal Church.

In the same audience, the Roman Pontiff has appointed the Reverend Fathers Michael YEUNG Ming-Cheung, Stephen LEE Bun-Sang and Joseph HA Chi-Shing, Order of Friars Minor, to be the Auxiliary Bishops of the Diocese of Hong Kong. All of them, after a due time of prayer and spiritual reflection have already communicated to the Holy Father about their acceptance of the office. These pontifical decisions have published today, Friday 11 July 2014, at the same time in Rome and in Hong Kong at 12 noon in Rome. This news will also appear in *L'Osservatore Romano*, which will be released in today's afternoon.

As you know, Msgr. Michael Yeung was born in Shanghai, on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1945, and came to Hong Kong when he was four years old. He received his formation and training for the priesthood here in Hong Kong at the Holy Spirit Seminary in Aberdeen and was ordained a priest the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1978. After serving in parishes, he received a Master's Degree in Mass Communication and Public Relations from Syracuse University of New York. He later received a Master's Degree in Education from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He received many commitments but I just want to mention his involvement from August 2003 as Chief Executive of Caritas Hong Kong and from April 2009 as Vicar General of the Diocese of Hong Kong.

Msgr. Stephen Lee was born in Hong Kong on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1956. He then went to England for his university study of architecture and in 1978 joined Opus Dei Prelature in London as Numerary member. In 1984, he entered the international Seminary of Opus Dei in Rome and then continued his ecclesiastical studies in the University of Navarre, Spain, where he obtained a Doctorate in Canon Law about the Relationships between the Holy See and the People's Republic of China. He was ordained as a priest on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1988. Afterwards, he returned to Hong Kong and started his pastoral work in some Opus Dei Centers and schools. He is Defender of Bond in the Diocesan Tribunal of Hong Kong, Supervisor of Tak Sun School and, from 2012, Regional Vicar of Opus Dei Prelature for the East Asia region.

Msgr. Joseph Ha was born in Hong Kong on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1959. After he worked in the field of banking, in 1984 he joined the Order of Friars Minor. He received the fundamental religious formation in Taiwan and then started to study philosophy and theology in the Holy Spirit Seminary College. He received priesthood ordination on 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1990 from the hands of Cardinal Wu. He got a Master Degree in spirituality in Rome and then he spent one more year studying in the United States, St Louis University, for a certificate course on religious formation. In almost 24 years of priesthood, he was elected twice to be the president of the Hong Kong Order of Friars Minor foundation, three times a definator of the Province and a number of years the formation master for the young friars. For 15 years, he was the supervisor of St Bonaventure College and High School. In the Diocese of Hong Kong, he has been member of the Board of the Holy Spirit Seminary College, Catholic Board of Education and Council of Priests.

In today's memorial of St Benedict Abbot, whose motto was «Ora et labora», «Pray and work», together with the Universal Church we pray for the Holy Father, the Diocese of Hong Kong, and for the new Auxiliary Bishops-Elect and we engage ourselves to work with them in our different fields for the good and the unity of this beloved Diocese.

Thank you very much and God bless.

Hong Kong, 11 July 2014

Diocesan Centre



Msgr. Andrea Francia