



## **ASIA/CHINA - The Catholic community lives the opening of the Year of Faith also live on the web with St. Peter's**

Shi Jia Zhuang (Agenzia Fides) - According to information received by Fides Agency, dioceses and parishes in mainland China are living with great fervor the opening of the Year of Faith, proposing a number of religious and cultural initiatives. The Chinese Catholic community participates in the opening of the Year of Faith, in communion with the Universal Church and Pope Benedict XVI, following it also live on the internet. In fact many diocesan sites that have a link will allow users to watch the opening celebration live from St. Peter's.

The Diocese of Nan Chong, in the province of Si Chuan, scheduled three days of activities for the opening of the Year of Faith, under the theme "Living faith concretely" in order to "help the faithful to know and deepen their faith, to then make a living witness with their lives." On 9 October a concert was organized and a priestly ordination celebrated, on the 10th a seminar for the fifty years of the Council and the twenty years of the Catechism of the Catholic Church was held, while this morning, October 11, there was a solemn celebration in the Monastery of St. Benedict, in communion with the Pope. Thousands of faithful took part in the Mass despite the heavy rain.

Mgr. Francis An Shu Xin, Bishop of the Diocese of Bao Ding in the province of He Bei presided at the opening of the Year of Faith in his diocese in the Cathedral along with 12 concelebrating priests. In his homily he invited the faithful "to believe all the way, to reaffirm publicly their faith in their own words, to give testimony so that more and more people may accept the invitation of the Lord."

Over one thousand faithful attended the opening of the Year of Faith of the diocese of Xian Xian, in He Bei province, which was presided by the local Bishop, His Exc. Mgr. Joseph Li Lian Gui. During the celebration, the diocesan Vicar read Mgr. Li's Pastoral Letter for the Year of Faith and announced the diocesan program for this Year. (NZ) (Agenzia Fides 11/10/2012)