

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa* A Citation

The Most Reverend Dr. Peter Kwong Kong-kit, GBS, DD (Hon), BD, MTh

It is recorded in Chapter 16 of the Gospel of Matthew that Jesus said this to the Apostle Peter: "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church." The Most Reverend Kwong Kong-kit, christened Peter, has led a pastoral career for over 40 years. Under his leadership the Anglican Church in Hong Kong has evolved from a diocese into a province, thus ushering in a new era in local church history. He is the first Chinese bishop of the Diocese of Hong Kong and Macao of the Sheng Kung Hui, as well as the first Archbishop and Primate of the Province of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui. As a pillar of both his church and the community at large, he preaches a gospel that is inseparable from the welfare of society. He proactively participates in the construction of a benevolent society in the spirit of Christian love, and his many efforts in developing a better Hong Kong have borne abundant fruit.

Archbishop Kwong was born in Hong Kong in 1936. In 1962 he graduated from Chung Chi College where he pursued a major programme of Chinese literature. He obtained his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Kenyon College, Ohio, in 1965 and the Master of Theology from Bexley Hall, Colgate Rochester, New York, in 1971. He was ordained as a deacon in 1965 and his priestly ordination followed in 1966. He saw parish service at St. James' and St. Paul's Churches, and was raised to the episcopate in 1981 as the Bishop of the Diocese of Hong Kong and Macao. In 1998 the Province of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui came into being, and he was elected as the first Archbishop. The Hong Kong Province is a self-governing part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Heavy was the burden of its Archbishop and illustrious were his achievements, which came to be respected and admired both within and outside the Church. Archbishop Kwong retired from his ecclesiastical office in 2007.

When he was engaged in parish work, Archbishop Kwong saw to it that he participated in all facets of evangelization and pastoral activities. He understands his flocks by being in their midst, and has had a special concern for the underprivileged. Over the many years of his pastoral career he dedicated much of his effort towards helping poor children and youngsters to gain the opportunity for education, and financially challenged patients to obtain proper medication. Below his clerical collar lies a heart of commiseration and sanctity, and underneath his pectoral cross is an enthusiastic zeal for benevolence and charity. After his elevation to the Archbishop's throne he had attended to the matters of the Dioceses of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon East and Kowloon West, as well as the Macao Missionary Region within his ambit, and

heavy indeed was the onus of running these entities. He was also a member of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission, being the only Asian on that reputable body. In these capacities he has made substantial contribution to the promotion of the Christian cause.

Archbishop Kwong was very active in educational enterprises. He was the chairman of dozens of school management boards, with all of which he worked closely and arduously. With genuine passion comes high expectations, it is not without regrets that Archbishop Kwong reviews the development of education in Hong Kong in recent years. He laments that many educational institutions nowadays have oriented themselves towards market reactions, with the secondary schools pegging their objectives to students' success at entering universities, and the universities measuring their achievements in marketing terms. He questions whether an educational ideology with foresight has gone out of fashion, and is worried about the influence of shortsighted and market-oriented educational efforts on our future generations. He warns that negative competition among educational institutions is pushing the entire community into a grim crisis. Archbishop Kwong also points out that the secondary school should be an institution at which the pupils are exposed to a comprehensive range of knowledge and learning. Hence the introduction of academic streaming at this early stage, and in some extreme cases the abolition of subjects like history, are undesirable policies of dubious validity to the psychological and intellectual growth of youngsters. He holds the opinion that the overall development of a community should be based on the humanist spirit and that education should have the humanities at its core. An interest in culture, history and ethics should be cultivated among the students so that they may develop self-knowledge as well as a concern for the world around them. On the other hand, professional knowledge in science, technology and business administration should be the superstructure built upon the rock-base of the humanities. If the foundation is at stake, then the superstructure, in all its magnificence and splendour, cannot evade the fate of collapse.

The Christian religion was founded 2000 years ago and the Anglican Church in Hong Kong, in obedience of the apostolic traditions of charity and selflessness, has gone into the masses for evangelization work. Archbishop Kwong held that "the Church has always to be alert and take up a timely and realistic role, so that the true meaning of life can be introduced to society". As a native Hong Kong person born and bred here, he has a strong affection for this land, and it thus follows that social issues, especially those that touch on people's livelihood, have always caused him concern. He is a critic of the Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme because, with the over-commercialized stance taken by its management, it is unlikely to provide senior citizens with the protection they need. He is a strong upholder of monogamy in marriage, but he sympathizes with homosexuals when they meet with discrimination. He is worried about the excessive

frenzy among Hong Kong citizens in the stock market. In his many pastoral letters he has given his opinions on social ills and misfortunes, and provided his flock with encouragement and refreshed their hope through messages of comfort and exhortation.

Archbishop Kwong sees no incompatibility between religion and politics. He is of the view that the participation of citizens from the religious communities in constitutional and legislative affairs can only lend wisdom and knowledge to such undertakings, and add to their credibility in the eyes of the public. In the 1980's he took part, as a clergyman, in the Consultative Committee for the Basic Law of Hong Kong and the Basic Law Drafting Committee, and assisted in the incorporation of clauses on religious beliefs into the Basic Law, thereby giving due protection to the practice of religion in Hong Kong. He was also a member of the Preparatory Committee of the HKSAR and the Selection Committee for the election of the Chief Executive. He has been a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference since 1998, in which capacity he continues to serve his country and his community.

Archbishop Kwong has a very long association with The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He was a student of Chung Chi College in its early days, and after the Chinese University was established he taught theology at Chung Chi College. He was at one time the Chaplain of the College, and a Trustee of the College Board from 1981 to 1990. In June 2007 he was appointed an Honorary Fellow of Chung Chi College. Archbishop Kwong is a staunch supporter of the spirit of Chung Chi in the old days, when on the verdant lawn outside the chapel, teachers and students would gather together in study, research, and learning from each other. He has high expectations for the Chinese University's future development, and it has always been his hope that the University would continue to develop a humanistic education, in which new generations of leaders may be nurtured in both advanced learning and moral values.

Harbouring purity and benevolence in his heart, Archbishop Kwong, with the Bible in one hand and the Cross held high in the other, has led his flock towards the vision of blessedness. His courage in voicing his mind, and his personality and bearing, have won him the respect from all walks of life. In October 2007 the Hong Kong Government presented him with the Gold Bauhinia Star in recognition of his contribution to the community. In accepting the honour Archbishop Kwong ascribed his success to "all members of the Church, and those who have gone before us will also share in this glory." Such is the modesty and humility of the man. Archbishop Kwong has a happy family life, and he and Mrs. Kwong have two daughters and a son who have all completed their education and are now offering their services to society. In the Sermon on the Mount Christ speaks of the Beatitudes, and says that those who are pure of heart and merciful are blessed because theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Archbishop Kwong has worked hard for his country, his community, his religion, and for justice.

He is steadfast in upholding righteousness, and his conviction is exalted and unswerving. He has seen abundant grace and enjoys the love and respect of both society and family, and is a truly blessed vessel of God. And Hong Kong is blessed too in having him for a spiritual leader. Mr. Chancellor, it is my honour to present to you the Most Reverend Dr. Peter Kwong Kong-kit for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*.