

Permanent Diaconate of Hong Kong Catholic Diocese Establishment and Chronology of Development

Date	Events/Items
March 1988	The Hong Kong Diocesan Council of Priests initiated formal discussion of introducing the holy order of Permanent Diaconate.
May 1988	Cardinal Wu accepted the recommendation of Priest Council of setting up a special Task Force to consider implementation of Permanent Diaconate in Hong Kong and related issues.
September 1990	Task Force completed an information booklet on ' <i>Should Hong Kong Catholic Diocese implement Permanent Diaconate?</i> ' with the following content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * History and concept of Permanent Diaconate * Related Canon Law of Permanent Diaconate and development in other countries * Human resources and pastoralization work in HK Catholic Diocese
1991	Public engagement and consultation: The Task Force conducted two public forums, one for the priests and one for religious sisters and laity. Special feature articles ' <i>All We Know about Permanent Diaconate</i> ' were published in Kung Kau Po and information introduced in The Examiner to discuss related issues. In response to open-end opinion survey form distributed together with information pamphlet, about one hundred questionnaires were received.
January 1992	Catholic Institute for Religion and Society completed an opinion survey commissioned by the Task Force regarding ' <i>Should Hong Kong Catholic Diocese implement Permanent Diaconate?</i> ' and submitted a final report.

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June 1992	<p>After carefully considering the views of the Priest Council and Diocesan Pastoral Council, Cardinal Wu came to the following decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to implement Permanent Diaconate system for Hong Kong Catholic Diocese, with initiative for a 3-year pilot scheme to invite potential candidates. 2. the details of the pilot scheme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the project would be under the purview of Hong Kong Catholic Diocese with the purpose to solely serve the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese - open to single or married male Catholics and subject to agreement of wife for married male - the position is entirely 'voluntary' but could be 'part-time' or 'full-time' 3. the Task Force would be dissolved and a new ad hoc committee would be appointed to formulate training/formation programme, selection criteria, scope of service and working guidelines.
1992-1995	<p>The Task Force conducted information collection and arranged overseas visits to US and Canada by priests to investigate issues related to selection, formation, support and services of deacons. A special report was submitted to present the findings.</p>
1 February 1996	<p>Cardinal Wu appointed a separate committee to implement the Permanent Diaconate system and public announcement was released in April 1996.</p>
5 July 1997	<p>Cardinal Wu ordained the two members of the first batch of Permanent Diaconates, Dn. Lo Woo Lui, Peter and Dn. Tsang Fan Hing, Karl.</p>

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July 1998	A review seminar (2 day and 1 night) was organized to assess the data collated by the Task Force with a view to systematically deliver the programme, recast the structure and develop long term plans for the future. At the same time, the group also formulated detailed formation schedules, prepared handbook and followed up on issues related to training sessions at difference phases.
13 January 2001	Cardinal Wu ordained the two members of the second batch of Permanent Diaconates, Dn. Yeow Yu Hong, Paul and Dn. Wong Kwok Sum, Francis.
4 May 2002	Cardinal Wu ordained the one member of the third batch of Permanent Diaconate, Dn. Yung Wai Chung, Joseph.
2002	The Diocese officially named the committee as <i>'Diocesan Commission of the Permanent Diaconate of Hong Kong'</i> .
13 December 2003	Cardinal Zen ordained the one member of the forth batch of Permanent Diaconate, Dn. Sung Wan Lung, Joseph.
27 December 2003	Rev. Dominic Chan, VG. officiated the opening ceremony of the <i>'Deacon's Lodge'</i> located at 3 rd Floor of St Jude's Church, 30 Kin Wah Street, North Point
October 2004	<i>'The Handbook for Permanent Deacons'</i> was first published by the Diocesan Commission of the Permanent Diaconate'.
2 October 2004	Cardinal Zen ordained the two members of the fifth batch of Permanent Diaconates, Dn. Chow Yu Hong, Joseph and Dn. Tse Ming Fai, Francis.
1 July 2006	Cardinal Zen ordained the one member of the sixth batch of Permanent Diaconate, Dn. Ng Wing Hung, Edwin.

Date	Events/Items
29 September 2008	Dn. Wang Kwok Sum, Francis passed away to rest with our Lord.
11 July 2009	Cardinal Tong ordained the three members of the seventh batch of Permanent Diaconates, Dn. Cheung Ka Wai, Francis, Dn. Fung Sze Chung, Francis and Dn. Leung Shing Kwok, Peter.
1 August 2010	Cardinal Tong ordained the four members of the eighth batch of Permanent Diaconates, Dn. Kwok Ping Fai, Stephen, Dn. Li Fook Sung, William, Dn. Tang Bun, Bernard and Dn. Wong Shing Yee, Bosco.
14 July 2012	Cardinal Tong ordained the three members of the ninth batch of Permanent Diaconates, Dn. Kwan Chung Wah, Nestor, Dn. Lam Sair Ling, Fraustus and Dn. Siu Wai Leung, Paul.
September 2012	<i>The revised version of 'The Handbook for Permanent Deacons'</i> was promulgated and published by the Diocesan Commission of the Permanent Diaconate.
28 July 2013	Rev. Dominic Chan, V.G. officiated the opening ceremony of the ' <i>Office for the Diocesan Commission for the Permanent Diaconate</i> ' located at Room 697 of the Diocese Centre and the previous premises was handed back to St Jude's Church for pastoral purposes. The new accommodation was more spacious and well-equipped with various facilities to enable the premises to be used as office, conference room, formation center and resource library. It would also be open for all meetings related to deacon's activities as well as training and gathering purposes. The renovations as well as part of the internal fittings and furniture were made possible thanks to the help of the group of deacons and kind donors.

Date	Events/Items
16 November 2013	Cardinal Tong ordained the three members of the tenth batch of Permanent Diaconates, Dn. Au Kar Wai, Andrew, Dn. Wong Chin To, Louis and Dn. Yip Wai Wing, Julian.
Up to November 2013	The Diocese has presently 21 Permanent Diaconates (including one deceased Deacon), 10 candidates and 6 aspirants.
17-21 November 2013	The first International Chinese Permanent Deacons Conference was inaugurated in Hong Kong and held in St. Paul's House of Prayer, Sheung Shui, New Territories. The conference was attended by over 60 participants from all over the world and successfully completed to achieve the desired outcome.

(The above information is updated as at 3 December 2013 by the Diocesan Commission of the Permanent Diaconate.)