

## May 24<sup>th</sup> – Day of Prayer for the Church in China

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Earlier this year, U.S. and global media reported the Vatican's request of two bishops in China to cede posts to Beijing's picks. Is Pope Francis edging closer to a deal on the issue of bishop appointments? I don't know. What I do know is we can never cease praying. On May 2007, Pope Benedict XVI released a letter to the Catholics in China, in which he dedicated May 24 of each year to be celebrated as a World Day of Prayer for the Church in China. May 24<sup>th</sup> is also known as the Feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians. That letter acknowledged the ongoing suffering of the faithful in China and offered guidelines concerning the life of the Chinese Church and evangelization in China. May we pray in our own words or recite the [prayer to Our Lady of Sheshan](#) for a communion of faith in Jesus our Lord and of faithfulness to the Pope.

Pope Benedict XVI's prayer to Our Lady of Sheshan (2008):

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/prayers/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_20080515\\_prayer-sheshan.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/prayers/documents/hf_ben-xvi_20080515_prayer-sheshan.html)