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HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIÈGE PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLS
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE SALA DE IMPRENSA DA SANTA SÉ
دار الصحافة التابعة للكرسى الرسولي BIURO PRASOWE STOLICY APOSTOLSKIEJ

N. 190403c

Wednesday 03.04.2019

190403c

Erection of the territorial prelature of Santiago Apóstol de Huancané, Peru, and appointment of the first bishop prelate

The Holy Father Francis has erected the territorial prelature of Apóstol de Huancané, Peru, with territory taken from the territorial prelatures of Ayaviri and Juli, making it a suffragan of the archdiocese of Arequipa.

The Pope has appointed as first bishop prelate of the territorial prelature of Apóstol de Huancané, Peru, the Rev. Fr. Giovanni Cefai, M.S.S.P., pastor of the parish of *San Pablo Apóstol* in the archdiocese of Arequipa, and regional superior of the Missionary Society of Saint Paul in Peru.

The bishop-elect was born on 5 August 1967 in Zebbug, diocese of Gozo, Malta, gave his solemn vows in 1994, and was ordained a priest in 1997. He holds a licentiate in pastoral theology from the University of Malta. He has served in a number of pastoral roles, including director of the *De Piro* youth centre in Malta and parish priest of *Santa Cruz* and currently *San Pablo Apóstol* in Arequipa, Peru. He is also regional superior of the Missionary Society of Saint Paul in Peru.

The territory of the new territorial prelature of Santiago Apóstol de Huancané is composed of the following 22 districts:

- Conima, Huayrapata, Moho and Tilali (*which form part of the civil province of Moho*);
- Alto Inambari, Cuyocuyo, Patambuco, Quiaca, San Juan del Oro, San Pedro de Putinapunco, Sandia and Yanahuaya (*which form part of the civil province of Sandia*);
- Ananea, Quilcapuncy and Sina (*which form part of the civil province of San Antonio de Putina*);
- Huancané, Cojata, Inchupalla, Pusi, Rosaspata, Vilque Chico and Taraco (*which form part of the civil province of Huancané*).

The cathedral of the new territorial prelature will be the parish church of *Santiago Apóstol de Huancané* in Huancané.

The statistical data of the new territorial prelature of *Santiago Apóstol de Huancané* are as follows:

Area:	18.880,89 km ²
Population:	200.489
Catholics:	170.415
Parishes:	20
Diocesan priests:	13
Religious priests:	2
Permanent deacons:	-
Seminarians:	2
Professed religious:	-
Religious sisters:	14

The statistical data of the territorial prelature of *Ayaviri* are as follows:

Area:	20.712,85 km ²
Population:	179.596
Catholics:	152.656
Parishes:	21
Diocesan priests:	19
Religious priests:	1
Permanent deacons:	-
Seminarians:	4
Professed religious:	2
Religious sisters:	20

The statistical data of the territorial prelature of *Juli* are as follows:

Area:	9.919,51 km ²
Population:	189.819
Catholics:	161.314
Parishes:	14
Diocesan priests:	20
Religious priests:	2
Permanent deacons:	-
Seminarians:	7
Professed religious:	-
Religious sisters:	8

