

rarely do the farmers go to the nearby town for amusement; nor do they engage in organized social gatherings or other forms of entertainment.

We found the villagers to be very courteous with strangers who come to visit; one of the reasons for this extraordinary courtesy, perhaps, is that they seldom associate with those who live in the towns. As a result, they are quite shy. They showed so much respect for us when we visited them that they would not sit down and eat with us at mealtimes, but always served us first. Despite all our entreaties, they never gave in! An electric fan is not a common article in the home. When we took our meals in the stifling summer heat, our hosts, fearing we might feel uncomfortable, stood behind us fanning us, doing their best to make us feel comfortable. Needless to say we felt quite embarrassed. Their sincerity and kindness, however, moved us deeply.

Our few days' in the farming village passed by swiftly. Although not accustomed to the hard physical demands of farm work and the primitive hygienic conditions, our hardships were mixed with joy. It was a wonderful personal experience to be able to make contact with such simple people, people who are meek, hospitable and genuine.

News in brief

The Italian News Agency, on February 10th, announced the news of the episcopal ordination of Fr. Li Side (李思德) as the new Bishop Coadjutor of Shanghai. We earnestly ask the Lord to assist him with His Grace.

We were saddened to learn of the death in Italy on February 13th, 1983 of Bishop Lawrence Bianchi (白英奇), ordinary of Hong Kong from 1951 to 1969. He was 83. During his leadership the Church of Hong Kong grew from 30,000 to 250,000, thus becoming the largest concentration of Chinese catholics in any one diocese of the world. When taking over the task of leading the Church of Hong Kong, Bishop Bianchi said: "We work for today and trust in God for tomorrow." We pray that this trust is now fulfilled for him.