

# News in Brief

## HONG KONG CATHOLICS ON PILGRIMAGE FOR THE HOLY YEAR

In July of this year, 137 Holy Year Pilgrims from Hong Kong arrived in Rome. There they visited the four major Basilicas, the Roman catacombs and had an audience with the Pope, all in celebration with thousands of other pilgrims from all over the world.

The group's leader, Father Joseph Mak, presented Pope John Paul II with a painting of a horse by the famous Chinese artist Xu Beihong (徐悲鴻). In thanking these representatives of the largest Chinese Diocese in the world, the Pope said: 'I pray for China day and night.'

After leaving Rome, the Pilgrimage continued to Paray-Le-Monial, the place of origin for the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and to Assisi, the home of St. Francis. The group also spent three days in Lourdes, France, the most famous of all pilgrimage sites in the Catholic world.

The Holy Year commemorates the 1950th Anniversary of Christ's Redemption. Beginning on March 25th, it will end on April 22nd of next year. The Holy Year is a call to the whole Church for renewal, repentance, and greater zeal in bringing the Gospel message to all peoples.

This Pilgrimage was one of several Diocesan-wide activities organized to celebrate the Holy Year.

## A SYMPOSIUM ON THE 1997 QUESTION

On Saturday September 24, from 2 to 4:30 p.m., three Hong Kong organizations held a symposium on "The 1997 Question and the Future of Hong Kong." The symposium took place on the ninth floor of the Caine Road Diocesan Centre. The three organizations were: the Hong Kong Central Council of the Catholic Laity, Holy Spirit Study Centre and the Centre for the Progress of Peoples. Besides a 25 minute slide show, seven speakers were invited to express their opinions on the issue of "1997." Finally, thirty minutes were allowed for questions and statements

from the floor. The participants numbered several hundred, and their response was very animated. Media people from the press and television were also in attendance.

### FUJIAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY ACCEPTS NEW STUDENTS

The Fujian School of Theology, established by the Fujian Provincial Protestant Three-Self Patriotic Movement Association has brought its enrolment up to forty by accepting new candidates. The students have been introduced by local Christian communities and have successfully passed the entrance examination. The School offers a two-year program to prepare graduates for service in the sending Communities.

Bishop Xue Pingxi ( 薛平西 ), the Dean, is assisted by Pastor Zheng Yugui ( 鄭玉桂 ), Pastor Yan Tianyou ( 嚴天佑 ) and Pan Jinggao ( 潘鏡高 ) of the Minnan School of Theology. The faculty includes, along with full time staff members, sixteen teachers from the Minnan and Chongqing Theological Schools.

NEWS FROM "THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CHINA" #7 (published August 15, 1983, pp. 58-9)

Since 1981 over 300 churches have been opened on the China mainland. Also, in many places churches are just in the process of being renovated.

From 1981 to the end of 1982, 14 mainland dioceses have selected and ordained their own bishops. These are Bishops Qian Huimin of the Nanjing diocese, Ma Longlin of the Suzhou diocese, Xu Chenjiang of the Shenyang diocese, Zhao Jingnong of the Tianshui diocese, Zhang Wenbin of the Dali diocese, Ji Huairang of the Xian diocese, Li Banshi of the Jiangmen diocese, Cai Tiyan of the Shantou diocese, Zhang Xi of the Taiyuan diocese, Liu Jinghe of the Tangshan diocese, Fan Wenxing of the Hengshui diocese, Liu Dinghan of the Cangzhou diocese, Liu Zongyu of the Chongqing diocese and Liu Dianchi of the Jilin diocese.

The Chinese Catholic Church Affairs Committee has reprinted over twenty thousand copies of "The Complete New Testament," and printed the "Catholic Breviary," the "Latin Missal," the "Catholic Catechism," a calendar of feast days and all kinds of holy pictures.

After the opening last October of the "Sheshan Seminary," sponsored by the six provinces and one city of Shanghai, Jiangsu, Anhui, Zhe-

jiang, Shandong, Jiangxi and Fujian, the diocese of Beijing has opened the "Beijing Seminary," and the three provinces of northeast China have opened the "Shenyang Seminary." In addition, a national Chinese Catholic institute of philosophy and theology is now at the stage of accepting students and its opening is imminent.\* Besides a six-year course for seminarians, this institute will also set up a two-year training course. The dioceses of south-central and southwest China are also planning to open seminaries for the training of clergy.

### GUANGZHOU CATHOLIC PATRIOTIC ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

On August 6th, during the Fourth Representatives Meeting of the Guangzhou Catholic Patriotic Association, new officers and a thirty-two member Standing Committee were elected. The new President of the Association is Chen Zhixiong (陳志雄). Others elected to positions of responsibility were Feng Guoguang (馮國光), Lian Mingde (連明德), Zhang Minggao (張鳴皋) Liu Hanchi (劉漢池), Zhang Yinxiong (張陰雄), Lin Bingliang (林秉良), Ye Zhifen (葉志芬) and Lu Guocun (呂國存).

### NEW MINOR SEMINARY IN GUANGZHOU

The average age of the clergy in the Guangzhou Diocese is now seventy five. To provide for continuity and succession is the most urgent task of the Church not only in Guangzhou but throughout China as well. At present, the Guangzhou Diocese is searching for candidates for the priesthood among young, unmarried Catholic men who will first undergo a period of training at Sacred Heart Cathedral before applying for enrolment in Mount Hua Yuan Seminary (花園山修院) in Wuchang or the College of Philosophy and Theology in Beijing. In addition, the Diocese is planning to open a new minor Seminary where middle school graduates and seminarians will be able to study philosophy and theology locally.

Bishop Ye Yinyun and Fr. Lian Mingde have played a leading role in setting up this new house of studies. University professors are to be employed part-time to teach such courses as political science, history, geography and linguistics. Philosophy, theology, Church History and Latin will be taught by the local clergy.

The new minor seminary will be housed in the old Chancery Office of the Diocese, which also will serve as the Bishop's residence when the property is returned to the Church in October.

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\*The National Chinese Catholic institute opened on September 28, 1983. It is located on Liu Yin Street in Beijing. There are over 20 professors and 58 students.

## SISTER CHEN ZHIDAO

Also attending the Guangzhou Diocesan meeting was Sister Chen Zhidao (陳志道). Sister is the former superior of the Chinese Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. She came all the way from her village in Shunde (順德) to take part in the discussions.

After the meeting, Sister stayed on in Guangzhou to receive medical treatment for her eyes.

## OF SPECIAL NOTE

Mr. Han Wenzao the Associate General Secretary of the China Christian Council has been kind enough to send us a copy of the Council's 1984 Calendar. As last year, the calendar's special feature is seven Chinese traditional paintings on biblical themes. They are examples of recent beginnings among Chinese Christian artists to develop a national Christian art. You can obtain copies if you cable (4377 Nanjing China) or write (China Christian Council, 13 Da Jian Yin Xiang, Nanjing, China) without delay. The calendars are not for sale but a donation covering mailing costs would be appreciated. The donation can be sent to the Nanjing Office, China Christian Council, A/C No. 94171205, Bank of China, Nanjing Branch, Nanjing, China.

## THE SELECTED WORKS OF ZHU DE

The Selected Works of Zhu De (朱德選集) was published by People's Publications on August 1, 1983. It is a collection of 65 important essays written by Zhu between 1931 and 1962, a third of which concern military matters. Noteworthy is the summary of an address which he gave in February of 1962 at the Enlarged Working Conference of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, Shandong Section, entitled: "To correct 'Leftist' deviation, restore and develop production."

In this speech, Zhu pointed out: "Over recent years, the struggles within the Party have expanded, and the targets of attack have also extended to the point that sometimes one cannot distinguish a struggle within the Party from a 'purge' of counter-revolutionary elements." Noting that mistakes have been committed by Party leadership, Zhu pointed out: "As long as the leadership is willing to do self-criticism, grudges below would dissipate easily." The book also provides some first-hand historical material for the important period between the Three Red Flags and the Great Cultural Revolution of the Proletariat.