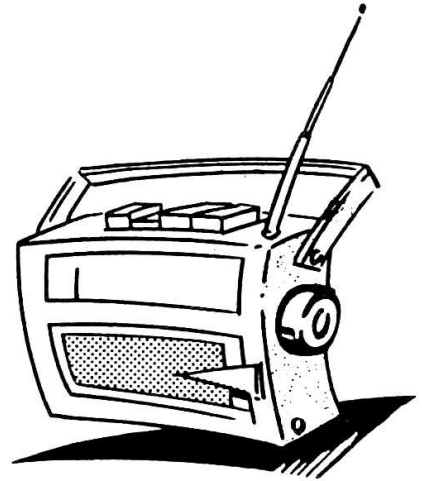


## News in Brief



### DETAILS OF THE CASE OF GALILEO WILL BE PRESENTED

Some new findings about the case of Galileo are going to be disclosed by the Vatican soon. The text, which is entitled "Details of the case of Galileo", includes six pieces of previously unknown historical material and will be published by the Vatican Secretariate of Archives.

The new findings show that the anonymous letter against Galileo, previously thought to be sent by a Jesuit, was sent by an Archbishop or a Cardinal as there is an episcopal seal on the letter.

A committee to examine the case of Galileo was established in 1980 by Pope John Paul II. The committee presented a report early this year and admitted that the condemnation of Galileo was a mistake.

### CONFERENCE OF THIRD WORLD THEOLOGIANS HELD IN HONG KONG

About 40 delegates from various countries met in Hong Kong early August this year. They participated in the Asian Theological Conference II which was sponsored by the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians.

The conference was held at the Holy Spirit Seminary, Aberdeen, Hong Kong. "FAITH REFLECTIONS ON HISTORICAL PROCESSES IN ASIS TODAY" was the main theme of the conference. The participant came from Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanks, Taiwan and Thailand. One-third of the participants were women.

## GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION HELD IN BEIJING

The Diocese of Beijing celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Ordination of four priests at Nantang Church, Beijing on the 30th June, 1984. The four priests are Wang Jizhi ( 王基志 ), Zhang Yongnian ( 張永年 ), Chang Jingsuan ( 常靜軒 ) and Zhang Zuozhuang ( 張作莊 ).

Fr. Wang Jizhi aged 76 is now the Rector of the Seminary of Beijing Diocese. He was the promoter of sacred music in the Diocese. His former students are working in countries all over the world and many of them are now in Taiwan.

Fr. Zhang Zuozhuang aged 76 is the assistant of Fr. Wang at the Seminary. Fr. Chang Jingsuan aged 75 and Fr. Zhang Yongnian aged 89 have retired due to poor health.

The Golden Jubilee celebration was organized by Fr. Shi Yukun ( 石玉琨 ). Presiding at the ceremony was Bishop Fu Tieshan ( 傅鉄山 ) who praised the four priests for establishing the "Independent and Self-administered Church". Bishop Fu presented each priest with a Bible, a Rosary and a carved lacquerware of the statue of Nantang.

Members of the Catholic Patriotic Association and Religious Affairs Committee of Beijing attended the celebration and presented gifts to the four priests. This ceremony is the first of its kind in China since 1949.

## JIN AN TEMPLE RETURNED TO BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

The Buddhist Jin An Temple in Shanghai has been recently returned to the Buddhist Association of China after being occupied as a 'godown' for 18 years.

Jin An Temple was built, according to folklore, in the period of the Three Kingdoms, a thousand seven hundred years ago. However, after the destruction wrought by the Cultural Revolution, nothing was left but empty halls.

The department concerned has established a committee for renovating Jin An Temple. Renovation work will take two years.

## CATHOLIC MINOR SEMINARY OPENED IN SHANDONG PROVINCE

A Catholic Minor Seminary has been opened early this year in Jinan,

Shandong Province. The Minor Seminary which is called Holy Spirit Seminary is supported by the Religious Affairs Committee of Shandong and the dioceses in the province.

The candidates must be unmarried young men and high school graduates. They must have a love of the motherland and of the Church and a strong desire to devote themselves to the priestly service. The first rector of the Seminary is Fr. Guo Chuangzhen ( 郭傳真 ).

### ISLAMIC STUDIES BOOM IN FUJIAN

A committee has been recently established in Quanzhou ( 泉州 ), Fujian Province for protecting, repairing and maintaining Islamic historical spots and promoting tourism.

The Mayor of Quanzhou, Zhang Yuxiu ( 張毓秀 ), has been appointed chairman of the committee. Lu Weite ( 陸維特 ), a well-known Arabic scholar, is the adviser of the committee.

Since last year the Institute of Social Science in Fujian has been conducting studies on the Islamic historical spots. An Islamic Institute and an Islamic association will be established in Fujian Province soon.

### NEW INSTITUTES FOR RELIGIOUS FORMATION ESTABLISHED IN GANSU PROVINCE

Religious formation in Gansu Province ( 甘肅省 ) is booming. A school for Lanzhou ( 蘭州 ) Islamic doctrine and an academy for Buddhists will be opened this autumn.

The Lanzhou Islamic doctrine school will be located in Lanzhou. It will offer a five-year course of study to 20 candidates. The Gansu academy for Buddhist is located in Haihe county ( 夏河縣 ), Gansu Province. It will provide six-years of academic training to 20 candidates.

The candidates must be young men who have a love of the motherland, and be willing to uphold the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and the socialist system. They should be young men of good character, sound health, and have the necessary educational background and desire to take up religious vocation. The Buddhist academy is open to unmarried young men only.

## ZHAO PUCHU CRITIZES LEFTIST POISONING ON RELIGIOUS WORK

Zhao Puchu, chairman of the Buddhist Association of China criticized the leftists for hindering the implementation of the religious policy of the Government at the Political Consultative Conference in May, 1984.

Zhao went on to say that the income from the reopened temples was always taken away by the travel and tourism administration departments. The monks have no hand in the matter.

The magazine Dhama-ghosa ( 法音 ), published by the association, has been treated as reactionary and illegal, Zhao pointed out. At times subscription was banned. Publications on Buddhism sent by Buddhists from abroad were often rejected by the Customs office. Some phenomena showed that not only religious organizations in certain regions but also the Buddhist Association were not respected. He urged local administrations to implement the religious policy of the Government.

## NUNS WON CASE AGAINST ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF CADRES

14 nuns from the Aidao Academy of Buddhism, Suling county ( 遂寧縣 ), Sichuan Province, have sued the cadres who are illegally occupying the estate properties of the academy. The case hearing lasted for a year and finally the county court of Suling and Maiyang ( 綿陽 ) People's Magistry ruled that the occupants should vacate the premises in June, 1984.

## LIFE EXPECTANCY IN CHINA

The average life expectancy in China in 1982 was 67.88 according to the 1982 census. Seventy percent of married women in the fertility age group have been practising family planning; 21.1 percent of the same population group bears only one child. When children from one child families get married, they are allowed to have two children.