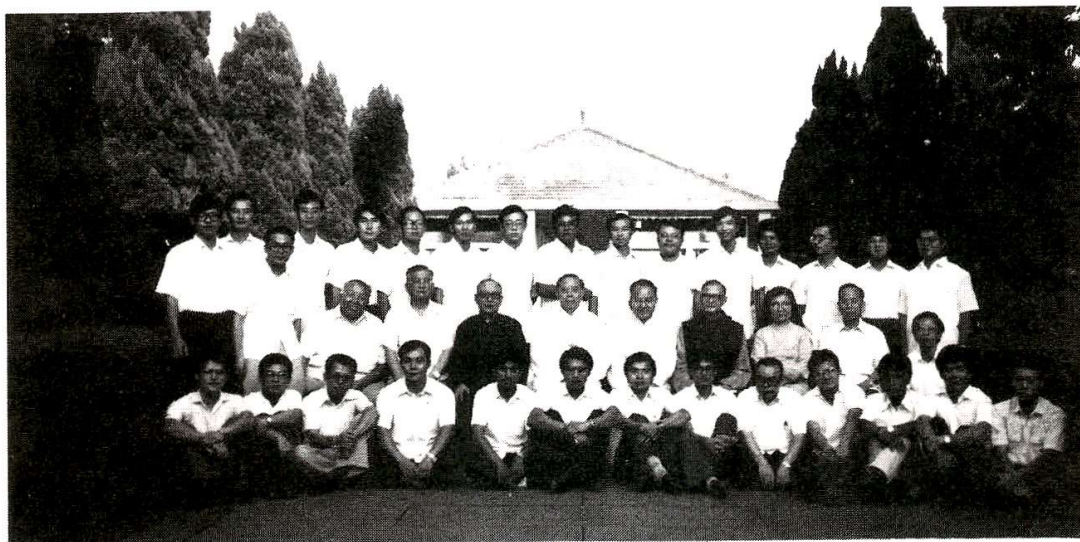
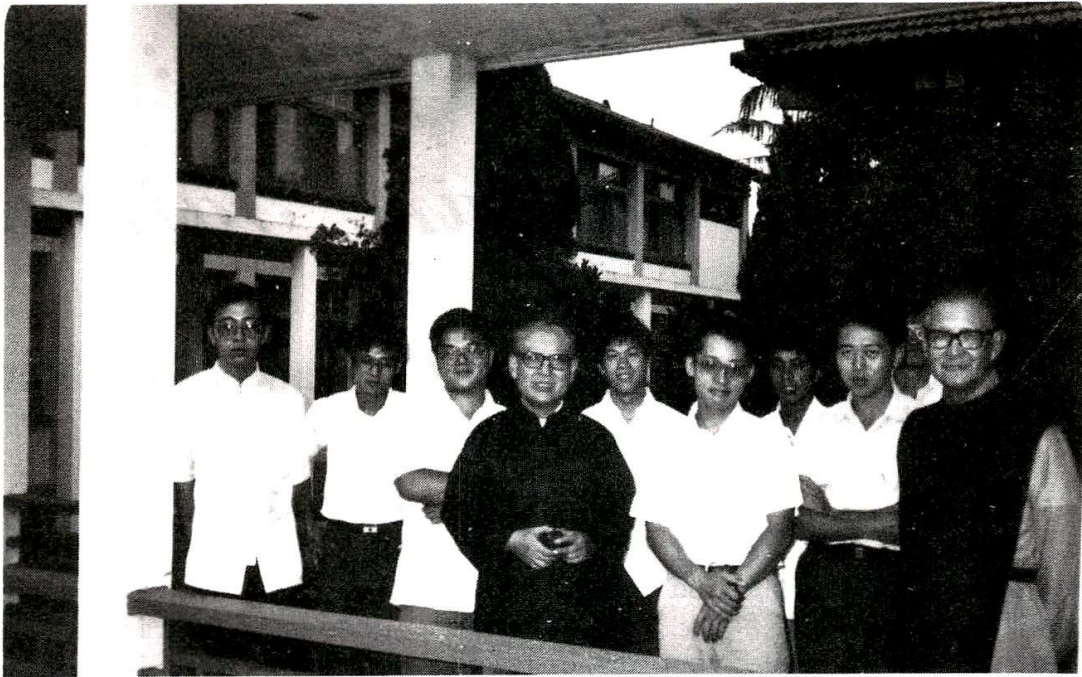


St. Pius X Seminary : *Tainan, Taiwan*

by **Rev. Francis Suen, Rector**

St. Pius X Seminary of Tainan was established in 1962 by Stanislaus Lokuang, then Bishop of the Tainan Diocese. While it is under the authority of the Bishop of Tainan and is staffed by local diocesan priests, its seminarians come from all seven of Taiwan's dioceses. At first, the seminary was set up to receive only delayed vocations, but in 1972 it opened its doors to all graduates of minor seminaries as well. As most seminarians studying here today are young men, their preparatory years are interrupted at the age of twenty by compulsory military service. However, the two year term of military service is not seen as an obstacle but rather as a time of maturation, and the majority of seminarians return to the seminary after their discharge.





The seminary offers a five-and-a-half year course of studies for prospective priests. The first two years emphasize philosophy (both scholastic and modern), Chinese culture, and some basic orientation for theology and the spiritual life. Upon completion of the first two years, seminarians enter the three year theology programme. This is followed by a final six months of general review and recapitulation of theology and pastoral praxis.

During the past 22 years, Pius X has ordained 55 priests. At present, there are 7 seminarians who have completed their course of studies and are awaiting ordination for their local dioceses. Among the 31 seminarians now studying, five religious congregations and seven dioceses are represented. There are, in addition, 9 seminarians doing military service.

The seminary faculty consists of five priests who live and work at the seminary full-time, and eight diocesan priests, who are non-resident professors involved also in local parishes and diocesan centres.

Located in a quiet, secluded area with ground measuring 12,000 square meters, the seminary has at its centre an elegant Chinese-style chapel. It is an ideal place for the training and formation of Taiwan's future priests.