

*Serenity*  
*and*  
*Simplicity -*



*The PIUS X Seminary*

By Maria Goretti LAU

The Pius X Seminary stands quietly amidst a crowded area of Tainan city. Uncontaminated by the secularity of the secular world, it impresses us with its simple, fresh, and very Chinese appearance.

The Pius X Seminary, located in the south of Taiwan, was built in 1962 for the purpose of training delayed vocations. Since then it has become the cradle of adult vocations for the Tainan Diocese. The curricula of theology and philosophy are like those of similar diocesan seminaries; the general aim of theological and philosophical departments is to train qualified pastors for the local church. After five years of studies, seminarians who are intellectually, emotionally, and morally equipped for priestly ministry are called to ordination.

In June of 1972, the Chinese Bishops' Conference of Taiwan decided that seminarians who were not able to enter universities were to be sent to the seminary for theological and philosophical training. The very purpose of the seminary, therefore, was adjusted to the needs of the local church. It has been more than twenty years since the seminary was

established; in that time about fifty seminarians have been ordained. The twenty-four seminarians now living in the seminary come from seven different dioceses; some of them are members of religious congregations, representing five communities.

The Rector, assisted by the faculty, is the final responsible person for the smooth functioning of the seminary. The task of spiritual counsellors is to give supervision and spiritual direction to the seminarians on an individual basis. The professors presently lecturing at the seminary are also translators and authors of note in various fields of theology. They have produced many commentaries on a variety of Church documents, on Christian spirituality, on the Early Church Fathers, etc.... Their theological contribution to the work of inculturation of the local church has been indispensable. All courses offered at the seminary are in Chinese. Recently, the seminary has been opened to accept religious women for theological studies, who audit or take courses for credit. The seminary has played a very important role in the Tainan Diocese.

