



The Consecration of

Li Side and Jin Luxian

as Auxiliary Bishops of Shanghai

On Sunday, January 27, 1985, at Shanghai's Puxi Road Cathedral, Father Li Side and Jin Luxian were consecrated auxiliary bishops of the Catholic Diocese of Shanghai. Attending the ceremony were 18 bishops from other dioceses in China and 2,000 Christians.

The procession at the start of the ceremony was led by 14 seminarians and 11 priests wearing white surplices, who acted as servers for the ceremony. Behind them came the bishops in deep red vestments. In a different shade of red vestments and taking up the rear of the procession were 92 year old Bishop Zhang Jiashu of Shanghai, and the ordaining prelate, Bishop Zong Huaide, Chairman of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association. In front of them marched the co-consecrators, Bishop Dong Guangqing of Hankou, one of the first two self-elected and self-consecrated bishops, and Bishop Qian Huimin of Nanjing, as well as the ordinandi, Li Side and Jin Luxian. These were preceded by the bishops who came from many parts of the country to participate in the ceremony, including the vice-chairman of the Chinese Catholic Church Administrative Commission, Bishop Yang Gaojian. To the triumphant notes of the hymn *Ecce Sacerdos Magnus*, the bishops solemnly processed into the church. The church's bright lights and the altar's pure white marble attracted everyone's attention. Many people took pictures during the ceremony.

The ceremony was carried out in the traditional manner, and lasted about 2½ hours. The most important parts were the oath taken by the newly consecrated bishops with their hands on the Bible, the examination given to the ordinandi by the consecrating bishop, and the laying on of hands by the principal consecrating bishop and his two co-consecrators. The newly consecrated bishops were then given croziers, rings, Bibles, golden miters and white gloves to signify the authority of their office. They were then led to thrones on either side of the presiding bishop, Bishop Zhang Jiashu, Chinese was used for part of the ordination ceremony, while Latin was used for the Mass. The choir sang continually throughout the ceremony, which was carried out with great solemnity.

In attendance at the ceremony were Cao Jingru, Vice-director of the Bureau of Religious Affairs of the Department of State, Zhang Yaozhong and Yang Shuming, Vice-directors of the United Front Department of Shanghai City and Yang Zhengnian, Director of Shanghai's Bureau of Religious Affairs. Also in attendance were Catholics from Beijing, Hubei, Jiangxi, Fujian, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Shandong, Anhui, Jiangsu and Hong Kong. After the ceremony, a picture to mark the occasion was taken at the front door of the church of all the bishops and guests. In the evening, all the guests were invited to a banquet at the Heng Shan Hotel given by the Catholic Church Administrative Commission and Patriotic Association of Shanghai.

Celebrations in honor of the newly consecrated bishops were held over a three day period. On the day following the ceremony, the bishops, priests and Catholic guests from throughout the country made a pilgrimage to Sheshan to honor the Blessed Mother. They also toured Sheshan Seminary. At noon, they visited Long Hua Temple and ate a vegetarian meal. In the evening, all the guests were invited to a banquet at the Shanghai Hotel given by the Religious Affairs Bureau of Shanghai.

On the third day, a tea party was held at the Heng Shan Hotel, followed by an entertainment by professional dancers and acrobats. Five bishops: Zhang Jiashu, Zong Huaide, Dong Guangqing, Fu Tieshan and Yu Chengcai all spoke during the tea reception. Mr. Tang Guozhi of the Shanghai Catholic Patriotic Association then read congratulatory telegrams received from many places. Finally, the newly consecrated bishops, Li Side and Jin Luxian, said a few words. Bishop Jin addressed the following words to those gathered to celebrate the occasion.

January 27 is the feast of St. John Chrysostom. This saint of the Oriental Church was famous for his preaching. I am very happy to have been consecrated a bishop on his feast day. The contributions of the Oriental Church to the Western Church have been many. If there were only the Latin culture and no oriental, Greek culture, then our church would not be so rich. If there were no Chinese, who account for one-fourth of the world's people and who have a 5,000 year culture, in today's church, how can we call it an universal church? We want to preserve an oriental flavor in order to make the universal church richer. Just as the African church is africanized, we want to make the Chinese church sinicized. If there is no local church, how can there be an universal church? To have a western church only would be too monotonous. The best contribution one can make to the universal church is to manage one's own church well.

In cooperation with the leaders here present, I desire to do my utmost to make a contribution to the Chinese church and Catholics, to our race and nation, and to the universal church.

Bishop Li Side (77), a diocesan priest, has served as dean of the Shanghai deanery for many years. In February, 1982 he was elected as Vicar-general of the diocese. Sixty-nine-year-old Bishop Jin Luxian entered the Jesuits in 1936, and received a doctorate in Dogmatic Theology from the Gregorianum University in Rome before 1949. He now serves as rector of Sheshan Seminary. The text chosen by Bishop Li for his commemorative card was "You should be awake and praying." (Mt. 26:41) Bishop Jin's commemorative card, on the other hand, quoted (John 3:30): "He must increase, I must decrease." (Part of the contents of this report was taken from the January 28, 1985 edition of the *Liberation Daily*)

translated by Peter Barry



▲ *The New Bishops Processing out of the Church after the Ordination Ceremony.*



Prostration during Ordination ceremony ▲

▼ *From left to right, the six bishops wearing mitres are: Qian Huimin, Jin Luxian, Zong Huaide, Zhang Jiashu, Li Side, Dong Guangqing.*

