

# Li Xuesong Consecrated

## Bishop of Jilin

Fr. John Li Xuesong was ordained Bishop of Jilin on September 22, 1985. The ceremony was held at the Catholic Church in Changchun, the capital of Jilin Province, with Bishop Zong Huaide and two co-consecrators, Bishop Duan Yinming and Bishop Liu Jinghe, officiating. More than 200 people attended the ceremony.

The newly consecrated Bishop Li, who is now eighty-one, is a native of Panshi County, Jilin Province. In 1980 after the Church in Jilin City had been reopened, Fr. Li lived there as an assistant to the former Bishop Liu Dianchi. Liu was made Bishop of Jilin on October 10, 1982. He died there on April 4, 1985.

The ordaining prelate Bishop Zong Huaide is 68 years old. Ordained a priest in 1943 he was appointed administrator of Zhoucun Diocese, Shandong, in 1949, and then ordained bishop in 1958. He is now Bishop of Jinan and also Chairman of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, Vice-Director of the Chinese Catholic Church Affairs Committee, and Vice-President of the Chinese Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Bishop Duan Yinming, 77, was ordained a priest in 1937 and then appointed Bishop of Wanxian in 1949. Bishop Duan has been a Vice-Director of the Chinese Catholic Church Affairs Committee since 1980, and he now also serves as a member of the People's Political Consultative Conference of Sichuan.

Bishop Liu Jinghe, now 66, was made Bishop of Tangshan in 1981. He has been the rector of the Shijiazhuang Seminary, Hebei, since it opened in December, 1984. The seminary, jointly supported by the Catholic Church Affairs Committee of Hebei and the eight dioceses in the province, has enrolled thirty students in its four-year course.

There are now more than ten priests in Jilin Province, serving in Changchun, Jilin City, Hailong County and Siping. Changchun also has a convent, and many more churches are now in the process of being reopened.

(by Paul Li I Te)