

Obituary of Two Old Bishops

Staff of Holy Spirit Study Centre

Bishop Jin Luxian of Shanghai

Bishop Jin Luxian of Shanghai died in a hospital in Shanghai on April 27, 2013. He was 96 years old. His baptismal name was Aloysius. He was born to a Catholic family in Shanghai on June 20, 1916. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1932. Bishop Haouisse of Shanghai ordained him a priest on May 19, 1945. In 1947, Fr. Jin went to France to study theology. After one year there, he transferred to Rome's Gregorian University, where he graduated with a Doctoral degree in Theology in 1950. In 1951, he returned to China, where the new bishop, Gong Pinmei, assigned him as temporary rector of Xujiahui Major Seminary. On September 8, 1955, Fr. Jin was arrested, along with Bishop Gong and 300 clergy and Catholics of Shanghai. With the others, Fr. Jin was sentenced to prison as a counter-revolutionary. He spent 27 years in labor camps, doing mostly translation work. He was released from imprisonment in 1982, and returned to seminary work in Shanghai, this time in Sheshan.



In 1985, Bishop Zhang Jiashu of the open church in Shanghai ordained Fr. Jin as an auxiliary bishop, but without the papal mandate. In 1988, when Bishop Zhang Jiashu died, Bishop Jin succeeded him as bishop of the open church. In the early years of the 21st century, Bishop Jin was able to obtain the Holy Father's approval to be bishop. On July 7, 2012, Bishop Jin ordained Fr. Ma Daqin as his successor. However, at the end of his ordination Mass, Bishop Ma announced that, since he would be busy doing pastoral work as bishop of the large diocese of Shanghai, he would have to resign from all his posts in the patriotic association. That very night

the authorities detained Bishop Ma, and have held him incommunicado since then.

Bishop Jin's great contribution to the Church in China was his years as rector of Sheshan Seminary. During that time, he made Sheshan the best seminary in China, with professors being invited from Hong Kong, Taiwan and other parts of the world to teach classes. More than 500 priests have graduated and been ordained from Sheshan. These priests are now serving all over the country. This contribution of Bishop Jin to the Church in China can never be eradicated.

Bishop Chen Shizhong

Bishop Chen Shizhong of the Yibin Diocese in Sichuan Province died at the Bishop's Residence in Yibin on December 16, 2012. He was 95 years old. His baptismal name was John. He was born in 1917. At the age of 10 he entered the minor seminary, and was ordained a priest in 1947. In 1966, during the Cultural Revolution, he was forced to work as a laborer, fixing roads. In 1981, he returned to his pastoral work as bishop. In 1984, when the Chengdu Seminary was re-opened, Fr. Chen was appointed as Dean of Studies.



Later, Pope John Paul II appointed him bishop of the Yibin diocese. On June 14, 1985, Bishop Duan Yinming of Wanxian ordained Fr. Chen bishop. In 1988, he assumed the office of rector at the Sichuan Seminary. As he got older, Bishop Chen turned the rectorship over to a younger priest, and he returned to his ministry in his own diocese.

After long years of service in the vineyard of the Lord in China, these two elderly bishops are now enjoying their eternal reward in heaven. May God grant them eternal rest!