

## Brief History of the Jiangmen Catholic Diocese

- 20 Dec., 1918 First group of Maryknoll Fathers, Thomas Price, Bernard Meyer, Francis Ford and James E. Walsh arrive in Yangjiang (Apostolic Vicariate of Canton) to begin work in Maryknoll's first mission.
- 31 Jan., 1924 A "Motu Proprio" from Rome establishes the Jiangmen (Kongmoon) prefecture apostolic, separated from the Vicariate of Canton and entrusted to the care of Maryknoll. Msgr. James E. Walsh named first prefect apostolic. The prefecture included the civil districts of Sining, Luoding, Wanfu, Yangjiang, Xinyi, Tianbai, Maoming, Xinning, Chiqi, Xinhui and Shangchuan Island.
- 1927 Jiangmen Prefecture raised to the status of a vicariate; Msgr. James E. Walsh appointed first bishop. Walsh ordained bishop on May 22, 1927 in St. Francis Xavier chapel, Shangchuan Island.
- 1936 Bishop James E. Walsh elected Maryknoll superior general; he left Jiangmen and returned to Maryknoll headquarters in New York, U.S.A.
- 17 June, 1938 Father Adolph J. Paschang, MM appointed bishop of Jiangmen. In 1941, 28 Maryknoll Fathers were working in the Jiangmen Vicariate.
- 1946 Chinese Hierarchy established; all vicariates become dioceses.
- 1953 Last Maryknoll Fathers left Jiangmen. Remaining behind were about 8,000 Catholics and several Chinese priests and Sisters.
- 1986 Today diocesan boundaries have been expanded by Chinese authorities to include parts of the former Macao and Canton dioceses, such as Zhaoqing, Panyu and Shiqi (Zhongshan County). Seven churches are now open and eight priests work in the diocese: 2 in Jiangmen, 1 in Wanfu, 2 in Zhaoqing, 2 in Panyu and Bishop Li Panshi (ordained September, 1981) in Shiqi. Jiangmen diocese has 6 seminarians studying at the Wuchang seminary.