

# NEWS IN BRIEF

by Peter Barry

## BISHOPS CONSECRATED

On Sunday, April 5, 1987, Father Li Du'an was consecrated as bishop of Xian diocese, Shaanxi Province. The principal consecrating bishop was Bishop Zhang Wenbing of Dali, Shaanxi. Co-consecrators were Bishops Yu Ruanshen of Hanzhong, Shaanxi and Ma Ji of Pingliang, Gansu. The new bishop was elected to replace Bishop Ji Huairang, who died on February 24, 1987, at a meeting of the clergy and Catholics of Xian on March 3, 1987. (Catholic Church in China, 1987, #2)

Father Ma Ji was consecrated bishop of the Pingliang diocese, Gansu Province on March 16, 1987. The consecration took place in Pingliang. The consecrating bishop was Bishop Zhang Wenbing of Dali, Shaanxi Province. (CCIC, 1987, #2)

Due to the deteriorating health of Bishop Chang Shouyi of the Zhangjiakou (Xuanhua) diocese, Hebei Province, a meeting of clergy and Catholics was held in Zhangjiakou January 8-10, 1987 to elect an auxiliary bishop. Father Xu Lizhi was chosen to be auxiliary bishop by March 27. Father Xu was consecrated on May 31 in Beijing by Bishop Fu Tieshan as the new ordinary of Zhangjiakou.



## ORDINATIONS TAKE PLACE

On December 22, 1986, Bishop Fu Tieshan ordained three young men to the priesthood. Ordained for the Beijing diocese, their names are: Liu Guozhi, Gao Yang and Chen Wanli. They had all entered the Beijing diocesan seminary together in 1982. The first Masses of the new priests were offered on December 23. (CCIC 1987, #2)

On December 21, 1986, Zhuang Jianxian, 56, of Jiexi County, Shantou, Guangdong Province, was ordained a priest by Bishop Jin Luxian, auxiliary bishop of Shanghai. Father Zhuang had previously studied at

St. Joseph Seminary, Meixian, Guangdong Province, but his studies were interrupted by the upheaval surrounding the Cultural Revolution. He entered Shanghai's Sheshan seminary in 1985 to continue his studies for the priesthood. On the evening of Sunday, January 4, 1987, he celebrated his first Mass for the Catholics in St. Joseph Church in Shantou. Father Zhuang is a welcome addition to the nine elderly priests who staff the Shantou diocese at the present time (covering nine counties and two cities) (CCIC, 1987, #2)

Bishop Jin Luxian, auxiliary bishop of Shanghai and rector of Sheshan seminary, ordained eight seminarians to the priesthood at the Xujiahui Catholic Church in Shanghai on June 13, 1987. Six of the new priests are younger men in their late 20's and 30's, while two others who had some theological training before the Cultural Revolution were in their 60's. The two older priests were ordained for the Fuzhou (Fujian) diocese and the Kunming (Yunnan) diocese. Of the other six, two were ordained for the Shanghai diocese, two are from Jiangsu Province and one each from Anhui and Zhejiang Provinces. (Asia Focus, June 19, 1987)

### **CONFERRAL OF MINOR ORDERS**

On Vocation Sunday, May 3, 1987, Bishop Yang Gaojian, vice-chairman of both the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and Church Administrative Commission, conferred minor orders on 29 seminarians studying at the Chinese Academy of Philosophy and Theology. Zhao Jianzhang and Zhang Quanlin, two deacons at the seminary, assisted Bishop Yang in the ceremony. In honor of the occasion a tea party was held in the afternoon of the same day, during which the seminarians performed acts or gave speeches depicting the origins of their vocations. (CCIC, 1987, #2)

### **CATHOLIC GROUPS MEET**

The Chinese Catholic "Theology Research Group," which was set up at the national Patriotic Association and Church Administrative Commission meetings in November, 1986, held its first meeting in Nanjing March 7-9, 1987. Bishop Zong Huaide, chairman of the Patriotic Association, gave the opening address, and Bishop Tu Shihua, vice-chairman of the Church Administrative Commission, presided at the meeting. Participants came from various parts of the country. They concluded that they should re-examine the basis for the theology of independence and some practical questions faced by the Chinese Church at this time. They also decided

to analyze China's socialist system and traditional culture from a theological point of view. In this way they felt they could lay the foundation for a Chinese theology. (CCIC, 1987, #2)

The Chinese Catholic "Seminary Training Group," also established at the November, 1986 national meetings, held its first meeting March 14-18, 1987, in Nanjing. Responsible persons from all eleven Catholic seminaries in China attended the meeting, which was jointly chaired by Bishop Jin Luxian and Father Guo Yingong. Participants mentioned that some seminaries lacked qualified teachers and suitable material. Other seminaries had problems with supervision of the seminarians. It was decided that a uniform set of teaching materials should be produced and the system of supervision be strengthened. (CCIC, 1987, #2)

### **DEATHS OF BISHOPS**

Bishop He Chunming of Kaifeng diocese, Henan Province died on November 12, 1986, at the age of 92. He had been elected bishop of Kaifeng in 1958 and consecrated in Beijing in 1962. Bishop He Chunming was one of the founding members of the Catholic Patriotic Association in 1956.

Bishop Chang Shouyi of Xuanhua diocese, Hebei Province died on March 27, 1987, at the age of 75. He was ordained a priest in 1937 and consecrated bishop in 1958. In 1980 Bishop Chang was elected chairman of the Patriotic Association of Hebei Province.

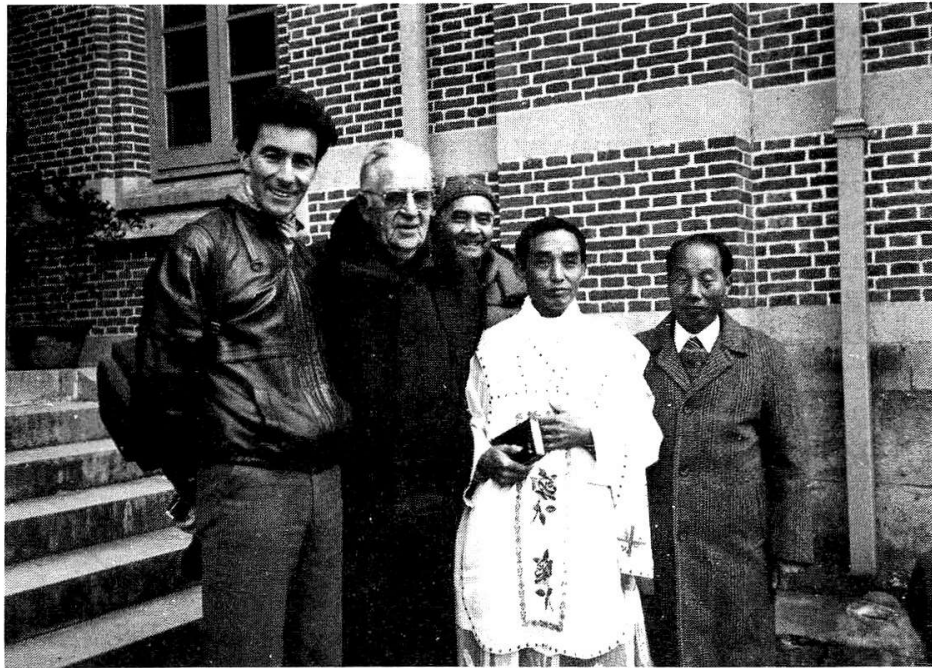
Bishop Ji Huairang of Xian, Shaanxi Province died February 24, 1987 at the age of 79. Ordained a priest in 1936, Bishop Ji was consecrated bishop on December 18, 1981, in Beijing. (CCIC, 1987, #2)

### **BISHOPS INSTALLED**

On Sunday, December 7, 1986, Bishop Huang Ziyu of Xiamen, Fujian Province celebrated his Mass of installation at the Gulangyu Catholic Church. Consecrated bishop in Beijing on November 30, 1986, Bishop Huang is the first Chinese bishop of the Xiamen diocese.

Bishop Zhang Shizhi of Mindong diocese, Fujian Province celebrated his Mass of installation as bishop on January 1, 1987. He had been consecrated bishop in Beijing on November 30, 1986.

(CCIC, 1987, #2)



Newly-ordained Father Peter Zhuang Jianxian, flanked by Fathers Brian Lawless, Howard Trube, George Wang and his elder brother



Front Table, L to R, Madame Li Jiajun, Sister Wang Boren, Bishop Cai Tiyuan, Sister Fleurette Lagace. Rear table, centre, Bishop Yang Gaojian

## **SISTERS CONVENT REOPENS**

After being closed for 30 years, the Sisters Convent in Guangzhou reopened on September 8, 1987. Sister Chen Zhidao, former superior of the Chinese Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, is the superior of the convent. Fourteen aspirants from many places throughout Guangdong Province have entered the convent and have begun attending classes. They will study for two years before they begin a three-year novitiate. (Ta Kung Pao, Sept. 9, 1987)

## **TRIP ABROAD**

A delegation of eight Chinese Catholics, led by Bishop Yang Gaojian, vice-chairman of both the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and Church Administrative Commission and vice-president of the Chinese Catholic Bishops Conference, visited Canada from May 16 to June 4, 1987. The invitation for the visit was extended by Amitie-Chine, a Canadian Catholic China Friendship Association. The purpose of the visit was to familiarize the Chinese visitors with the pastoral work of the Canadian Catholic Church.

Besides Bishop Yang, the other members of the delegation were Bishop Cai Ti yuan of Shantou, Mr. Liu Bainian, vice-chairman of the Church Administrative Commission, Mr. Zhu Shichang, secretary-general of the Patriotic Association, Mrs. Li Jiajun, secretary of the patriotic association of Sichuan Province, Sister Wang Boren, novice mistress of the Beijing Sisters convent, Mr. Lu Qinan, secretary of the patriotic association of Beijing City, and Father Zhang Zhiliang, vice-chairman of the patriotic association of Shanxi Province.

During their nearly three-week stay in Canada, delegation members traveled to five cities (Victoria, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec) and met both clerical and lay church leaders in each place. The group visited universities, seminaries, churches, schools, hospitals, parish centres, religious houses and shrines. They were exposed to modern methods of catechesis for both adults and children, experienced the post-Vatican II liturgy, learned about church organizations such as those for youth, workers, and married couples, and exchanged opinions with theology professors on moral questions currently being debated in North America. They also had a day of exposure in the countryside, where members of the delegation visited some dairy farms and compared conditions in the rural areas of both China and Canada with the Canadian farmers they met. (Report of Sr. F. Lagace, MIC and Fr. M. Marcil, SJ)