

FAITHFUL CATHOLICS & GOOD CITIZENS



Tripod

The eighteen young women praying in the Church

Eighteen young Christian women, all aged 30 or below, are now living a life of dedication to the Lord at the Zhanjiang Catholic Church, No.85, Luyin Road in the Lu Shan district of Zhanjiang City in southwestern Guangdong Province. Their daily schedule is a combination of physical and spiritual activities, under the guidance of Father Chen Chu, pastor of the parish, and Sister Yang Deshen.

In addition to prayers, meditation and Bible study, they work in a church-sponsored sewing project making clothes - a project which serves society, makes a contribution to the country's modernization program and provides income for their support.

The young women's daily schedule is as follows:

4:30	Rising
	After washing, Morning prayers, meditation and Mass
	After breakfast, Study of the Bible and Spirituality
8:30 - 12:00	Sewing clothes
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch
12:30 - 14:00	Rest
14:00 - 15:00	Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament
15:00 - 15:30	Study of the Bible and Spirituality
15:30 - 18:00	Sewing clothes
18:00 - 18:30	Supper
18:30 - 22:30	Housework, class homework, free time and evening prayers
22:30	Retire for the night

Father Joseph Chen Chu, in his 60's, is from Haikang County in Guangdong Province. Originally attached to the Beihai diocese, Father Chen spent one year (1947-8) studying theology at Hong Kong's South China Regional Seminary. After ordination, Father Chen taught in the minor seminary in his home diocese, rising soon to the post of vice-rector. Father Chen spent over 20 years (1950's - 1970's) in prison or work camps.



They are sewing and making clothes

In December, 1984 when the Catholic church in Zhanjiang City re-opened, Father Chen was invited to be the pastor. Father Chen is one of two priests remaining in the Beihai diocese. The other is Father Wu Shuren, in his 70's, who lives in Haikang City and serves the Catholics there.



*Inside the Rectory in Zhanjiang City
L-R: Two local seminarians and two Hong Kong seminarians with Fr. Joseph Chen Chu (centre)*

Sister Yang Dezhen is a member of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, a diocesan order. The order was founded by the bishop of Beihai in the 1940's for the purpose of helping with evangelization work in the diocese. At present about ten Sisters belonging to the order still remain and live in scattered communities throughout the Beihai diocese.