

Bishop of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association: 1959-1963

by Anthony Lam

In December 1988 while presiding at the consecration ceremony of Bishop Wang Chongyi, China Catholic Patriotic Association chairman Bishop Zong Huaide said that since the ordination of the first self-elected bishop in 1958, there have been altogether 92 bishops elected and consecrated by the CCPA. According to reports from outside China, the number of bishops consecrated after the Cultural Revolution up to the end of 1988 was 39. (See Tripod, No. 48). Calculating from this figure then, the total number of bishops consecrated before the Cultural Revolution would be 53. As far as we know, there were no episcopal ordination during the Cultural Revolution as the CPA was disbanded.

However, in the past when the Catholic Patriotic Association announced the number of those who had received episcopal ordination during the years 1958 to 1966, they placed the number at 45. What accounts for the difference in figures? Has some material been lost, or was Bishop Zong Huaide including those bishops who were elected but not consecrated in his total? According to overseas researchers, there were at least four priests who were selected as candidates but for one reason or another they did not receive episcopal ordination.

1958 saw the largest number of bishops consecrated, namely 24. This figure is quite close to the total number of all the bishops consecrated between 1959 and 1963, i.e. 26. As far as we know, the last episcopal consecration ceremony before the start of the Cultural Revolution took place on April 7, 1963 in Nanchong City, Sichuan Province. Afterwards news about the Chinese church gradually petered out. Then, after the Cultural Revolution began in 1966 the apparatus of the government recognised Chinese Catholic Church was completely inactive.

In order to give our readers more knowledge about the situation before the Cultural Revolution of the self-elected, self-consecrated bishops, Tripod, in this and coming issues, will provide some

information on the bishops so consecrated. In this issue we shall first list those consecrated during the years 1959 to 1963.

From 1959 to 1963 episcopal ordination ceremonies were carried out on 14 occasions. Archbishop Pi Shushi of Shenyang, chairman of the Catholic Patriotic Association at that time, was the principal consecrator at seven of these. Archbishop Pi consecrated 18 bishops in all. Bishop Zhao Zhensheng of Hebei's Xianxian diocese presided over two episcopal ordinations. And one episcopal ordination was carried out by the following bishops: Duan Yinming of Wanxian diocese, Deng Jizhou of Leshan diocese, Li Xiting of Chengdu diocese (all in Sichuan Province), Dong Wenlong of Jinan diocese in Shandong Province and Li Daonan of Puqi diocese in Hubei Province. Except for Bp. Li Xiting and Dong Wenlong, all of the above were originally appointed by either Pope Pius XI or Pope Pius XII. There is still one ceremony in which we fail to recognize the consecrators and co-consecrators.

Of the 26 bishops ordained, eleven had already died by the time the Chinese Bishops Conference was established in 1980. Since then, four others have also passed away. The remaining eleven are still alive. For more information regarding members of the Bishops Conference please consult Tripod, No. 49 (Chinese) or No. 52 (English).

As far as is known the largest episcopal ordination ceremony took place in Beijing on January 24, 1961. The principal consecrator was Archbishop Pi Shushi, who was assisted by no less than 6 co-consecrators. Consecrated that day were 7 bishops from six different provinces (Henan, Hebei, Yunnan, Guangdong, Shanxi and Fujian).

Due to limitations of material we do not know where most of these ordinations took place. Beijing is the most probable site for at least some of them. However, we are quite certain that the three ordination ceremonies for Sichuan took place in that province. There seems to have been an unwritten law that from 1949 onwards that priests from Sichuan Province never go outside their home province to receive episcopal ordination.

In the table below we list the ordination ceremonies in chronological order, listing those ordination ceremonies for which we do not have the exact date in the year when they took place, after those for which we do know the exact date.

(For Chinese version see TRIPOD issue No. 53)

DATE	PLACE	CONSECRATOR	CO-CONSECRATOR	BISHOP	DIOCESE	REMARKS
1959.5.31		Pi Shushi	Zhao Youmin	<u>WANG WEIMING</u>	Jilin	*A
1959.7.12		Pi Shushi		<u>WANG RUIHUAN</u>	Harbin	*B
1959.7.26		Li Daonan	Dong Guangqing Yuan Wenhua	<u>TU SHIHUA</u>	Hanyang	*C
1959.7.	Beijing	Pi Shushi	Zhao Zhensheng Zhou Huaimo	<u>YAO GUANGYU</u>	Beijing	+ 1966
1959.11.11	Nanjing	Pi Shushi	Zhao Zhensheng Zhou Yichai	<u>LI WEIGUANG</u> <u>YU CHENGCAI</u> <u>QUAN YIRONG</u> <u>SHEN CHUMING</u>	Nanjing Haimen Xuzhou Suzhou	*D *E *B *D
1959		Li Daonan	Dong Guangqing Yuan Wenhua	<u>ZHANG MINGQIAN</u>	Yichang	
1959		Duan Yinming	Deng Jizhou Wang Wencheng	<u>WANG JUGUANG</u>	Yibin	+ 1977
1960.4.26		Pi Shushi	Zhao Zhensheng	<u>ZHANG JIASHU</u> <u>WU GUOHUAN</u> <u>SHU QISHUI</u> <u>FANG ZHIGANG</u>	Shanghai Hangzhou Ningbo Wenzhou	+ 1988.2.25 *F + 1982
1960.5.	Gunzhou	Dong Wenlong	Zong Huaide Li Mingyuan	<u>SHI LUNGUO</u>	Gunzhou	*D
1960	Yantai			<u>ZHANG RIJIN</u>	Yantai	*D

1962.1.24	Beijing	Pi Shushi	Li Boyu	<u>HE CHUMING</u>	Kaifeng	+ 1986.11.12
			Li Weiguang	<u>LIU ANZHI</u>	Zhengding	*D
			Zhao Zhensheng	<u>KONG LINGZHONG</u>	Kunming	*G
			Dong Wenlong	<u>XIA XUEQIAN</u>	Shaozhou	*D
			Zhang Jiashu	<u>LI DEHUA</u>	Taiyuan	+ 1971
			Yi Xuanhua	<u>GAO YONG</u>	Fenyang	+ 1971
				<u>LIN QUAN</u>	Fuzhou	*E

1962.		Pi Shushi		<u>YE YINYUN</u>	Huiyang	*H
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1963.3.31		Deng Jizhou		<u>SHI MINGLIANG</u>	Chongqing	+ 1978
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1963.4.7	Nanchong	Li Xiting	Duan Yinming	<u>FAN DAOJIANG</u>	Nanchong	+ 1987.12.17
			Deng Jizhou			

REMARKS:

- + Date of death.
- *A Resigned in 1981, lives in Changchun City.
- *B Vice-president, Chinese Bishops' Conference.
- *C Rector, National Catholic Academy of Philosophy and Theology, lives in Beijing, vice-chairman of Catholic Patriotic Association, vice-president of Chinese Bishops' Conference, vice-chairman of Chinese Catholic Administrative Committee.
- *D Died during Cultural Revolution.
- *E Vice-chairman of Chinese Catholic Administrative Committee.
- *F Retired, lives in village near Hangzhou City.
- *G Rector, Kunming Minor Seminary
- *H Transferred to Guangzhou Diocese in 1981.