

NEWS IN BRIEF

Underground Clergy in Fuan Arrested

At the end of July this year, the Government Public Security Bureau arrested underground Bishops and several priests and deacons in Fuan District, Fujian Province.

On July 26 and 27, eleven key members of the underground church held a meeting in Luojiang, Fuan District. They discussed two matters: (1) regulations for the clergy of the Mindong Diocese, and (2) regulations on financial management. When this came to the attention of local officials from the Public Security Bureau, they broke into the meeting at one o'clock on the afternoon of the 27th and arrested ten persons. These were: Bishop Xie Shiguang, Liu Guangpin, chairman of the finance committee, Zhu Ruci, chancellor, Zou Xijin, rector of the Seminary, and six young priests. Three of these six priests, all named Guo, are natives of Xiyin in Fuan. One, named Xu, is a native of Shanglu in Fuan, one, named Zheng, is a native of Ganchang in Fuan, while a third, named Zhu, is a native of Xiapu.

An underground Auxiliary Bishop, Huang Shoucheng, and four deacons were arrested outside the meeting area. The four deacons are: Peng Zhenkun, Wu Weigui, Zhao Shihe and Chen Ruilin.

At present the Public Security Bureau is in the process of investigating the cases of the eleven clergymen who were arrested both inside and outside the meeting place. The Fuan Religious Affairs Bureau has made arrangements for the "re-education" of the four deacons.

Public Security officials give the following reasons for the arrest of these clerics: (1) they violated the regulations governing registration of organizations; (2) they violated the country's publication laws; (3) they violated Article 36 of the Constitution by secretly receiving directions from abroad; (4) they illegally opened a seminary, ordained priests and taught religion to children and teenagers under 18 years of age; (5) they opposed the Party's policy on religion and violated administrative regulations made by the Government Religious Affairs Bureau; (6) they slandered and attacked the Patriotic Association and its priests and Catholics, and they are opposed to the policy of an independent church which controls its own affairs.

Two years ago a similar case took place in neighboring Fuzhou Diocese. The 71 year old underground Bishop of Fuzhou, Yang Shidao, was arrested in 1988 and was sentenced to three years imprisonment. He is still in prison. Arrested together with him

were 40 year old Fr. Lin Jiale, a native of Changle, and 38 year old Father Liu Shizhong, also of Changle.

The Two Religious Organizations of Yunnan Province Ask Yiliang County Government to Protect Their Property Rights

On June 30 of this year the Yunnan provincial Catholic Patriotic Association and the Church Administrative Committee joined forces to express their opposition to the government's plan to tear down the existing Catholic Church and build one on another site.

The Catholic church in Yiliang County in Zhaotong Diocese is a century-old Gothic structure. It presently serves as a centre of religious life and activities for the Catholics of the district. One unit of the County Government also occupies the premises. This unit is attempting to persuade the government to tear down the old edifice and to build a new structure on a different site. (It is current government policy to return church properties or replace them in kind to their original owners.) The Catholics and clergy of the diocese, through these two "religious organizations" have strongly voiced their opposition and urged the government to preserve the integrity of the old church.

Workshop for Secondary School Principals in Xiamen

The Education Department of Xiamen, Fujian Province, invited two persons, Mrs. Jenny go from the USA and Sr. Monica Lam from Hong Kong, to give a three day workshop at the Educational College of Xiamen City from 22-24 March 1990. The Workshop addressed three basic themes: The person of the School Principal, Motivation of Teachers and the Educational Systems of the USA and Hong Kong. Over 70 secondary school principals and vice-principals from key schools, other city schools and neighbouring regions attended.

Regarding the principal: Emphasis was placed on self-knowledge, an understanding heart and the ability to listen. Other aspects of the principal's role discussed were principal as delegator, enhancer, leader of vision and mission. Regarding motivation: Three factors were underlined: power, affiliation and achievement. Regarding school systems: An introduction to the school systems of the USA and Hong Kong helped participants broaden their view of systems beyond their own. Question and answer periods promoted an atmosphere of sharing, fruitful for all.

Guangdong Catholics Celebrate Opening of New Church in Shunde County

On October 3, 1990, St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church in Shui Kou, Shunde County, Guangdong Province, celebrated its grand opening. More than 500 clergy,

religious and Catholics from the area, along with about 30 clergy and Catholics from Hong Kong and Macao attended the opening Mass. The pastor of St. Therese Church is Fr. Liang Dewang, about 80 years of age, who returned to the public ministry in the early 1980's after being imprisoned for many years.

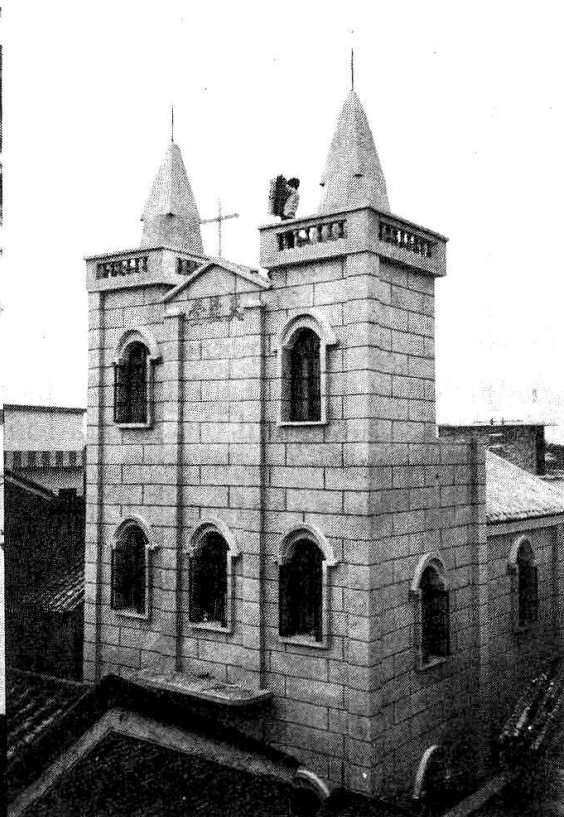
The new church replaces the original destroyed during the Cultural Revolution. An old Catholic from the parish noted that the new church is bigger than the old one, and happily added, "We are all very satisfied."

There are only about 120 Catholics in Shui Kou. However, there are between 2,000 and 3,000 in the nearby villages. On big feasts all these Catholics come to Shui Kou to attend Mass. The Shui Kou parish in Shunde County formerly was part of the diocese of Guangzhou, but it has now been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Jiangmen diocese.

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Father Liang Dewang
newly appointed pastor
of Shui Kou Parish
Church.



Parishioners and guests crowd new church for
Mass of blessing.



Destroyed during the Cultural
Revolution, the Shui Kou
Church in Shunde County now
rebuilt on original site.