

## Cardinal Wu Hosts Delegation from Guangdong Religious Affairs Bureau

*At the invitation of the Taoist Yuan Xuan School, Liu Wen-yan, Director of the Religious Affairs Bureau, Guangdong Province, together with a delegation of five people, visited Hong Kong from November 17-24, 1990. During their visit the delegation met with the leaders of Hong Kong's six major religions. On the evening of November 21, Cardinal John B. Wu invited the members of the delegation to dinner. During his formal address at the banquet Cardinal Wu requested that the Religious Affairs Bureau consider permitting personnel from abroad to render religious service to believers in China. The text of the Cardinal's speech follows.*

Although it has already been several years since I visited Beijing, Shanghai and East Guangdong at the invitations of Mr. Ren Wuzhi, the director of the Religious Affairs Bureau of the State Council PRC and Mr. Chen Dong, director of the Guangdong Religious Affairs Bureau, the event remains for me a very cherished and vivid memory. In order to further mutual understanding, these same two directors returned my visit by leading delegations to Hong Kong. And now, shortly after taking office, Director Liu Wen-yan has accepted the invitation of the Yuan Xuan Institute to visit us. I am honoured that he has taken time from his busy schedule to be with us tonight. I hope this simple meal will help to convey our gratitude and welcome.

The Catholic Church in Hong Kong

will celebrate its 150th anniversary next year. Throughout all these years, the church has followed the teachings of Christ in a spirit of service. Since 1980 CARITAS-HONG KONG, our social service agency, has carried out over one hundred social service projects in China at the invitation of the Chinese Government, people's organizations or the church. There are at present some 20 projects in progress. Most of these are located in Guangdong Province. Perhaps the most outstanding of these is the Zhiling Special Residential School in Guangzhou. Also, in co-operation with the Guangzhou Children's Welfare Institute, the Guangzhou School for the Deaf and Mute, the Rehabilitation Institute of the South China Normal University, the Guangzhou Dongpu Elderly Federation, the Guangzhou Municipal Personnel Bureau, the Guangzhou Women's Federation, the Guangzhou Da Yi Nursery, CARITAS-HONG KONG has been able to organize a series of training courses in the areas of rehabilitation for the handicapped, speech training for deaf children, service to the elderly, family service, pre-education, and adult education. All these projects have been well received and appreciated.

In joint efforts with other churches we have been able to assist in the upgrading of educational standards through language teaching in universities, and theological seminars in seminaries.

If projects such as those offered in the

social and educational services were also permitted in the field of religion, i.e., if specific invitations requesting outside cooperation were extended by local church units, this would not only help China realize the goal of one human family and one church but it would also help implement the government's policy on freedom of religion. This, in turn, would boost the international reputation of the Motherland. I once made this same suggestion to Director Ren Wuzhi. I make it here again in the hope that you may be able to bring this idea to fruition.

Due to a number of favourable factors, Hong Kong and Guangzhou are closely knit. We hope that the future will bring us many more opportunities to come together and to cooperate with each other, working hand in hand for unity and communion within the church at the

service of humankind.

Now, allow me to propose a toast to you, Director Liu, and to all the members of your delegation. Let us join together to bring a better and brighter future to the Motherland and people everywhere. I wish you good health and success in your visit and in your many endeavors.

*In his response, Director Liu pointed out that the government's religious policy had been implemented rather ideally in Guangdong Province. To emphasize his point, he cited the following statistics: to date 1,230 temples and churches have been reopened. These figures include 230 Catholic churches. He mentioned that the most pressing problem at the moment is the advanced age of the clergy making the training of successors critical.*

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## News in Brief

### Death of Leshan's Bishop Deng Jizhou

Bishop Deng Jizhou of the Leshan Diocese in Sichuan Province passed away on August 10, 1990. Born in Chengdu in 1902, Bishop Deng studied philosophy and theology at Rome's Pontifical Urban University during the 1930's. He was ordained a priest in Rome in 1936. Upon his return to China he served as a priest in Chengdu and in Jinzhu County, and as a member of the faculty of Chengdu Seminary. He was appointed bishop of Jiading Diocese (now called Leshan) by Pope Pius XII in 1949.

Bishop Deng acted as a co-consecra-

tor for the 1958 ordination of Li Xiting as bishop of Chengdu. In 1963, he again served as co-consecrator for the ordination of Shi Mingliang appointed bishop of Chongqing. Bishop Deng was sentenced to labor camp in 1969 and released in 1979. At his death, Catholics in the Leshan Diocese numbered 40,000, a two-fold increase from 1949.

### Xingfa Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Taipei Archdiocese

On October 18 this year, Pope John Paul II appointed Father Xu Xingfa, superior of the China Province of the Franciscan Order, as auxiliary bishop of