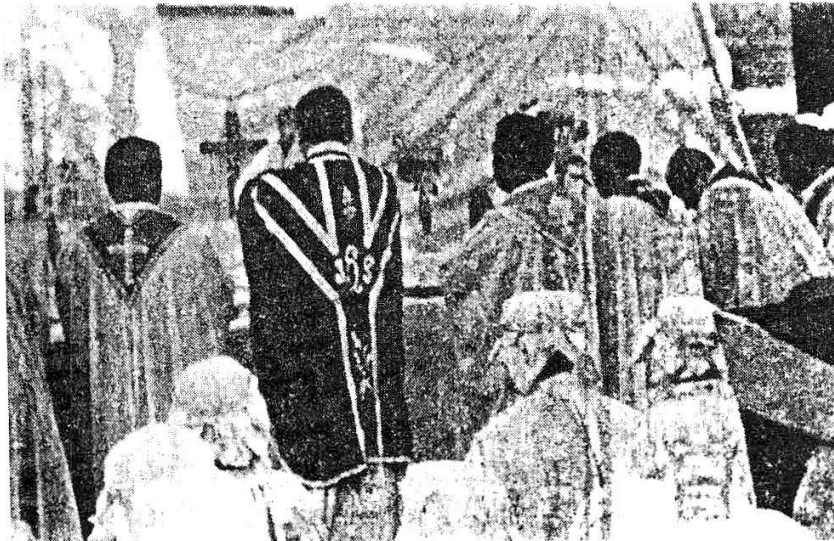


Bishop Paul Shi Chunjie: 1920-1991

Bishop Paul Shi Chunjie (clandestine), auxiliary bishop of Baoding, Hebei Province, died while under police custody in an Old Folks Home. The exact date of his death is not known. He was arrested on 13 December, 1990 along with 3 other bishops, 25 priests, religious and laity.

Hebei's Catholic community is one of China's most ardent. It is also a stronghold for the "clandestine" Catholic Church. Bishop Shi was born in 1920, ordained in June, 1947 and consecrated bishop in 1987 by Bishop Stephen Li Xinheng of Tian-shui. At the time, his own bishop, Bishop Fan, the legitimate bishop of Baoding, was under detention and his auxiliary, Bishop Chen, was ill. Before his arrest, Bishop Shi was in charge of the spiritual formation of candidates for the priesthood and religious life for the 2 dioceses of Baoding and Yixian. He was blind and in ill health for a long time.

Following the news of his death and his burial a memorial Mass was offered for the repose of his soul. At least 1000 people attended the services.



Memorial Mass for Bishop Paul Shi Chunjie

Matthew Pan Deshi Becomes Patriotic Bishop of Baoding

On December 8, 1991 Father Matthew Pan Deshi, 67, of the official church, who had been elected bishop in April by the

Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, was consecrated bishop of the diocese of Baoding, Hebei Province. Bishop Pan was ordained a priest in 1950.

His episcopal ordination was presided over by the acting president of the Episcopal Conference, Bishop Zong Huaide. He was assisted by Bishop Liu Jinghe of Tangshan and Bishop Jiang Taoran of Shijiazhuang. All are closely linked to the Patriotic Association. The auxiliary bishop of Baoding, Bishop Chen Jianzhang (clandestine), has been under detention since December, 1990.

"Invitations" to "Re-education" Sessions Extended

During the last months of 1991, many priests and laity from all over China were "invited" to attend "re-education" sessions. In December, 1991, it was reported that at least 40 priests were attending a 3 month "re-education" course at a political education centre in Beijing.

Seminar on the Formation of Priests

(The following report on a seminar on the Formation of Priests is from Fr. Claver Perera of Sri Lanka.)

The Asian seminar on Priestly Formation, under the auspices of the Education Office and student chaplaincy of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), was held at Maryridge, Tagaytay City, Philippines from October 15 - 28, 1991, with 68 delegates (Rectors and Spiritual Directors) from nine countries: the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Vietnam, Korea, Burma, Japan. Following as an "Aftermath on the 8th Synod of Bishops" in Rome on Priestly Formation, the emphasis was on the formation of priests, "in the circumstances of the present day" (in Asia). The papers presented were:

--*The Priestly Formation according to the 8th Synod of Bishops*
Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi, O.P.,

--*Situation from the Laymen's View* by Antonio de Los Reys
(President, Council of the Laity of the Philippines)

--*Spiritual Formation of Future Priests*, Bishop Gaudencio Rosales.

- Spiritual Direction*, Fr. Arenlo Gracias, Bombay, India,
- Discipline and Human Formation*, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Archbishop of Cebu; Fr. Pedro Sevilla of Manila,
- Poverty and Detachment from the Individual Point of View*, Msgr. Jose Bernardo Jr.,
- Formation in the Spirit of Poverty and Detachment from the Communal Point*, Fr. Victor Agius, Philippines,
- Formation for Celibate Life*, Fr. Roger Champoux, S.J. Bishop Teodoro Baccani,
- Psychological Testing and Screening of Candidates for the Priesthood*, Fr. Tucker, S.J. California, USA,
- Formation in Missionary Spirit from Indian Church Viewpoint*, Bishop Thomas Menampampil, India,
- Formation in Missionary Spirit and Dialogue*, Fr. Guillermo Tejon, O.P. Philippines,
- Interreligious Dialogue Experience of the Focolare*, Ms. Cres Gabihan,
- Formation in the Social Teachings of the Church*, Archbishop Antonio Quevedo, O.M.I. Philippines
- Use of Media in Spreading the Social Doctrine of the Church*, Fr. Nim Gonzales, S.J.

The final draft of the proceedings approved by the General Assembly contained the following resolutions:

"(1) The context of priestly formation as rooted in the circumstances of Asia, specifically the balancing of the Christological and ecclesiological foundations in the Universal Church with the contextual commitment to human dignity and rights, justice and peace in the local church, making the priest, "a man of God, unity and communion among his people."

(2) Human formation as providing the very basis of healing towards perfection through discipline in a climate of freedom, accountability and responsibility in personal decisions and obedience as realization of authority through dialogue and trust.

(3) Priestly spirituality through an intimate personal relationship with Christ in prayer and service, contemplation in action achieved through openness to the Holy Spirit as the principal formator, together with the guidance of spiritual directors, accompanying future priests on their journey toward an ever-deeper discipline.

(4) A commitment to celibacy not just as an inevitable rule,

but as a charism, a unique way of loving and living, a call to love, involving an interrelated commitment to a spirit of poverty and to obedience as facilitating service of God's people.

(5) The formation towards a sense of mission - local and universal - involving interreligious and intercultural dialogue and inculturation at the deepest levels.

(6) Formation for social involvement and the reversal of social injustice through an active non-violence in the image of Christ's own pattern of social action.

(7) Training in how best to evangelize and use the media to proclaim the kingdom and ensure that the influential modern means of social communication be effectively used for the social apostolate of transforming society towards honesty, justice, truth, peace and reconciliation."

News from the Church in Jinan

Holy Spirit Seminary in Jiangjunmiao, Jinan, has ordained 13 men since its opening in 1983. There are presently 37 seminarians and the government has given permission to accept 26 new candidates. The rector is Bishop Guo Chuanzhen, 72, who was ordained bishop in 1988. New seminary quarters are being set up at Hongjialou, Jinan. The former seminary is being turned over to the sisters. Presently there are 6 young sisters but this additional space will allow the sisters to welcome some of the 80 young Catholic women eager to enter religious life.

News from the Church in Hubei

Catholics who attended the ordination ceremonies of nine young men at the Hankou cathedral on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, witnessed an ordination to the priesthood conducted in Chinese. It was a first for the Hankou diocese. Bishop Bernadine Dong Guangqing, rector of Wuchang Regional Seminary, presided. All previous ordinations have been celebrated in Latin.

In 1986 Bishop Dong was asked to head a group, appointed by the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, to study liturgical reform for the Catholic Church in China. Since then the Bishop has initiated a number of experiments and changes: Mass at the regional seminary is celebrated in Chinese every Tuesday,

Thursday and Saturday. On Sunday there is also a vernacular concelebrated Mass.

The Wuchang Regional Seminary was opened in 1983 and is run by the dioceses of six provinces: Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Henan, Hubei and Hunan. The young men ordained recently were from the provinces of Guangdong, Guangxi and Henan. Following their ordination the men returned to serve in their own dioceses.

Shanghai Press Busy Printing Theology Series

The first three volumes of the 36 volume Kuangchi Press theology series (Taiwan) have rolled off the Shanghai diocesan printing press which is also called the Guangqi (Kuangchi) Press after the famous Catholic layman, Xu Guangqi (1562-1633). Although the Shanghai press does not intend to publish the entire series, it plans to publish an additional 23 volumes on theology during 1992. The three volumes already published are, **Introduction to Theology, Theology of Hope** and **Mariology**. Bishop Aloysius Jin Luxian, China-appointed bishop of Shanghai, says the plans are to distribute the books among the 2000 priests and women religious in China. The project calls for 10,000 copies to be printed.

During 1992 the printing press is scheduled to print the entire New Testament. A total of 300,000 copies of the four gospels were previously printed by a government press before the opening of the diocesan printing house.

Opened on October 30, 1990, the Shanghai press is the first Catholic press in China since 1949.

Funding and subsidies for these various projects have come from both Catholic and Protestant sources. Technical assistance for training local Shanghai printers has been furnished by priests, brothers and lay technicians from Europe and Hong Kong.
