

## *China Church Update*

### *The Chinese Catholic Bishops' Conference*

The Fifth National Catholic Representatives' Congress was held in Beijing from September 15 to 19, 1992. According to the new Constitution of the Chinese Catholic Bishops' Conference agreed upon by the Congress, the Bishops' Conference is now the leading organization of the Catholic Church in China.

Although the Chinese Catholic Bishops' Conference was established in 1980, it never had a constitution of its own; it functioned under Article 7 of the statutes of the Chinese Catholic Church Administrative Commission. This commission is now one of the six committees under the Bishops' Conference.

Reportedly, during the congress certain slight amendments were made in the constitution of the Catholic Patriotic Association. Bishop Joseph Zong Huaide, 75, was named president and chairman of both the Catholic Chinese Bishops' Conference and the Catholic Patriotic Association. He was also named the head of the Catholic Church Administrative Committee. According to Bishop Zong the new CCBC constitution strengthens the leadership of the bishops within the Catholic community and supports the development of the Church.

A significant move by the Congress was the decision to introduce the vernacular into the liturgy in all the dioceses of China.

### *Names of Officers, Committees and Committee Members*

President:	Zong Huaide
Vice Presidents:	Jin Luxian, Fu Tieshan, Cai Tiyan
Secretary General:	Fu Tieshan
Standing Committee:	Zong Huaide, Jin Luxian, Fu Tieshan, Cai Tiyan, Tu Shihua, Yu Chengcai, Dong Guangqing, Li Du'an, Jiang Taoran, Guo Yingong, Jin Peixian

Advisors: Duan Yinming, Wang Xueming,  
Wang Rinluan, Li Side

***Committees under the Bishops' Conference:***

1. Church Administration Committee:  
Chairman: Zong Huaide
2. Seminary Education Committee:  
Chairman: Jin Luxian
3. Liturgy Committee:  
Chairman: Cai Tiyan
4. Theological Studies Center  
Chairman: Tu Shihua
5. Finance Committee  
Chairman: Liu Jinghe
6. International Relations Committee  
Chairman: Fu Tieshan

**Some Statutes of the Bishops' Conference**

***Article II***

The Bishops' Conference is the organization which exercises leadership over the Catholic Church in the whole country. Its purpose is based on the Bible, and conforms to the traditional spirit of the Holy Catholic Church which is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.

The Bishops' Conference has three functions:

1. It studies and explains the tenets of belief and the laws to be observed.
2. It examines and approves the election and ordination of diocesan bishops.
3. It plans pastoral ministries, establishes regulations governing them and sees to their development.

The Conference organizes the clergy and laity throughout China to observe the Constitution, laws, regulations and policies of the national government. It implements principles which are in accord with specific conditions in China of administering an independent and autonomous church. It represents the Chinese Catholic Church in its relationships with foreign organizations. The term of office of the Standing Committee members is five years.

**Article III**

The Bishops' Conference is made up of all legitimate Diocesan Bishops in China, their coadjutors and auxiliaries, as well as "advisory" bishops. They elect the President, Vice-President and Secretary General and the members of the Standing Committee. The Bishops' Conference is responsible to the National Catholic Representatives Congress. This Congress meets once every five years.

### **Other Statutes within the Constitutions of the Catholic Church Patriotic Association**

(This is basically similar to the original constitution.)

Both clergy and laity constitute this body which promotes love of Church and Country.

Its aim under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and the People's government is:

(1) to unite clergy and laity throughout the country under the leadership of the Communist Party and the People's Government;

(2) to develop the spirit of patriotism;

(3) to support the socialist system;

(4) to observe China's Constitution, laws, regulations and policies;

(5) to actively take part in constructing the twofold aspect of Chinese civilization (material and spiritual);

(6) to assist the government in implementing its policy of religious freedom;

(7) to assist the Church in implementing the principle of independent and autonomous administration;

(8) to help clergy and laity heighten their sense of patriotism and their obligations towards socialism;

(9) to protect the legal rights of the Church;

(10) to develop the spirit of social service;

(11) to initiate self-support projects and those which benefit society as a whole;

(12) to develop friendly relationships with international Catholic personages;

(13) to promote national unity;

(14) to oppose hegemonism;

(15) to support world peace.

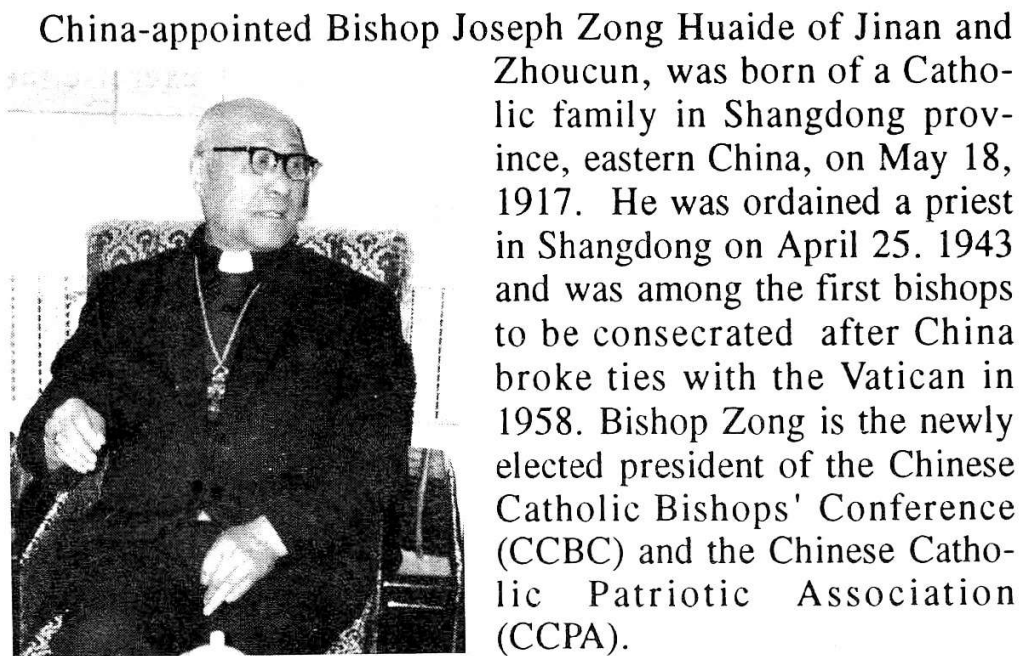
The Association's highest authority is the National Catholic Representatives Congress. Important matters of the Association must be decided in unison with the president of the Bishops' Conference, its vice-presidents and the secretary general.

Chairman: Zong Huaide

Vice chairmen: Jin Luxian, Tu Shihua, Yu Chengcai, Dong Guangqing, Liu Jinghe, Liu Bainian, Wang Langzuo, Zhu Shichang, Li Du'an, Yu Jiadi,

General Secretary: Zhu Shichang

Advisors: Yang Gaojian, Tang Ludao, Lu Weidu, Qian Yurong



China-appointed Bishop Joseph Zong Huaide of Jinan and Zhoucun, was born of a Catholic family in Shangdong province, eastern China, on May 18, 1917. He was ordained a priest in Shangdong on April 25, 1943 and was among the first bishops to be consecrated after China broke ties with the Vatican in 1958. Bishop Zong is the newly elected president of the Chinese Catholic Bishops' Conference (CCBC) and the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association (CCPA).

### Church in Lanzhou, Gansu Province

The Catholic population in Lanzhou is estimated at 3,000 of whom only 300 belong to the "official" Church. All the others are followers of Bishop Philippe Yang Libai, who was condemned to three years of re-education through labour after his participation in the underground episcopal conference in November 1989. He is still being held.

On March 10, 1992 a seminary was opened in Lanzhou. Currently ten young men from three diocese in Gansu and

Qinghai provinces are enrolled and are preparing to take the examination to enter the major seminary in Xian, Shaanxi province.

The seminary provides enough space for the seminarians but their living and study situation is far from ideal. The seminary has no library and very little furniture. In order to earn support money a part of the house has been rented to a commercial company.

The house which serves both as a church and seminary was a convent before 1949. When the government appropriated the property, it converted it into a shoe factory. The property was returned to the church in 1984. Father Wang You remains optimistic and comments, "When we have managed to build our new church, the seminarians will have more room and a better atmosphere in which to study." Lanzhou's financial problems will not easily be solved since the diocese of Lanzhou has no officially recognized bishop. Only four priests exercise their ministry publicly.

### **The Catholic Church in Tianjin**

According to reliable sources in Hong Kong, during the month of June 1992, the Catholic Patriotic Association in Tianjin distributed two documents to the Catholic churches. The first document requested the faithful to accept an invitation to dialogue with the Patriotic Association in the spirit of openness and ecumenism as recommended by the Holy See's representative in Hong Kong. The second document reminded the "official" representatives of the diocese that priests who hear confessions without the authorization of Bishop Joseph Shi Hongchen are suspended and their absolution is invalid. The very existence of these documents reveals that the underground church is strong in Tianjin and does not recognize the legitimacy of the new pastor.

The new pastor, Bishop Shi Hongchen, was secretly consecrated bishop in 1982 by Bishop Joseph Li Side of the underground. In 1984 Bishop Shi Hongchen accepted to become a pastor in an officially recognized parish. Recently, the Patriotic Association decided to "elect" him bishop. This move was perhaps designed to bring about a reconciliation between the official and underground sectors but the plan backfired. The

underground Christians denounced the imprisonment of Bishop Joseph Li Side during the days that preceded the "election" and "enthronement" of Shi Hongchen as a ploy to have him out of the way at the time. According to an observer from Hong Kong the ceremony, presided over by three "official" bishops, was not a consecration.

Bishop Joseph Li Side of the underground and vice-president of the episcopal conference founded in Shaanxi, November 21, 1989, is the pastor recognized by most of the 100,000 Catholics in Tianjin. He has already been in prison a number of times. The previous "officially" appointed bishop was Li Depei, who was never accepted by the people. He died in 1991 in a Beijing suburb where he had lived for many years.

### **Hong Kong Diocese Restructures for 1997**

In preparation for the return of Hong Kong to Chinese rule in 1997, the diocese of Hong Kong, under Cardinal John Baptist Wu, has re-organized its diocesan structures. Changes include naming an auxiliary bishop, appointing two vicars general, and giving the laity a more active role in diocesan and parish matters. The plan is designed to insure that all mechanisms are in place to keep the Church in Hong Kong flourishing even in an era of ambiguity and change.

### **Ordinations**

The following is a list of some of the ordinations to the priesthood in China from March through August 1992.

On March 8, Bishop Fan Yufei of Zhouzhi, Shaanxi Province, ordained nine young men for the diocese. They are Li Gangjian, Jia Zhiqiang, Yang Xiaoting, Yang Gaochao, Zhang Sanxi, Li Yulin, Jia Shanlin, Sang Bo and Fang Huimin.

There were two ordination ceremonies in Hebei Province. On March 28, Tian Baogang, Zhang Baolu and Zhang Shangqiao of Hengshui Diocese, were ordained by Bishop Fan Wenxing at the Shenxian Cathedral and on April 26, Yuan Jiantao, Tian Zhiquan and Xie Qiugang of Shijiazhuang Diocese, were ordained by Bishop Jiang Taoren at the Liuzhuang

Church, Xinji City.

Bishop Zhang Xin of Taiyuan ordained four young priests for his diocese on May 30. They are Meng Tongbao, Li Huiping, Lei Jun, and Yan Shangwen.

On May 31, Bishop Jin Peixian of Liaoning ordained eleven young men of Liaoning at the Shenyang Cathedral, including Zhang Kexiang, Pei Junming, Fu Xiaoyan, Pan Jitao, Ling Lijun, Chen Guoqing, Liu Jianfu and Ding Shijun.

On June 5, Bishop Zheng Shoudou of Xinjiang ordained Li Fengming and Qin Zhonglin for the diocese in Xinjiang, Shanxi Province.

June 12, Bishop Wang Xueming of Hohhot, Nei Mongol, ordained six young priests at the Cathedral. They are Liang Xiaoli, Wang Yongsheng, Li Shiwen, Guo Ping, Li Rongqiang, Cui Yeming.

On the same day, Bishop Li Du'an ordained six young priests in Xi'an. They are Yang Yongjian, Zhou Defan, Duan Zhigang, Pang Baochuan of Xi'an Diocese and Zhao Kanling, Wang Xiaoxun of Ankang Diocese.

On August 9, Bishop Wang Zhenyi of Yan'an ordained Liu Wenlin and Zhao Mengui in Yanan, Shaanxi Province. On the same day, Bishop Zhu Wenyu of Chifeng ordained Zhu Jun in Chifeng City, Nei Mongol.

On August 15, Bishop Zheng Changcheng of Fuzhou ordained three young men: They are Wu Yishun and Cai Bingrui of Xiamen and Li Ronghua of Fuzhou. On the same day, Bishop Zhao Jinrong of Tianshui ordained Zhang Chengxian in Tianshui, Gansu Province.

On August 30, Bishop Lin Bingliang of Guangzhou ordained Huang Jieliang of Wuzhou Diocese, Guangxi Province, in the Guangzhou Cathedral.

## Visit to Guangxi

From August 8-16, 1992, a group of 15 men and women from Holy Redeemer Parish, Tuen Mun, New Territories went to Guangxi province. The group, always eager to help the Church in China, visited several churches, priests, Sisters, and seminarians in those areas.

廣西省貴港市標塘村天主堂的外貌。

*The exterior of the new Boaitong Church in Guigang, Guangxi.*



廣西省貴港市蒙子文神父與兩位在中南神哲學院攻讀的修生。

*Father Meng, with two seminarians in Guigang, Guangxi province. The seminarians are studying in the major seminary in Wuhan.*

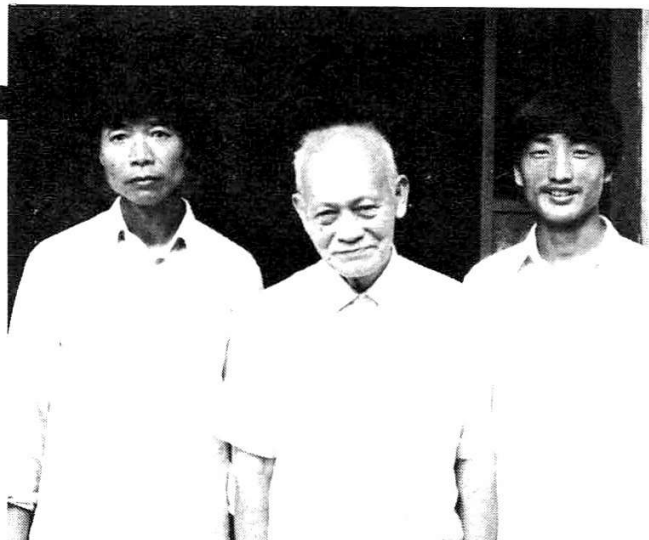
## 探訪廣西

八月八日至十六日，香港屯門贖世主堂的十多位教友，訪問廣西及廣東的教會。



香港教友與貴港市兩修初學修女。

*Hong Kong visitor with two novices in Guigang.*





(下) 廣西省南寧市覃雙林神父畢業於中南神哲學院，於一九九一年十二月八日晉鐸。他目前在梧州服務。

*(Below) Fr. Qin of Nanning, Guangxi, completed his studies at Wuhan Seminary and was ordained on December 8, 1991. He is presently stationed in Wuzhou.*

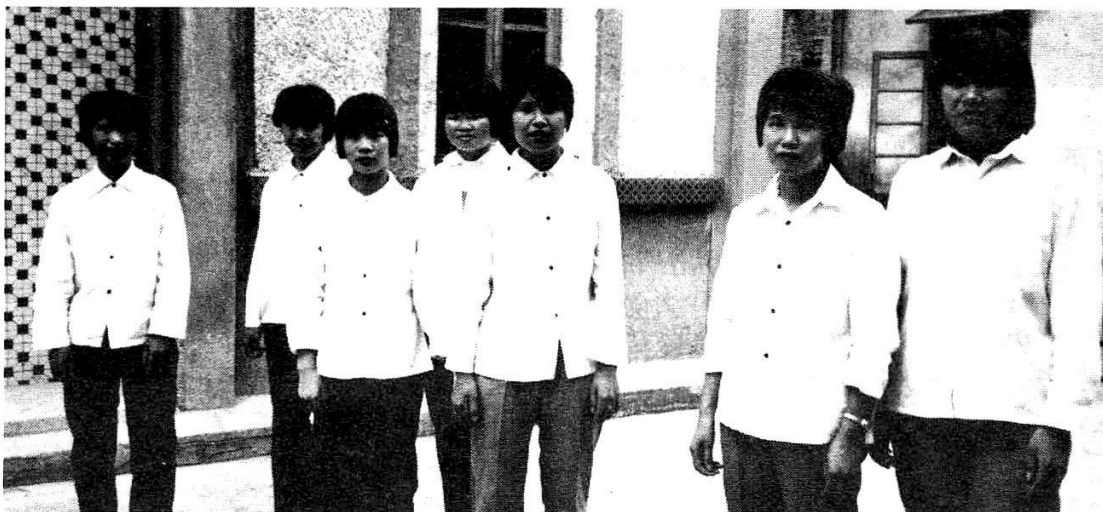


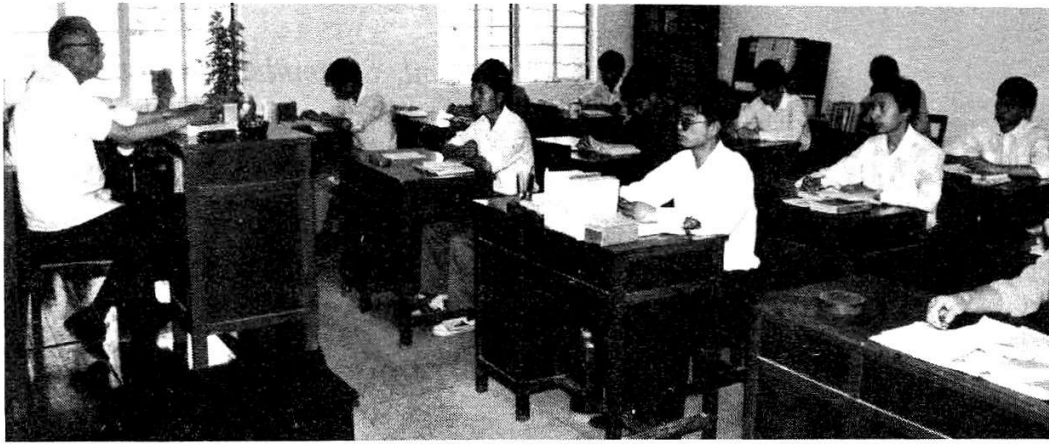
(上) 隸屬廣西省梧州教區的黃傑良，於一九九二年八月三十日由廣州教區林秉良主教在廣州主教座堂祝聖為司鐸。

*(Above) Huang Jieliang of Wuzhou, ordained on August 30, 1992, by Bishop Lin Bingliang, in the Cathedral of Guangzhou. Fr. Huang belongs to the Wuzhou diocese, Guangxi province.*

Young Sisters in Liuzhou, Guangxi, greet Hong Kong visitors.

廣西省柳州市的年青修女列隊歡迎香港教友到訪。





## *Catechists on Pilgrimage*

From April 28 to May 7, 1992, a group of catechists from Hong Kong made a pilgrimage to the churches, convents and seminaries of Hangzhou, Suzhou, Wuxi, Shanghai and Nanjing.

## 傳道員朝聖之旅

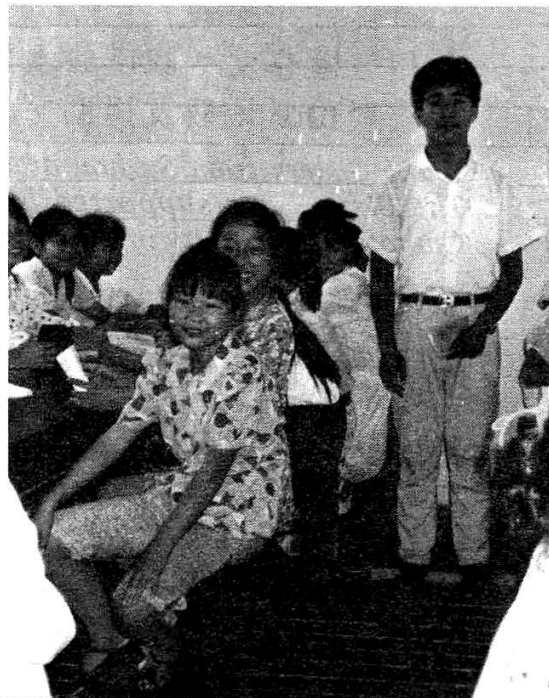
今年四月二十八日至五月七日一批香港的傳道員，到杭州、蘇州、無錫、上海及南京參觀及朝聖。

(上) 修生在上課中。

(右及下) 修生為青年講解信仰。

*(Above) Seminarians in class*

*(R/Below) Seminarian teaching a summer catechism course to young people.*

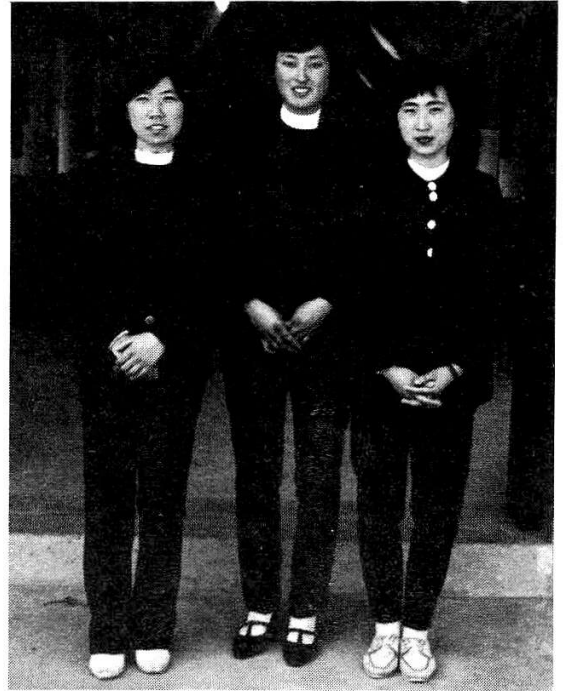




*Tripod, September-October, 1992*

年青的教友藝術家攝於他的宗教作品之前。

*Young layman and artist, Zhu Hualiang, stands besides one of his major religious art works.*



蘇州教區修女。該處修女的生活經費由當地教友捐助。

*Young Sisters from Suzhou diocese. The Sisters are supported by the Catholic Community in the area.*

新近開辦的佘山修院江蘇省文學分院，座落於蘇州市聖母七苦大堂內。現有來自南京、海門、徐州及蘇州四個教區的十六名修生。  
*Recently opened minor seminary on the compound of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Suzhou, Jiangsu province. The 16 students now enrolled come from four dioceses: Nanjing, Haimen, Xuzhou and Suzhou.*

