

## *China Church Update*

### **Arrests and Releases**

Fr. Li Fangchun, 59, of Zhumadian diocese, Henan province, originally arrested in 1983 and sentenced to 12 years in prison for "counter-revolutionary offenses," will now be released in February 1993, according to sources. His sentence has been reduced by two years.

Fr. Pei Ronggui, 59, a Trappist priest serving Youtong village in Hebei province, was reportedly arrested on September 3, 1989. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment in January 1991 for leading an outdoor Mass on the grounds of the former parish church in April 1989.

Underground Bp. Julius Jia Zhiguo, 57, of Zhengding, Hebei, was arrested at his home on October 16. Up to the present there has been no further word of his fate.

In December 1992, underground Bishop Yang Libo, 76, of the Lanzhou diocese, Gansu province, was released from the labor camp where he had been serving a 3-year sentence for his role in the November 1989 underground bishops' meeting, held in Sanyuan, Shaanxi province.

### **New Head of Religious Affairs Bureau**

In December 1992, Mr. Zhang Shengzuo, a former deputy director of the United Front Department of the Communist Party, was appointed head of the Religious Affairs Bureau of the State Council. He replaced Mr. Ren Wuzhi, who held the post of RAB chief since 1984. Mr. Zhang is said to be very conversant with Catholic Church affairs.

### **Use of Vernacular in Liturgy**

At the National Catholic Representatives Conference held

September 15-19, 1992, in Beijing, a decision was taken to use the vernacular in the liturgy. One obstacle to the quick implementation of the directive is the need for missals in Chinese in all the dioceses throughout the country. The training of priests, seminarians and the laity in the spirit of Vatican II documents on the liturgy is also required.

### **New Venture in Collaboration**

The Four Seas Association, founded in 1990, is an international organization with 6 European institutes coordinating their activities for exchange and cooperation with China. The member institutes are Monumenta Serica (Germany), Institut Catholique de Paris (France), Institut Ricci (Paris), Istituto Studi Asiatici (Rome), Istituto Italo-Cinese (Milan), Ferdinand Verbiest Foundation, K.U. Leuven (Belgium).

The Four Seas Association hopes eventually to work in four fields: scientific research, publications, cultural exchange and humanitarian development. Presently, the group is concentrating its efforts on humanitarian development. In its initial stage the Four Seas Association is active in a program for the ongoing formation of nurses working in the hospitals of Dengkou and Linhe (Inner Mongolia). They are also examining the prospects of collaborating with China in the field of mental health.

### **Shanghai Delegation visits Hong Kong**

A nine member Catholic delegation from Shanghai visited Hong Kong from January 7-15, 1993. The group visited churches, diocesan offices and a variety of institutions engaged in works of Christian charity.

This was the first visit to Hong Kong for the members of the delegation. The group consisted of three priests, three Sisters and three lay people all associated with the church in Shanghai.

The purpose of the visit was to study pastoral work in Hong Kong and to build up friendly relations.

### **Teachers Warned against "Religious Superstitions"**

Teachers at Shenzhen University have been warned to be on

their guard against foreigners spreading "religious superstition" and have been ordered to report anyone engaged in this activity. Teachers found adopting "religious superstition" themselves face possible dismissal.

### **Orphanage for Handicapped in Hebei**

About seven years ago the priest of Biancun church in Lingjin county, Hebei province, began to provide shelter for handicapped orphans. The orphanage now cares for 28 children ranging in age from infancy to 10 years old. The children are cared for by 18 full time volunteers, all devoted Catholics, who receive only 10 RMB monthly for pocket money. In addition the orphanage employs three medical personnel. The orphanage is highly regarded by the local people. Local Catholics provide most of the funds for the 30,000 RMB annual budget.

### **Two Bishops Liu Assigned as Administrators of Hebei Dioceses**

The Catholic Conference of Hebei held a meeting in August 1992 and decided to name administrators for the Chengde and Langfang dioceses that had not had their own bishops for many years. Bishop Liu Jinghe of Tangshan was appointed for Chengde and Bishop Liu Dinghan of Xianian for Langfang. On September 8 and November 18 respectively, Bishop Liu Jinghe ordained two young seminarians as priests for the Chengde diocese.

### **Bishop Zong Huaide Installed in Sanyuan, Shaanxi**

Bishop Zong Huaide of Sanyuan diocese in Shaanxi province was officially installed as bishop there on October 18, 1992. The ceremony took place in Tongyuanfang cathedral in Gaoling county. Bishop Li Du'an of Xi'an officiated at the ceremony. On November 8, Bishop Zong ordained seven young men to the priesthood. Bishop Zong, and the president of the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China both have the same name and surname. Both also have their roots in Shandong province. A branch of the Zong family moved to Shaanxi province during the Boxer Rebellion in 1900. Bishop

Zong Huaimu of Yantai diocese, appointed by Pope Pius XII in 1951, was also a member of the Zong family.

### **Wuchang Seminary Staff Completes First Series of Text Books**

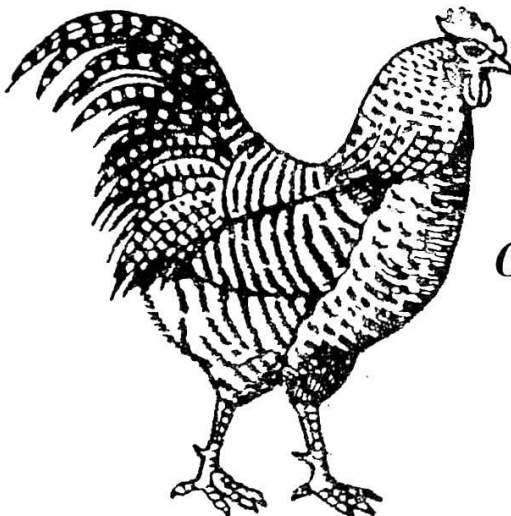
After years of concerted effort, the teaching faculty of Wuchang Seminary, Hubei province, completed its first series of text books on theology and philosophy. The series comprises 32 books covering 13 subjects and contains more than 5 million Chinese characters. This monumental work goes a long way towards solving the acute shortage of teaching materials.

Since the seminary was opened ten years ago, it has graduated two classes of seminarians and ordained 49 young men to the priesthood. Several young men, now deacons, will be ordained later this year. The seminary presently has an enrollment of 110 seminarians.

### **China Has High Rate of Infant and Child Mortality**

According to a survey carried out in June 1992 China's State Statistics Council reported on January 19, 1993, that the infant mortality rate in China in 1991 was 31.42 per thousand and the death rate for children up to 5 years of age was 34.19 per thousand. The average mortality rate for infants in developed countries is 13 per thousand and 17 per thousand for children up to 5 years of age.

According to the survey 83 percent of the children have received health and immunization injections, a percentage which closely approximates that of developed countries.



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OF THE COCK TO ALL!***