

*Clippings
from
the
Eighties*

*News
in
Brief*

News in Brief

Reporting news about the Church in China actually began with issue #3, 1981 and continues today under the title "China Church and News Update.

In the early issues of Tripod news about the progress and growth of the Church in China were favorite topics.

Church Openings

The church was renovated and re-opened in Yinchuan city, Ningxia Hui minority autonomous region. Over 500 Catholics attended Christmas Mass. Everyone was moved and eyes were filled with tears....

(#3, 1981, p.63)

The main Catholic church in Xian city, Shaanxi province was formally opened on December 21, 1980. About 3,000 people attended the opening ceremony. On the 25th Xian's clergy and Catholics solemnly celebrated the feast of Christmas. (#3, 1981, p. 63)

In Lingdong St. Joseph's Church of Fujian's Xiamen diocese... held its solemn opening ceremony on January 18 this year... When these fervent Catholics heard the clear and pleasing to the ear Latin, they were deeply moved. It aroused their spirit of patriotism and love of the church. All demonstrated that they were determined to increase production and make a contribution to the four modernizations. (#3, 1981, p. 63)

Feast Day celebrations were great news

...more than 1,800 Catholics attended Easter Sunday Masses at Sacred Heart Cathedral and the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes on Shamian Island in Guangzhou. In accordance with the traditional Tridentine Rite, Mass opened with the Asperges. Each Mass was also followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. (#14, 1983, p. 75)

Since 1981 over 300 churches have been opened on the China mainland. Also, in many places churches are just in the process of being renovated....

After the opening last October of the Sheshan Seminary, sponsored by the six provinces and one city of Shanghai, Jiangsu, Anhui, Zhejiang, Shandong, Jiangxi and Fujian, the diocese of Beijing has opened the Beijing Seminary, and the three provinces of northeast China have opened the Shenyang Seminary. In addition, a national Chinese Catholic institute of philosophy and theology is now at the stage of accepting students and its opening is imminent. (#17, 1983, pp. 81-82)

News about seminaries and convents were cause for rejoicing

Some Catholic Seminaries in China have re-opened during the past few years. The Church now has seminaries in Shanghai, Shenyang and Chengdu. (#16, 1983, p. 77).

The average age of the clergy in the Guangzhou Diocese is now seventy-five....The Diocese is planning to open a new minor seminary where middle school graduates and seminarians will be able to study philosophy and theology locally.

The new seminary will be housed in the old Chancery Office of the Diocese, which also will serve as the Bishop's residence when the property is returned to the church in October. (#17, 1983, p. 82).

After being closed for 30 years, the Sisters convent in Guangzhou re-opened on September 8, 1987. Sister Chen Zhidao, former superior of the Chinese Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, is the superior of the convent. Fourteen aspirants from many places throughout Guangdong Province have entered the convent... (#41, 1987, p.83)

Thirty seminarians from the first class of the Shijiazhuang Seminary of Hebei Province will be graduated this summer. (#45, 1988, p. 73)

Fourteen seminarians in China's western provinces of Shaanxi and Gansu were recently ordained priests. (#48, 1988, p. 74)

On August 14, two other seminarians, who had completed studies in Xi'an Seminary, were also ordained priests by Bishop Ma Ji of Pingliang, Gansu. On September 18, Bishop Zhang Wenbin of Dali Diocese, Shaanxi, ordained seven more priests, who had completed four years of study at Dali Seminary. (#48, 1988, p. 74)

