

BRIEFLY NOTED

Coadjutor Bishop for Macau Diocese

For only the second time in over four centuries, a local Chinese priest has been named Bishop of Macau. On March 20, 2001, Pope John Paul II appointed Father Jose Lai Hong-seng, 55, as the coadjutor bishop of the Macau Diocese. Bishop Lai Hong-seng was born in Macau in 1946. He



completed his secondary school education and his philosophy studies at St. Joseph's Seminary in Macau, but received his theological education in Portugal. He was ordained a priest in Macau in 1972. From 1975-1978, Bishop-designate Lai was assigned to a parish in Singapore.

Father Lai has worked in schools and in parishes. After working in the Cathedral of the Nativity of Our Lady for 11 years, he was appointed the parish priest in the year 2000.

The present bishop of Macau, Bishop Domingos Lam Ka-tseung, 73, remarked that he must offer his resignation to the Holy Father by the time he is 75. He felt it was important to have a coadjutor who was knowledgeable of the diocese, a student of Chinese culture and one who had a wide range of experiences to insure a smooth transition.

Bishop designate Lai's episcopal ordination took place on Saturday, June 2, 2001, the eve of Pentecost in the cathedral of Macau. The ordaining bishops were bishop Arquimínio Rodrigues da Costa, former bishop of Macau now retired in Portugal, Bishop Domingos Lam Ka tseung, present Bishop of Macau and John Tong Hon, Auxiliary Bishop of Hong Kong.