

SIX NEW PRIESTS ORDAINED

Bishop Bianchi Pontificates at Ordination Rites in Catholic Village Near Pokfulam

SSIX young Chinese were raised to the priesthood by Bishop Lawrence Bianchi last Saturday in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes in the suburban parish of Taikoula near Pokfulam.

The parish of Taikoula, a village just above Telegraph Bay on Hong Kong Island, the majority of whose inhabitants have been Catholics for many generations, was chosen by Bishop Bianchi for the ordination as part of the Diocesan vocation promotion programme.

The impressive ceremony lasted nearly two hours and was attended by large numbers of inhabitants from Taikoula, pupils from the Little Flower parish school, friends of the ordinands and visitors from other parishes in Hong Kong and Kowloon.

Bishop Adolph J. Paschang, expelled ordinary of Kongmoon was also present and saw two young men of his diocese raised to the priesthood. Among the many priests who attended the ceremony were missionaries from the dioceses of Kongmoon, Kaying and Kweilin. They had come from their new missions in Formosa and Japan. Franciscan Fathers from the Biblical Institute in Hong Kong also assisted at the ordination ceremony where Fr. John B. Tche, a local boy who has entered the Franciscan Order, was ordained.

Great Solemnity

The ceremony began at 9 a.m. with a solemn procession headed by the seminarians of the Regional Seminary of Our Lady of China, Aberdeen. Bishop Bianchi was assisted by the Very Reverend Father Joseph Garland, S.J., Rector of the Regional Seminary and by Fathers John Wood, S.J. and Edward Collins, S.J. who were Deacon and Sub-deacon respectively at the Pontifical Mass.

Five of the new priests made their studies at the Regional Seminary of Our Lady of China and one, Father John B. Tche, O.F.M. at the Seminary of St. Joseph in Macao. Throughout their studies the new priests had been helped by benefactors all over the world, particularly by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, Auxiliary Bishop of New York and by the Pontifical Work of St. Peter the Apostle.

Parish Adopted Seminarian

Present at the ordination was Mr. De Heer, representing the parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Eindhoven, Holland. This parish adopted Father Anthony Chan during the years of his studies and faithfully looked after his material needs. Mr. De Heer presented Father Chan with a letter of congratulation from the parish priest of Eindhoven and from the pupils of the parish school. An album of Eindhoven and a beautiful pyx made by Dutch goldsmiths were also among the presents from the Dutch benefactors.

First Masses

The new priests celebrated their first Masses in various churches in Hong Kong. Father John B. Chen who comes from the Diocese of Kaying celebrated in the church of his ordination in Taikoula; Father Stephen

Chu, also from Kaying, celebrated in the Chapel of Our Lady's Nativity in the Kowloon Welfare Centre dedicated to his late Bishop of Kaying, Bishop Francis X. Ford who died in Communist captivity.

Father Anthony Chan from Kongmoon celebrated his first Mass in the Rosary Chapel in Kennedy Town where the Chinese Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, refugees from South China who run the nearby School of St. Charles, were present at the Mass. Father Philip So, also from Kongmoon said his first Mass in the Chapel of the Carmelite Sisters in Stanley in the presence of his Ordinary, Bishop Adolph J. Paschang of Kongmoon. Father Simon Tao offered the first Sacrifice of the Mass in his priestly life in the Church of St. Peter, which is the parish church of the Regional Seminary in Aberdeen.

Father John B. Tche, O.F.M. offered his first Mass in the new Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Shamshuipo. Present at his Mass were the Franciscan Fathers in Hong Kong and a large number of Sisters of the Precious Blood in whose school Father Tche was educated. He received a beautiful chalice for his first Mass from the Tak Ching Middle School of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. Pupils of the school sang at the First Mass.

First Assignments

The new priests have all re-

ceived their assignments. Fathers J. B. Chen and Stephen Chu will leave for Miaoli in Formosa to join the Maryknoll Mission there. Fathers Anthony Chan and Philip So will go to Kuala Lumpur in Malaya to join the Diocese of Bishop Dominic Vendargon.

Father Simon Tao will remain in Hong Kong and will be attached to the Chapel of Our Lady of the Angels in Ngau Tau Kok. Father John B. Tche will leave at the end of July for Italy to join the Franciscan Fathers in Ancona.



"Thou are a priest forever!" The imposition of hands by the Ordaining Bishop