

**Ordination at the Regional Seminary
Fifty Aspirants to the Priesthood**

ON October 28, the Feast of the Apostles Sts. Simon and Jude, fifty candidates presented themselves for Tonsure or Holy Orders before His Lordship Bishop Lawrence Bianchi. Among the candidates were two for the Diocese of Hong Kong. Others were from Dioceses in China and Dominicans from St. Albert's Priory, Rosary Hill.

THE PROCESSION

The candidates, vested and each carrying a candle preceded the Bishop in a long procession through the Seminary to the chapel where the choir sang "Ecce Sacerdos". The Ordination Mass began and at the Introit the Bishop sat on a Faldstool in front of the altar and the candidates gathered around him to hear the admonition that no one should present himself who had not been properly prepared. Those who received the "Tonsure" were given the badge of the clerical state by a ceremonial clipping of a few hairs from the head in a sign of a cross. They were then clothed with a surplice to show that they should put on the New Man, Christ. Fourteen among the candidates received First Tonsure, among them were six members of the Congregation of the Disciples of Our Lord who have a mission at Junk Bay.

MINOR ORDERS

The Mass continued again and after the "Gloria" the Bishop conferred Minor Orders on thirty-five candidates. For each of the four minor orders he explained the meaning and duties and handed to each candidate the insignia of his office.

The prayer of the Mass followed with a special prayer for those to be ordained and now the candidates for the subdiaconate were called forward by name and each of them responded with his "Adsum". This time the Bishop's exhortation was more solemn, bidding the candidates to consider again and again the office they wish to receive. Up to this point they had been free; but once they received the subdiaconate they would no longer be free to return to the lay state. They would be bound by the solemn vow of chastity and they would have the obligation of reciting daily the divine office.

INSIGNIA OF OFFICE

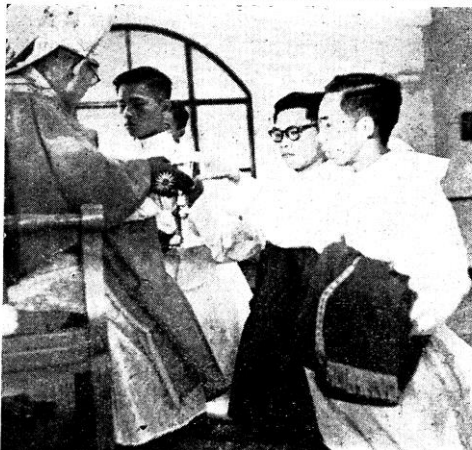
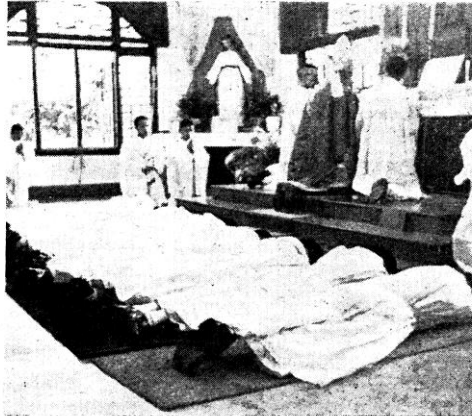
The candidates, both to the subdiaconate and diaconate prostrated themselves whilst the Bishop and the congregation chanted the Litany of the Saints to invoke their assistance. Then the Bishop clothed them in their vestments and gave them the insignia of their office.

Mass continued again and one of the newly ordained subdeacons sang with the Bishop the Epistle of the Mass. The ordination to the diaconate was conferred by the imposition of the Bishop's hands on three candidates and followed after the Epistle.

THE GOSPEL

As it is part of the deacon's office to chant the Gospel at High Mass so now one of the new deacons fulfilled this office at the ordination Mass.

In his sermon after the Gospel the Bishop pointed out how



priests to have a very deep love for our Divine Lord in the Sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist. Faithfulness in the heavy duties of the clerical state is only possible if it is the fruit of a great love, and that love overcoming all rival loves must be a deep devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

Gratifying as it must have been for His Lordship Bishop Bianchi to ordain these fifty young men he must have thought of the future when many more will be required as priest for his flock, which by the grace of God has been increasing