

Ordinations at the Cathedral

Symbol of Chinese Catholic Loyalty

Sacerdotal Ordination is always important.

The ordination of nine priests in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Hong Kong, on Saturday, July 5, had this essential importance; in addition, recent events in China lent to these ordinations a symbolic importance that cannot easily be exaggerated.

Ten years of subtle, ruthless, skilfully varied pressure has, apparently, broken the resistance of a limited number of Catholic leaders in China. Humanly speaking, we should be surprised by the duration of that resistance, rather than by the ultimate capitulation of a few. The result is nevertheless sad. News of unsanctioned episcopal consecrations is tragic news.

Against that grim background, the ceremony in our own Cathedral — of all Cathedrals in the free world, the nearest to Red China — shone forth as a manifestation of the true spirit of the Church of China.

One of the new priests is a Dominican from much tried Vietnam. All the others are Chinese exiles from dioceses now subject to Communist oppression. Their ordination is evidence of unbroken loyalty to Christ and his Church. They, and not the hapless victims of Communist malignity, are the true representatives of the Catholics of China.

The new priests were ordained by His Lordship Lawrence Bianchi, Bishop of Hong Kong, assisted by V. Rev. J. B. Wood, S.J., Rector of the Regional Seminary of Our Lady of China, Aberdeen, and Fathers J. Gar-

land, S.J., and E. Collins, S.J., Fr. Simon Liu, S.J., was Master of Ceremonies.

Four of the new priests, belong to the diocese of Cheng Ting, Hopeh province: Fathers Peter Pang, Peter Tuan, Raphael Kang, and Paul Tong.

Father Raymond Chu Fe belongs to Yung Chow diocese.

Father Aloysius Chen belongs to Anking Diocese, Anhwei province; Father Liao belongs to Kaying diocese, Kwangtung province; Father Joseph Yin belongs to Taming diocese, Hopeh province.

PRIESTS FOREVER



The nine who were raised to the priesthood in the Cathedral on July 5.