

The Pope Ordains Priest for Hong Kong

ON Thursday, January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany, the Pope ordained 62 priests in St. Peter's, nearly all of them students from the Pontifical Urban University (formerly the College 'de Propaganda Fide').

Among the 62 was Father Thaddeus Chan, originally of the diocese of Canton, who will work in the diocese of Hong Kong.

Father Chan celebrated his first Mass on the following day at the headquarters of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres. The Mother General attended the Mass.

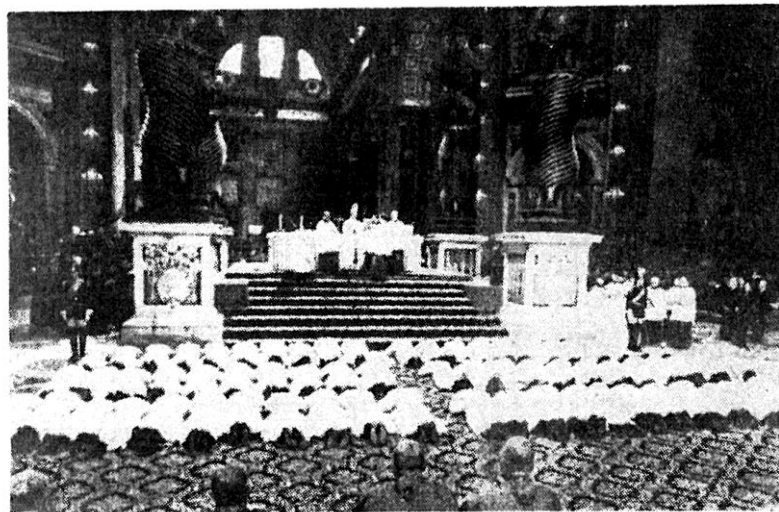
Cantonese was used for the vernacular parts of the Mass.

Father Francis X. Wong of the diocese of Hong Kong was assistant priest. In the congregation were Father A. Lazzarotto, P.I.M.E., and Father H. Dargan, S.J., both formerly of Hong Kong and now assistants to their respective Superiors General, the Hong Kong seminarians now in Rome and eight or nine Chinese Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres.

Both Father Chan's ordination and his first Mass seem to have been, in certain respects, unprecedented.

Popes occasionally consecrate bishops, but in recent centuries they have seldom ordained priests. So far as our information goes, Father Chan is the first Chinese priest ever ordained by a Pope. (Historians, please correct us if we are wrong.)

The Mass was almost certainly the first in which Cantonese was used in Rome.



The Prostration during the ordination of 62 missionary priests by the Pope.