

New Wing of Hong Kong Seminary Opened

On Sunday, February 19, the Bishop opened the new wing that has been added to Holy Spirit Seminary, Aberdeen, Hong Kong. The large gathering, at the ceremony including Bishop Oste, Mgr. C. Bayer, Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis, the Vicars General of the diocese of Hong Kong, many of those who once studied or taught in the Aberdeen Seminary, many members of the Serra Club of Hong Kong and other friends of the Seminary.

The architect of the new wing has preserved the ancient style of the original Seminary building, but has paid more attention to practical seminary needs than did his gifted predecessor.

The Bishop spoke as follows: My dear Friends,

The new wing we have just opened reflects our continuing effort to improve our seminary. Surely we cannot do too much for it. For here our priests are trained, and what the Church will be like tomorrow depends very much on how we train candidates to the priesthood. We should give our seminarians the best education that is within our means to provide; and we want to improve the environment and material facilities as well, that future priests may best utilise their years in the seminary for their spiritual and intellectual formation.

In recent years we have tried to bring our seminary training up to date. The performance of our minor seminarians at School-Leaving Examinations has been the first gratifying result. The appearance of more mature young men in our seminary has been another. Yet another happy development is the growing interest taken by the laity in our effort to recruit and train candidates to the priesthood. Thanks to the activities of the Serra Club, whose members are here in strength, large sections of the faithful are now more aware of the Church's need for young men and women who will give themselves whole-heartedly to God's service, and I am sure that much good will come out of this awareness.

This is an occasion for me to express my gratitude to all who have given generously of themselves to this seminary. I like to mention especially the Jesuit Fathers of the Irish Province. For over 30 years they staffed and directed this place as the Regional Seminary for South China. It was the fact that no more students could come from other parts of South China that induced Rome to turn the regional seminary to the diocese of Hong Kong in 1964. The Irish Jesuit Fathers deserve richly of our gratitude for having trained so many of our clergy.

I want also to acknowledge

the help given us by the Congregation of the Propaganda of Faith in Rome, which has always considered sympathetically our projects for improving the facilities of the diocesan seminary. To Messrs. N. J. Chien and Kwan, Chu and Yang, architects, and

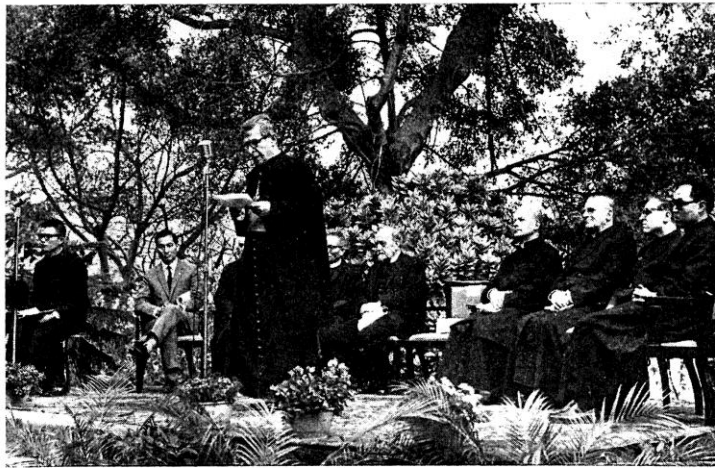
Kwong Hing & Co. contractors, we owe excellent professional services.

We have come a long way

since we moved the minor seminary from Saikung in the New Territories to Pokfulam Road in 1957, and as we pause for an appraisal of its development, we realise that while much has been achieved, a lot more yet remains to be done. In fact, a training place like a seminary will always need updating, renewal and improvement. Let us provide it together, the faithful with their clergy and their bishop, each according to his ability. Together, by the grace of God, we will produce good priests in larger numbers.



The new wing at Holy Spirit Seminary, Aberdeen, Hong Kong.



The Bishop speaks at the opening of the new wing.