

Church and School Extension Fund in Action

Chuk Yuen Primary School Completed



THE Chuk Yuen Resettlement Area lies to the left hand side of the road which runs round the airport from Kowloon City. Lying among the foothills of the dragons of Kowloon it now presents the motley appearance of wooden and tin huts with some stone and cement houses. Over the past few months many neat white stone houses have been built, the greater number of them with money from the Holy Father's donation for the relief of fire victims.

Now standing out over the village roofs with its colours adding variety to the view is the two-storey building of the new Chuk Yuen Primary School. The cross on the top marks it as one of the earliest results of the Bishop's Plan for Church and School Extension. And it is a speedy realisation; for the foundation stone was laid on May 15 of this year, and despite the inevitable delays occasioned by the heavy summer rains of July and August, classes commenced at the beginning of October.

On July 20 registration for the school was opened with little more than the foundations to show where the school was to be. The heavens opened and stayed open until it seemed that completion for any time in the current school term was out of the question, but already the classes are functioning and the whole building will be completed at the end of the month.

The school fills a serious need in the area, for most of the people there are too poor to be able to afford the tuition fees for private schools. This was shown clearly when the registration was in progress; the crowds were so great that for three days the six teachers receiving applications had not a moment's rest. In view of the unexpected numbers the Education Department urged that the school should be run in two sessions instead of in one, as intended from the start. So now there are a total of eighteen classes, eleven in the morning session and the remaining seven in the afternoon. The school is under the management of Fr. N. Santinon, P.I.M.E. and he employs twenty-three teachers.

In accordance with His Lordship the Bishop's plan for using these new schools as centres of Catholic extension, the school hall will also be used as a chapel under the guidance of its patron