

# Consecration of Auxiliary Bishop of Hong Kong

**I**N a lengthy ceremony beginning at 5 p.m., Saturday, 7th October, 1967 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Caine Road, Father Francis Hsu will be consecrated Titular Bishop of Orrea and Auxiliary Bishop of Hong Kong. Bishop Bianchi, Roman Catholic Bishop of Hong Kong, will be consecrator. With him will be associated as co-consecrators Archbishop Stanislaus Lo Kuang of Taipei and Bishop Peter Tou of Hsin Chu, Taipei.

Archbishop Joseph Caprio, till recently Apostolic Pro-Nuncio to China and now Apostolic Pro-Nuncio to India, will preside.

The assignment of the new bishop to the Titular See of Orrea is of merely symbolic importance. Orrea, once a living diocese in the Roman province of Mauritania, is now a doubtfully identifiable group of ruins in Morocco, and there are few or no Catholics within the boundaries of the ancient diocese. For centuries, however, it has been the regular practice to assign such a decayed diocese to any bishop who is not the ruler of a living diocese. The Titular See of Orrea has been assigned in this way to Bishop Hsu.

It is, then, the second part of his title that indicates the scope of the labours that lie before the new bishop. He will be the auxiliary, the helper, right hand, of the Bishop of Hong Kong. (Anglicans and episcopally organized Protestants will probably think of him as 'suffragan bishop' . . . a title that is understood differently in Catholic usage.)

The responsibilities of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Hong Kong have grown enormously in recent decades. In 1939 the Catholic population of the whole diocese—Hong Kong and the Chinese sub-prefectures of Po On, Wai Yeung and Hoi Fung—was estimated at less than 36,000; last year it was estimated at over 230,010, and the educational, charitable and welfare work of the diocese has grown at least in proportion to the growth of the Catholic population. Much of the work for which the Bishop is responsible can be carried out through the help of his

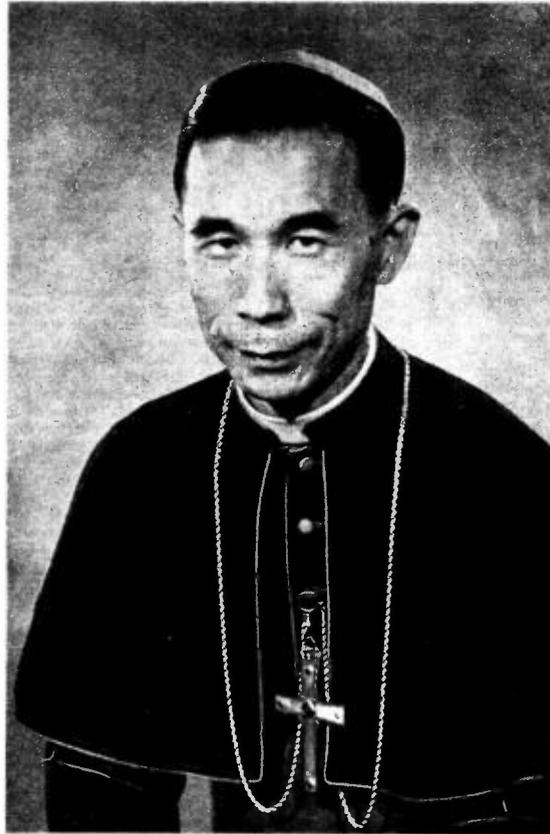
Vicars General and other devoted co-workers. Much, however, of the work can be done only by bishop. One bishop can no longer meet the demands of the ever-growing diocese of Hong Kong. The

Pope therefore has granted to Bishop Bianchi the help he so imperatively needs by nominating Bishop Hsu as his Auxiliary, to share his burden of labour and responsibility.

Since an overwhelm-

ing majority of the Catholics in the diocese are Chinese, great satisfaction and no surprise have been aroused by the choice of a Chinese for this all-important office.

Bishop Hsu was born in Shanghai in 1920.



## Letter from Superior General, P.I.M.E.

H.E. Mgr. Francis Hsu  
Auxiliary Bishop of Hong Kong.  
Your Excellency,

On the occasion of your Episcopal Consecration as Auxiliary Bishop of Hong Kong, I would like to express my best wishes and congratulations from all of the members of the Society.

The Pontifical Institute for the Foreign Missions, which has worked in the Hong Kong Diocese for more than one hundred years, is very proud and most happy to have Your Excellency as Auxiliary Bishop to the Most Reverend our Bishop Lawrence Bianchi.

You may be sure, dear Bishop Hsu, of the sincere cooperation of all the members of our Society working in the Diocese.

We pray our good Lord to grant Your Excellency long life and plenty of wisdom, prudence and diligence for the extension of the Kingdom of God, not only in the Hong Kong Diocese, but also in all the noble Nation of China.

Asking Your Excellency of one of the first blessings for our Society, I remain,

Yours devotedly in O.L.  
† Aristide Pirovano,  
Superior General.

He was educated at St. John's University, Shanghai, and at Merton College, Oxford, where he did graduate studies and obtained the degree of B. Litt. in English Language and Literature. He continued his academic career, becoming professor of English, first in Chungking, later at Nanking, though despite this deep involvement in English studies he remained primarily interested in Chinese studies.

Nearly twenty years ago, he came to Hong Kong, where he became a member of the staff of the Commissioner-General for South East Asia.

Having decided to become a priest, he entered the Pontifical Beda College, a Roman Seminary for late vocations, and was ordained for the diocese of Hong Kong in 1959.

After his ordination he returned to Hong Kong and was appointed editor of the diocesan Chinese weekly, *Kung Kao Po*. In 1961 he was appointed Director of the Catholic Centre, a post which involved control of the Catholic Truth Society, the Catholic press, diocesan public relations, and the Catholic Club. In recent years he has been taking an ever more active part in helping Bishop Bianchi in his multitudinous duties, and has become widely known in all sectors of the life of Hong Kong, Catholic and non-Catholic, religious and civic. The large number of those who have declared their hope of being able to find a place in the Cathedral during his consecration is an index of the interest his nomination has aroused and of the support that he can rely upon in the arduous tasks that lie ahead of him.