

# Consecration of Auxiliary Bishop of Hong Kong

This is Radio S.P.G. We are now broadcasting from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary on the occasion of the consecration of the Most Rev. Francis Chen-Ping Hsu as Auxiliary Bishop of Hong Kong and Titular Bishop of Orrea by the Most Rev. Lawrence Bianchi, Bishop of Hong Kong, and two co-consecrators, the Most Rev. Stanislaus Lokuang, Archbishop of Taipei and the Most Rev. Peter Tou, Bishop of Hsinchu. 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, is now a group of ruins with few or no Catholics, but it has been the regular practice for centuries to assign such a decayed diocese to any bishop who is not the ruler of a living diocese.

The time is now 4.30 p.m. Although there is still half an hour before the ceremony will begin, most of the people have come to the Cathedral and inside the church it is almost full. Only a small percentage is laymen, which may be accounted for by the difficulty of getting a ticket.

The door of the Cathedral is decorated in characteristic Chinese festoons with the coat-of-arms of the new bishop in the centre. When we walk inside, the first thing that catches our attention is that on every pillar is a blue banner. On some banners there is a hand on the upper part, a pigeon in the middle and the symbol of Christ on the lower portion. This no doubt signifies the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. On other banners there is a crown with some stars above a flower-like figure. I cannot make out their meaning. Behind the altar, nearly touching the ceiling there is a golden-coloured crown. From it a large blue banner drapes down and flows behind the statue of Holy Mary of the Immaculate Conception. On each of the banners surrounding the altar, in addition to the said design is the coat of arms of the new bishop.

One thing shows that the organising committee is very considerate; half-way from the altar there are two T.V. sets which will show the people at the back what is going on at the altar, which they, otherwise, may not be able to see clearly.

Suddenly the people are quiet and they all turn towards the door and the choir begins to sing. The procession is now coming. It is a very long one, led by scouts, then a great number of seminarians, and finally the bishops and the Bishop-Elect.

by Dominic Wong (WYK)  
photos by Peter Yim (WYHK)



The new Bishop's coat of arms.

It is not easy to follow the ceremony as the major part of it is in Latin. We can only recognise the familiar parts of the Mass. In spite of this, the people are obviously keen at what is going on. The scouts and the staff have a hard time to persuade some people to return to their seats and not to crowd near the altar.

After Communion, the newly consecrated bishop is led by the assistant bishops around the church to give his blessing to all present. After the usual ending of the Mass, again the long procession leaves the church, thus brings the day's ceremony to a close.

We walk out of the church into the square. Lots of people are not leaving yet; they are talking to each other. The time is now 6.45. The ceremony have lasted for one and three quarters of an hour, though we have been informed that it may last for two and a half hours. This is the first time I ever saw a ceremony end before the intended time. This broadcast will now end. Meet



Bishop Francis Hsu . . . .



with his two co-consecrators Archbishop Lokuang of Taipei and Bishop Tou of Hsinchu . . . .



Blessing his flock after the consecration.

# CONSECRATION OF BISHOP HSU

**I**N a ceremony of overwhelming dignity, Bishop Bianchi of Hong Kong consecrated his Auxiliary, Bishop Francis Hsu, in his Cathedral on Saturday, October 7.

The co-consecrators were Archbishop Stanislaus Lokuang of Taipei and Bishop Peter Tou of Hsin Chu, Taiwan.

Archbishop Caprio presided his last act as Pronuncio to China.

In the procession to the altar were Mgr. F. Kerr, who had come from Sydney for the occasion, Bishop Oste, C.I.C.M., Bishop Lemaire, M.E.P., Bishop Donaghy, M.M., and Bishop Baker, Anglican Bishop of Hong Kong.

Dean Foster of St. John's Cathedral and other Christian leaders had places of honour.

## Chinese-Latin Ceremony

The Cathedral was filled for the ceremony, which began at 5 p.m. sharp and proceeded without a hitch, so far as those present could see, and lasted about an hour and forty minutes. The proper of the Mass was in Chinese, the Lesson being read by Mr. Eugene Li Yiu Bor. The rest of the ceremony was in Latin—a very appropriate linguistic distribution, as even the fiercest vernacularist must agree, since the congregation, though of course predominantly Chinese, also represented fully the cosmopolitan population of the diocese. Closed circuit television was used to enable those seated behind pillars to follow the ceremonies.

The Chinese dinner that followed the consecration was attended by representatives of every sector of the diocese, including many members of all the congregations of Sisters working in Hong Kong. The presence of the Sisters in such large numbers was widely welcomed as symbolic of their participation in the life and work of the diocese and of the whole community.

## Toasts

During the dinner toasts and good wishes to Bishop Hsu were offered by Bishop Bianchi, Mgr. Leo Chan, V.G., Father F. Greenan on behalf of all Beda College priests ("Beda vocations will multiply when word gets round that Beda priests can become bishops after only eight years"), Father F. Cronin on behalf of men religious, Sister Victoria Marie (Maryknoll Sister) on behalf of all Sisters, and Mr. Martin Q. Wong, chairman of

the Consecration Organizing Committee, on behalf of the laity.

Archbishop Caprio also spoke, but his speech was not only a speech of congratulation; it was also his farewell: his part in the ceremony had been his last official act of an association with China dating back to his post-war service at the internunciate in Nanking. Speaking with much emotion he said that he will have China always in his heart and always in his prayers.

## The Bishop's Tribute

Bishop Bianchi paid the following tribute to Bishop Hsu:

Allow me, on my own behalf and on behalf of the clergy and faithful of the Diocese, to convey our grateful thanks to all our distinguished guests present here to-night who have come to share in our joy and happiness today, a day to be reckoned as a milestone in the history of the Church in Hong Kong.

And indeed I like to think that there is joy in heaven also today and that the blessed spirits of the first Bishop of Hong Kong, Monsignor Raimondi, and the other pioneers of the Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions, who, together with our dear Chinese Fathers, laid the foundations of the Church in this Colony, are now smiling down upon us and especially upon our first Chinese Bishop.

The seed planted by them and lovingly cultivated by their successors for more than a century, has grown into a gigantic tree: a Diocese having now nearly 250,000 Catholics and some 300 priests aided by more than 40 Religious Orders and Congregations in an impressive complex of educational and social activities that testify to the healthy vitality of our community.

It is natural, then, that I should feel the need of an Auxiliary Bishop, and last year I petitioned the Holy Father for one, suggesting at the same time that a Chin-



Bishop Hsu, at the dinner held on the evening of his consecration, returns thanks for a multitude of good wishes, verbally or visibly expressed. His life as Auxiliary Bishop will be, he said, what it has been since he came to Hong Kong as a priest: when Bishop Bianchi has work to be done or a problem to be solved he will still say 'Do what you can about that,' and Bishop Hsu will still reply 'I'll do my best.'

ese priest should be chosen, not only because the overwhelming majority of our Catholics is Chinese, but also because the Chinese clergy is increasing year by year, and year by year is rightly taking a greater share in the government of the Diocese. I know that by my suggestion I was interpreting the mind of all my priests, and particularly of those of the Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions, whose chief concern has always been the training of a native clergy and are today rightly proud of seeing their efforts crowned with success.

The choice of Father Francis Hsu, who by his talents, his enterprising zeal and above all by his kindness of heart, has endeared himself to all of us, has unanimously been acclaimed as a veritable gift from the Holy Spirit. I am fully confident that in the fulfilment of his new responsibilities, Bishop Hsu will enjoy the loving, enthusiastic support of all: priests and laymen, to the greater glory of God.

I propose a toast to the new Bishop.

## Tribute of Men Religious

Father Cronin, S.J., representing the religious in Hong Kong, spoke as follows:

"We are here today to celebrate the consecration of Bishop Francis Chen Ping Hsu as auxiliary bishop of Hong Kong. Only once before in its history has Hong Kong seen something similar and that was on October 9, 1949, when Bishop Bianchi was made Coadjutor to Bishop Valtorta.

"At that time no one was surprised at Bishop Bianchi's consecration; he was eminently suited for the office, as we all here can respectfully testify, and Bishop Valtorta was old and in

poor health and needed such a person. Nor are we surprised now, although for very different reasons, that Bishop Francis Hsu Chen Ping is being consecrated auxiliary-bishop. One difference is that Bishop Bianchi, thank God, is not too old nor is he in failing health. May God give him many years of strength and service yet! But one big difference is the growth of the diocese. When Bishop Bianchi became bishop in 1951 the total number of Catholics in the diocese of Hong Kong was about 60,000 and now the number is about four times as great, about a quarter of a million. But another very important difference is that today we are witnessing the consecration of a Chinese as bishop, because, of course, the diocese of Hong Kong has such a high percentage of its total who are Chinese. Bishop Bianchi, no doubt, looks about him with feelings of gratitude to God that in this short period since 1951 that the Catholic Church in Hong Kong has grown so rapidly. No wonder he needs help to lead such a large flock, and we are here to see Bishop Hsu consecrated for that noble purpose.

## Hong Kong and its Needs

"In the text of the consecration ceremony we saw something of what it means to be a bishop, we must also in this matter take into consideration the special characteristics of each place. What does Hong Kong require in its bishop? Hong Kong is different from anywhere else in the world. It is small in area, almost a city-state at the very edge of the great land of China. It is a community in which about 98% of the people are Chinese,

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and some of these were born here and some are men and women who left their homes in China because they did not wish to live under Communism. A good number of all of this community have become Catholics, and it is probably correct to say that many became Catholics because they saw in our faith the things for which they were willing to leave their homes in China to retain, such as the free worship of God, the respect for the dignity of the human person, the doctrine that men should love one another, as well as the other teachings of the gospel. For those Catholics who were born here and for those who have come here there is always the fear that they may come under Communism. They need courage and help to lead ordinary Christian lives, they would need this even more, perhaps heroism, to do this under Communism. And so, seeing this need, it is only right and proper that when the expansion of the diocese and all these other reasons required the appointment of an auxiliary bishop that the person should be one who is well aware of the problems faced by those who have received the gift of faith, not at birth but after many years of growth and study and search, one who also chose life here in Hong Kong because it was a place where he could find liberty to practise his faith. He who because he is a Chinese is the inheritor of the oldest civilization on earth; because he is a Chinese Catholic knows how to join together and integrate into a way of life, both his culture and the teachings of Christ. There should be no one better able to be a leader of Catholics here in Hong Kong than one who is blessed by God, but in addition he has also been a scholar, not only

in things Chinese but also in the West and he has added to his personality the appreciation of and the adoption of the culture of the west, also.

"Is it any wonder then today that we Catholics in Hong Kong are happy. We see one of our own citizens raised to a position of leadership and responsibility in the Church. And the Church here in Hong Kong needs leadership today, for we are passing through a difficult time. The youth of today is questioning all that is handed on to it as knowledge or as principles according to which we should live. Many are being influenced by the philosophy, the political creed of Communism, and naturally so, because so many young Communists are ready to make so many real sacrifices for their system. We who have the gospel of Christ to live by, and who hope in the grace of God to strengthen us in our remaining faithful to this faith no matter what may happen to us, welcome today the consecration, the dedication to God on our behalf, the giving to Bishop Hsu the fullness of the sacrament of Orders, so that he might thereby be constituted one of our spiritual rulers. Let us thank God for His goodness in giving us such a bishop, and let us promise him our loyalty and our willingness to help him in any way we can, and above all let us pray for him that God may make of him, in the words of Pope Paul VI about bishops, 'one who is for us the image of the Father, and the image of Christ'."



*Bishop Hsu and his overseas guests with the whole staff of the Catholic Centre, whom Bishop Hsu invited to dine with him on Sunday, October 8, the day following his consecration.*

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## Our Thanks

**T**HE heavy work involved in organizing the ceremony of Bishop Hsu's consecration and the ensuing celebrations was undertaken by the following committee: Mr. Martin Quincey Wong (chairman), Mgr. Leo Chan, V.G., Rt. Rev. L. Menzoni V.G., P.I.M.E., Fathers Peter Lei, P.P., Joseph Fung, P.P., O. Pisani, P.I.M.E., S. Garzarelli, P.I.M.E., and M. Marazzi, P.I.M.E., Messrs. E. Li Yiu Bor, Roger H. Lobo, Peter Lo, Peter Wong, David Wong, Dominic Poon, Patrick Yu and Miss Josephine Kong.

They deserve our congratulations and our thanks.