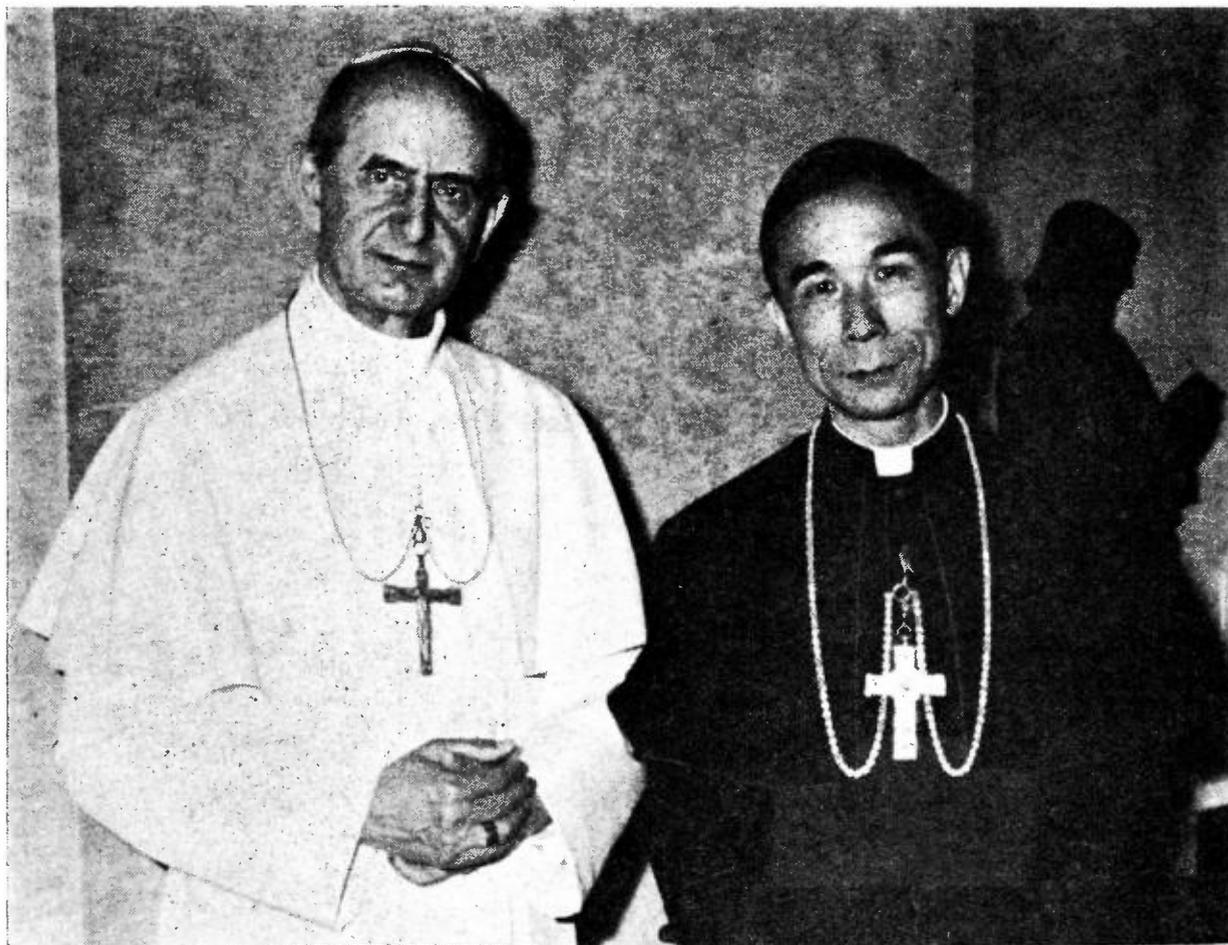


## Bishop Hsu Named Residential Bishop of H. K.



*Bishop Hsu with the Pope during his private audience last month.*

**Bishop Francis Chen-Ping Hsu, aged 49, has been named Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong by Pope Paul VI.**

*On receiving notification of his appointment Bishop Hsu issued the following statement.*

As the first Chinese bishop of Hong Kong, I consider the appointment a sign of the Church's esteem of my people; as successor to a very great pastor, the Most Rev. L. Bianchi, PIME, I accept the appointment as a call to service and a great challenge.

I am grateful to the Pope for the trust he has placed in me in appointing me, within the last two years, first Auxiliary Bishop, then Apostolic Administrator and now residential Bishop of Hong Kong. I am grateful, too, for the support and help I have received from the superiors of the Congregation of Evangelisation of Peoples in Rome, the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio in China and from the People of God in Hong Kong. To each and everyone of them I wish to say, "Thank you kindly. I ask for your prayer that I will be a good shepherd and a good servant."

# HABEMUS EPISCOPUM

**B**ISHOP HSU, who had been Apostolic Administrator of the diocese of Hong Kong since 19 December, 1968, was nominated Bishop of Hong Kong by the Pope on June 14.

From a purely practical point of view, this may not seem very important. When Bishop Hsu was appointed Apostolic Administrator he took over the leadership of the diocese with full jurisdiction. The overwhelming majority of the members of the diocese know little or nothing about the details of diocesan administration. They neither know nor care whether a residential bishop has greater powers than an apostolic administrator.

But the practical point of view is not the only point of view. In this matter it is not even the most important. A bishop is not a mere administrator. He is a successor to the apostles, sharing in the apostolic mission given to the apostles, and when a particular diocese has been entrusted to him, he in the words of Vatican Council II, governs the diocese as the 'vicar and ambassador' of Christ. A diocese is that portion of God's People that is entrusted to a bishop to be shepherded by him. Adhering to its pastor and gathered together by him in the Holy Spirit through the gospel and the Eucharist, this portion of God's People constitutes a particular Church in which the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church of Christ is truly present and operative.

The bishop, moreover, is to be regarded as the high priest of his flock. In a certain sense it is from him that the faithful who are under his care derive and maintain their life in Christ. The liturgical life of the diocese revolves round the bishop. The Church reveals herself most clearly when a full complement of God's holy people, united in prayer and in a common liturgical service—in the Eucharist above all—exercises a thorough and active participation at the altar where the bishop presides.

All this is present in fullness when a residential bishop has accepted the burden of service as residential bishop of a diocese. About this all should care, and very many do care deeply. Symbolically and really our diocese is most truly the Church in Hong Kong when its leader is Bishop of Hong Kong in the fullest sense as residential bishop, vicar and ambassador of Christ to the People of God in Hong Kong. On receiving his new appointment, Bishop Hsu asked for the prayers of all that he may be 'a good shepherd and a good servant.' All members of the diocese should regard such prayers as part of our very life of the people of God. 'Laetus Serviat'—May he serve in gladness of heart.