

# Installation of Bishop Hsu

**B**ISHOP Francis Hsu will be installed as Bishop of Hong Kong during the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King in the Government Stadium on Sunday, October 26.

The ceremony will start at 4 p.m.

Archbishop A. Accogli, Apostolic Pronuncio to China, will officiate at the installation.

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

It is the wish of the Vicars General that the following petition be inserted in the Prayer of the Faithful in all public Masses for the Feast of Christ the King:

**That Bishop Francis Hsu who will be formally installed today as Bishop of our diocese, may receive from the Holy Spirit the graces needed for shepherding the People of God in Hong Kong with strength, wisdom and love, we pray to the Lord.**

# INSTALLATION

**B**ISHOP Francis Hsu will be installed as Bishop of Hong Kong in the presence of a vast throng of the faithful on Sunday, October 26, the Feast of Christ the King.

Installation does not increase the authority of the bishop or give any powers or privileges. It is a symbolic ceremony, an outward manifestation of the union between a new bishop and his diocese. To say that it is purely symbolic is not to say that it is unimportant. Men need symbols. Bishop Hsu received his nomination to the See of Hong Kong in a letter sent to him just as a bank manager receives his nomination to management of a branch bank. Juridically, nothing more was required; once he had received that letter all the burden of the diocese was his to bear, and all the powers needed for bearing that burden were his. Yet it has always been felt that something more than the receipt of a letter is demanded by the very nature of a bishop's office. 'A diocese is that portion of God's people which is entrusted to a bishop to be shepherded by him with the cooperation of the presbytery. Adhering thus to its pastor and gathered together by him in the Holy Spirit through the Gospel and the Eucharist, this portion constitutes a particular church in which the one, holy catholic, and apostolic Church of Christ is truly present and operative.' In taking over a diocese a bishop is not merely taking over an administrative post; he is entering into a union of charity with the priests and people of the diocese, a union sealed by the Holy Spirit. This union is both exterior and interior. It is supremely fitting, therefore, that the grant of a new bishop to a diocese should be enshrined in a symbol, for a symbol is an exterior sign of an inward reality. In civil society, the accession of a new head of state is symbolized in coronation or inauguration ceremonies; for civil rule has its interior as well as its exterior aspects. Much more should the accession of a new bishop be symbolized in a public ceremony; for the union is closer and more mysterious and possessed of an interior strength through the Holy Spirit such as no civil state can aspire to.

The ceremony of installation is designed to arouse in the hearts of the faithful a keen awareness of their unity with the bishop and with one another. To the priests of the diocese it gives an opportunity of manifesting their determination to give the bishop their loyal cooperation. Yet the ceremony has been instituted primarily for the bishop himself, as a solemn reminder that his whole life and all his gifts and all his powers are at the service of the diocese, that he is now committed to gathering together in the Holy Spirit through the Eucharist and the Gospel that portion of God's people that has been entrusted to him. The full weight of his responsibilities is thrust upon his notice. It is well that at such a moment he should be surrounded by those for whom he must labour, that they may sustain him through their prayers at that moment of recognised responsibility.