

Bishop Hsu Installed as Bishop of Hong Kong

Pledges of Loyalty and Service between the Bishop and the Diocese

THE 1969 celebration of the Feast of Christ the King in the Hong Kong Stadium will remain in the memories of all who took part. Every year this celebration is the chief public act of common worship in the diocese. Every year a great congregation assembles. Every year the careful planning and hard work of the Lay Apostolate Central Council ensures that the ceremony shall be carried out with a dignity and smoothness appropriate to the joint worship of tens of thousands.

So it was this year also.

But this year's celebration was rendered unique by inclusion of the Installation of Bishop Francis Hsu as Bishop of Hong Kong.

The installation was memorable and touching beyond all expectation. The solemn reading of the document of appointment (see below), the pledge of loyalty from all sectors of the diocese and above all the Bishop's pledge of loyalty to the Pope and his pledge of service and love to the diocese were more than symbolic; they formed unmistakably a bond between the Bishop and his flock and between the members of the flock.

The presence of leaders of the main Christian Churches in Hong Kong was evidence of present unity of spirit and a promise of closer union to come.

The following Christian leaders had accepted the invitation to be present, and several were accompanied by fellow-clergy of their Churches.

- Rt. Rev. Gilbert Baker, Bishop of Hong Kong and Macao;
- Rt. Rev. T. Otto Nall, Presiding Bishop of the United Methodist Church;
- Rev. Peter Wong, General Secretary of the Church of Christ in China, Chairman of the Hong Kong Christian Council;
- Rev. Wong Tsok, Superintendent Minister of the Chinese Methodist Church;
- Rev. Kenneth B. McIntosh, Chairman of the Hong Kong Clergy and Ministers' Group;
- Mr. Calvin Ngai, Executive Secretary of the Hong Kong Christian Council;
- Rev. G. Shrivies, Senior Chaplain, Mariners Club.

The entry procession of altar-servers, Religious, clergy, the Police Guard of Honour, the 25 concelebrants of the Mass, Bishop Hsu and Archbishop Accogli, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio of China, formed part of the ceremony.

When all were in place, Mass began. Then before the reading of the First Lesson, H.E.

the Pro-Nuncio read the bull of appointment in English and Mgr. Peter Lei, V.G., read it in Chinese, an efficient loud-speaker system carrying every word to all in the Stadium.

Pledges of loyalty were then made in the name of the priests of the diocese (by Father Joseph Mak, P.P.), of the men Religious by Father Fergus Cronin, S.J.) of the women Religious of the diocese (by Rev. Mother Katherine Liu, Superior General of the Precious Blood Sisters), and of the laity (by Miss Teresa Shek).

Throughout the ceremony, the congregation, discreetly supported by the choir (directed by Father Joseph Leung, S.D.B.), sang with an assurance surpassing that of former years.

The Lessons of the Mass were read by Mr. Chow Man Hoi, Mr. George Hsueh and Father J. B. Tsang.

Sermons were preached by Father J. B. Tsang (in Chinese) and Father John Russell, S.J. (in English).

In other years the sermons were among the more memorable parts of the ceremonies. It is no reflection on the eloquence of the preachers to say that this year the proclamation of Bishop Hsu's appointment, the pledges of loyalty to him, and the Bishop's own pledge overshadowed the preachers: a Bossuet or an Augustine would have been overshadowed.

The Prayer of the Faithful was led by Mr. John T. S. Chen.

At the Offertory of the Mass the bread and wine were presented by Miss Teresa Shek and Mr. Charles Lee.

After the Communion Mr. Dominic Cheung and Judge Pickering (in English) led the recitation of the Lay Apostle's Pledge.

Bishop Hsu then read pledge of loyalty to the Pope and of

service and love to the People of God in Hong Kong.

"Early in the summer, when I received from the Holy Father a letter appointing me to the Diocese of Hong Kong, I made to him a pledge of loyalty. Today, in the presence of the Holy Father's Nuncio, the Most Rev. L. Accogli, and of you all, my dear people, I want to renew that pledge. Peter has been entrusted by our Lord with the task of strengthening his brethren, and I, the least of his brethren, shall always rejoice in being so strengthened.

"To you, the People of God in Hong Kong who have welcomed me to your midst and made pledges of loyal co-operation through your representatives, I want to thank you and to return you a pledge, a pledge of my abiding love and humble service. I am sent to you to serve, not to be served. All that I am—a priest first and foremost—and all that I possess, is at your disposal. The good shepherd gives all of himself for his flock: such a shepherd I wish to be.

"I shall serve you, as the Holy Father has instructed me in his letter of appointment, first of all, by promoting the Kingdom of God among you. It is 'a kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace.' I shall endeavour to lead and help you to possess it more fully and more securely. Then, I should also, again as the

Holy Father has instructed me, work for the extension of that Kingdom so that it will embrace those who do not yet belong to it.

"I am aware of my unworthiness. Join me, then, my friends, in imploring the Risen Lord to remedy my

weakness with His grace, even as he did to Paul the Apostle, to the greater glory of God, and for the greater good of the People of God in Hong Kong."

The ceremony ended at about 5.30 and the great congregation broke up, deeply moved by their Bishop's words.



Archbishop Aloysius Accogli, Pro-Nuncio in China, pledges his friendship and his support to Bishop Hsu at the dinner organized by the Vicars General and the Organizing Committee on the evening of the Feast of Christ the King in honour of the installation of Bishop Hsu.

SE19691031