

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

SIX months ago it was announced that a Diocesan Convention was to be held in Hong Kong. Two months ago the Preparatory Committee issued a lengthy statement on the Convention, introduced by a letter from Bishop Hsu. This was published as an insert in *Kung Kao Po* and the *Sunday Examiner*.

Sunday next, March 9, has now been chosen by the organizers as a day for bringing to the attention of all the faithful in the diocese the nature and purpose of the Convention. Copies of the organizers' statement will be available at all churches and sermons will deal with the Convention.

To the casual reader, the most striking part of the statement is the long list of subjects suggested for discussion, set out under ten heads: Liturgy and Sacraments, Religious Instruction, Education, Laity, Priestly Life, Religious, Social Apostolate of the Church, Communications Media, Ecumenism, and Government of the Diocese. In the Bishop's letter and the formal statement of the Preparatory Committee, probably the most striking point is the appeal, made in both documents, for the comments and views of all members of the diocese, clergy, religious and laity.

All this makes it clear that, in Bishop Hsu's words, 'the purpose of the Diocesan Convention is to review the work of the diocese in the light of Vatican II and to plan future developments accordingly.' Many will be attracted by this opportunity of putting forward their ideas on how the diocese should plan its work and it is to be hoped that they will give vent to their enthusiasm by sending their ideas to the Preparatory Committee (P. O. Box 2984).

It would, however, be a mistake to regard the Diocesan Convention as no more than a means of investigating certain problems, paralleling the investigations of administrative efficiency that are a mark of contemporary business, something that might possibly be done with equal effectiveness by a trained team of experts. This idea, which many would find repellent, would be a misrepresentation of the Convention. 'A study in depth is called for,' Bishop Hsu has told us. 'This can be successfully done only by the entire People of God.' The Convention is not to be merely an enquiry; it is to be an action of the People of God, acting as the People of God. The Convention will be strictly bound to make its study in depth with all the wisdom at its disposal; but ultimately it will be more than a deliberative assembly, however wise. Because it will be an assembly of the People of God, it will be in the large sense a sacramental assembly. Christ our Lord has told us: 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.' When the whole diocese gathers, through its representatives, in His name, He will most certainly be in our midst.