

# Diocesan Convention

**T**HE draft documents for discussion by the delegates to the Diocesan Convention are being printed and will become available during the next few weeks. The 10 draft documents will appear as a series of separate booklets, in Chinese and in English, 20 booklets in all.

Delegates will receive their copies directly by post. But copies will also be available to anyone interested, at the nominal charge of 20 cents per

booklet.

Copies may be had at the Catholic Centre and at parish churches. Parish priests are kindly requested to ensure that copies are made available to their parishioners. As each document appears, a number of copies will be sent to each parish. Further copies may be obtained by applying to the Steering Committee, Diocesan Convention, P.O. Box 2984, Hong Kong.

# Convention News

UP to the moment of writing, the Steering Committee has been notified of the election of 259 delegates to the Diocesan Convention. If we add to these the 50 members of the drafting commissions (who are automatically delegates), we arrive at the figure of 309 delegates named so far, out of a total of 420. Of the 111 still to be named, thirty-six will be appointed by the Bishop. But these cannot be appointed until the outstanding 75 names have been sent in to the Steering Committee. We would appeal therefore to the Presidents of Parish Councils (or their equivalents) to elect their delegates without further delay. Some parish councils have already held elections but have neglected to notify the Steering Committee of the results. We would appeal also to these to send in the names of those elected as soon as possible.

Of the 87 delegates so far elected by the parish councils, 56 are men and 31 are women. The youngest is aged 18 and the oldest 75. The age of the majority falls between 25 and 35. It has been impossible to work out the average age of the delegates as many of those elected apparently declined to disclose their ages. Or perhaps the presidents of some parish councils were too gallant to enquire! One president got round the difficulty by giving "about 30", "about 50" as the ages of the delegates elected by his council.

It had been hoped that all 10 documents, over which the drafting commissions have been labouring during the last six or seven months, would have been ready by Christmas. However this hope proves to have been rather over-optimistic. So far we have received English versions of 4 documents: Communications Media, Religious, Ecumenism and Priestly Life (to list them in the order of

their appearance); and Chinese versions of Communications Media and Religious. The first of these documents will be printed in the course of the next few days and will be sent to the delegates as soon as possible. In the past few weeks we have learned the hard way that printing is a slow, a very slow, process! We confidently expected to have had all 10 documents printed by the end of January at the latest. But it looks now as if we will have to revise our estimate very considerably.

As already announced, the 420 delegates will be divided into 10 working groups, each of which will have the task of making an especially thorough study of one of the draft documents. We asked delegates to indicate the 3 topics they were more interested in order to facilitate the task of assigning them to one or other working group. Many of the delegates have done so and we are most grateful to them for their co-operation. Topics such as liturgy, religious instruction and education have, predictably enough, proved the most popular. On the other hand very few delegates included among their first three preferences ecumenism, communications media or government of diocese. (It is particularly disappointing to note that not a single priest-delegate put down ecumenism as his first choice; the only three who did mention it, put it down as their third choice).

As working groups would be inefficient if they comprised more than 70 members or less than 25, a number of delegates will inevitably have to be assigned to working groups they have not chosen. All however will have to vote on each of the 10 documents eventually; hence no delegate can afford to neglect the careful study of any of them.