

Heartfelt Welcome to Bishop John Wu from a Layman

ON July 25, Bishop-elect John Baptist Wu will be ordained bishop and will be formally installed as the Bishop of Hong Kong. As a member of the People of God of Hong Kong, I want to express from the bottom of my heart my fervent welcome.

Before June 30 I had only heard of the name of Father Wu; I had never met him, much less spoken with him. However, unexpectedly on June 30, at a reception on the anniversary of the coronation of the Holy Father, at the Apostolic Nunciature in Taipei, where there were gathered together Cardinals, Archbishops and bishops of the Bishops' Conference, I met the future bishop of Hong Kong, Bishop John Wu.

During the short time that I was with him I came to appreciate his charm and courtesy, and his spirit, which obviously came from the depths of his heart. During my travel of two weeks in Taiwan, I had opportunities of speaking with members of the hierarchy and with others who know Bishop Wu well. From these encounters I am able to form an ever deeper impression of Bishop Wu. He is truly a very humble man, gentle and peaceful. Along

with this humility however, there is real strength and determination. At the reception mentioned above, he did not "circulate" to attract attention to himself; neither did he keep aloof as if unapproachable. He said suitable words of gratitude to those present who took the opportunity to offer him good wishes; but did not lose his sense of balance. Being humble,

he remained firm and resolute. He has a strong sense of humour. His wit shows itself in his speech. Before the reception came to an end all were laughing at some witty remarks Bishop Wu had made. He was full of life and vigour. Bishop Wu is an earnest man. His earnestness comes from his innermost heart, and is expressed in the very way in which

he shakes hands. It is also shown in his frank and direct glance. He does not flatter; whatever he says is said with sincerity and openness. This quality of being sincere and open comes from the daily living of the Gospel spirit and from the fact that his life is steeped in ancient Chinese culture. Bishop Wu is very learned. He is concerned with and at-

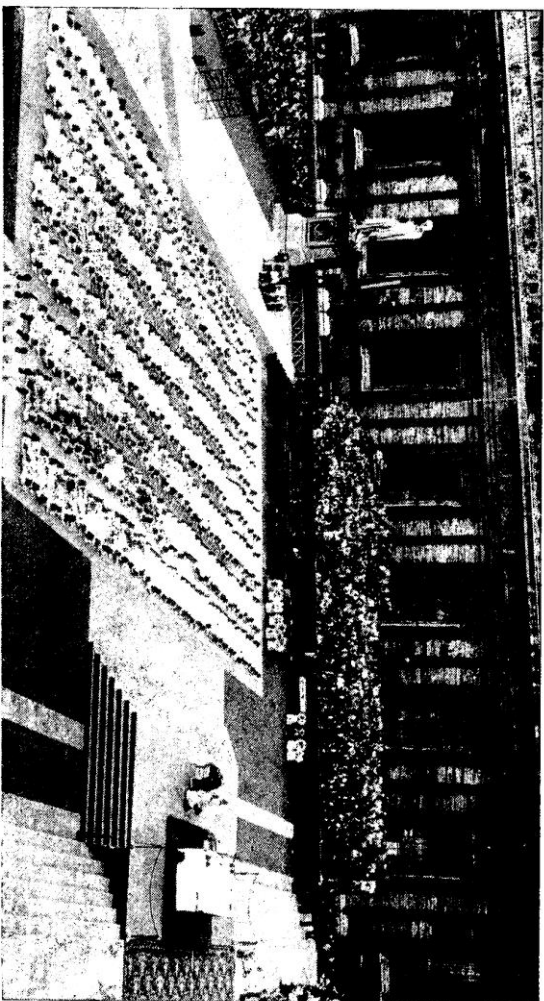
tentive to every aspect of the Church and he is in touch with all the different trends of thoughts current after Vatican Council II. The little that he spoke at the reception indicated he is very much aware of all that is going on inside the Church and outside. For that reason the motto he chooses for his coat of arms is "In Truth and In Love" (veritatem in caritate). No other Chinese bishop had ever chosen this theme for his motto during the long history of the Church of China.

According to Bishop Chang V.G., of Hsinchu, Taiwan, although Bishop Wu has been living in a remote county place, Miaoli, his bookshelves are filled with the most recent books on current topics and thoughts.

Finally Bishop Wu has the charisma for uniting people. It is said that the very close union and cooperation achieved between the native and the foreign clergy in Hsinchu, is largely due to this very special charisma of Bishop Wu.

Therefore it is from the bottom of my heart that I welcome Bishop Wu as our leader and guide "in truth and in love".

Andrew Lin



Ordination by the Pope in St. Peter's Square (Earlier pictures showed only some of the candidates).