

Impressive Ceremony at the Cathedral: Twelve Chinese Candidates Received Holy Orders

Last Sunday, July 6, twelve young men received the Sacrament of Holy Orders and became priests of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. The two hour long ceremony unfolded before a packed congregation. Archbishop Anthony Riberi, Apostolic Internuncio to China officiated. Present in the sanctuary was recently expelled Bishop Adolph Paschang of Kongmoon, Very Rev. Anthony Riganti, Vicar General of Hong Kong, and representative priests of many different Religious orders.

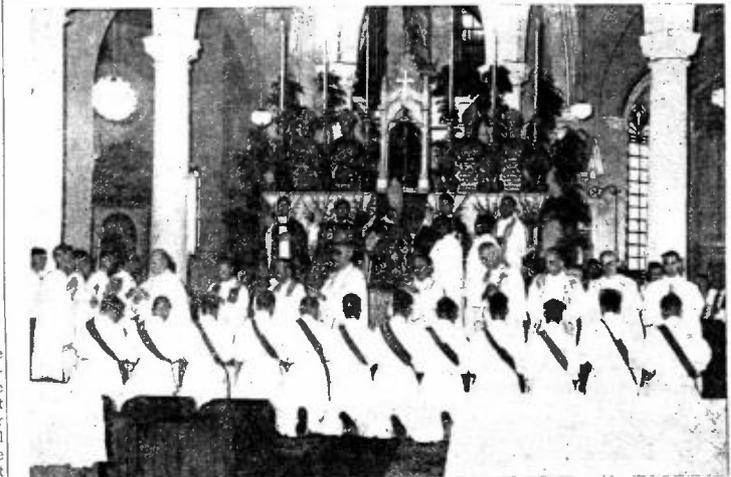
The newly ordained priests were Reverend Fathers Joseph Mak, Peter Lei, and Vincent Lau all of Hong Kong Diocese; Augustine Pan, from Djakarta Indonesia; John Wu, Longinus Yang, Simon Pai, Paul Yang, Joachim Paan, Joseph Fu, John Lee, and Thomas Lau. The last named eight candidates are natives of various parts of China and Manchuria.

The Choir from the Aberdeen Regional Seminary sang the "Veni Creator Spiritus" and the litany of the Saints during the prostration of the candidates.

According to the liturgy Archbishop Riberi addressed the ordinands as follows: "Dearly beloved sons, as you are now about to be consecrated to the office of the Priesthood, endeavor to receive it worthily, and when you have received it, to fulfill its duties blamelessly. The Priest is ordained to offer sacrifice, to bless, to guide, to preach, to baptize. With great awe then should one advance to so high a state and care must be taken that they who are chosen should be commended for their unworldly wisdom, their blameless life, and their persevering practice of virtue. . . . "Strive then to be such as may rightly be chosen by God's grace to assist Moses, and the twelve apostles, that is, the Catholic Bishops who are represented by Moses and the apostles. For, indeed, Holy Church is served, adorned, and governed by an admirable variety of ministers; first the Bishops, under them the Priests, then the Deacons, and Sub-deacons, each consecrated in his own degree, and all these members, though

differing in dignity, forming one body of Christ. Wherefore dearly beloved sons, whom the voice of our brethren has chosen that you may be consecrated as our helpers, let your conduct at all times be the outcome of a chaste and holy life. Consider what you do, imitate that which you handle; and as you celebrate the mysteries of the Lord's death, be earnest in ridding your members by mortification of all vices and lusts. Let your teaching be a spiritual remedy for God's people let the fragrance of your lives be a delight to the Church of God, that by both preaching and example you may build up the house — that is, the family of God, so that neither we may deserve to be condemned of the Lord for promoting you to so sublime an office, nor you for taking it upon yourself, but rather that He may reward us all. May He of His grace grant us this. Amen."

After the Ordination Mass, a reception was held for relatives of the newly ordained priests in the Nam Wah School. Later a tiffin reception was given in honour of the new priests at the mission house when the Vicar General, the Very Rev. Father



The twelve candidates for the priesthood receiving the imposition of hands from priests of many different religious families and nationalities, in the Cathedral last Sunday.

Anthony Riganti congratulated the new priests and wished them every blessing in their apostolic careers.

The new priests have received their education at the Regional Seminary in Aberdeen under the Irish Jesuit Fathers. The Seminary owes its origin to the zeal of Archbishop Constantini who was Apostolic Delegate in China from 1922 to 1933. It was he who chose the site, enlisted the services of the distinguished Benedictine architect, Dom Dresnigt, and obtained the funds necessary to build it from the Society of St. Peter Apostle, Rome.

Since 1931 when the Seminary was opened, well over a hundred of its students have been ordained priests. During the war years in the Far East, 1941 to 1945 no students were received. In the beginning of the year 1949, there were only about 30 students in the Seminary. By June of the

same year there were 120. This abnormal and sudden increase was due to the influx of the Seminarians fleeing before the advance of the Red armies. They came from Manchuria, Shantung, Peiping, Shanghai, Hankow and many other centres. Now many of these students have finished their studies and returned to their Dioceses as priests. They went knowing clearly what kind of life awaited them. A life of suffering and danger.

The Church in China today is suffering one of the greatest persecutions in its history. Over 2,000 foreign missionaries have been expelled during the last one and a half years. At least 220 of the 2,200 Chinese priests in the country have been gaoled for their loyalty to the Church. On the shoulders of these new priests will rest the immense responsibility of helping to preserve the faith for the Chinese people.