



PRIESTLY ORDINATION AT THE CATHEDRAL



Faithful from Macau and Hong Kong flock to ceremony

It was standing room only at the Sé Cathedral on the 11th of July, as Bishop José Lai officiated in the ordination of Deacon Cyril Law. More than 200 faithful from Hong Kong, led by Cardinal Joseph Zen and accompanied by priests and deacons, also attended the ceremony. Around seventy priests concelebrated with Bishop Lai and Cardinal Zen.

During the homily, which is part of the ordination rite, Bishop Lai spoke

about the nature of the priesthood, about how the work of Christ the teacher, priest and shepherd continues through the ministerial priesthood. Priests are to be co-workers with the bishop, joined with him in the task of exercising the priestly office in service to the People of God. Those to be ordained are to model their lives on the Good Shepherd "who came not to be served but to serve, and to seek out and save what was lost."

At the end of the Mass, the newly-ordained priest, speaking in Cantonese, English, Portuguese, and Mandarin, thanked all those who had helped him in his path to the priesthood.

At 11:00 in the morning of the next day, Father Cyril Law celebrated his first Mass at St Lawrence Church. In the afternoon at 4:30, he presided over Vespers in Latin and the Exposition and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament at the St Joseph Seminary.

HONG KONG

Pope names three new auxiliary bishops

(Vatican Information Service & Sunday Examiner) – THE HOLY FATHER has appointed Fr. Michael Yeung Ming-cheung, Fr. Stephen Lee Bun Sang, and Fr. Joseph Ha Chi-shing, O.F.M.,

as auxiliaries of the Diocese of Hong Kong (area 1,104 sq. km, population 7,071,600, Catholics 547,000, priests 311, permanent deacons 18, religious 815), China.

An auxiliary bishop is appointed by the Holy Father at the request of the Ordinary to assist him in the governance of the diocese and take his place if he is absent or impeded. A

coadjutor bishop is like an auxiliary bishop except that he has the right of succession.

SINGAPORE

Archbishop William Goh: Homosexuals are called to chastity, as are all faithful

THE ARCHBISHOP of Singapore, Msgr. William Goh, explained in a pastoral letter, last March, Church's position on homosexuality. He said that attraction between people of the same sex is not in itself sinful. What the Church teaches as immoral is any act outside of a valid marriage between man and woman.

The prelate was addressing the reaction of some of the faithful who accused the Church, of lack of compassion by not approving homosexuality.

Asia News reports that "the issue of homosexuality has dominated public discourse in the city-state and, in recent days, there were two different events in opposition to each other: one was the sixth edition of 'Pink Dot', a sort of local gay pride that drew thousands of people."

"In response to the gay pride," the report continues, "the Muslim leader Ustaz Noor Deros promoted the 'Dress in White' movement, inviting the faithful of Mohammad to boycott the 'pink' event. This initiative was also supported by members of the local Protestant Christian community, including the Baptists and churches belonging to the Love Singapore network."

Here is the full text of the Archbishop's message:

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Some of you may have heard or read about the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on Sexuality posted on the Health Promotion Board (HPB) website.

I want to assure you that our non-public engagement of the opposing groups on this issue is by no means evidence of our flight from our Christian calling to speak the truth and to defend the cause of the family and hence, of society and the future of humanity. My Consultors and I have chosen to take the path of constructive dialogue with the authorities, so as not to inflame the situation further and risk polarizing society. As in all politically and socially sensitive issues, we believe that the best way forward is for all to calmly and purposefully engage in constructive dialogue in a spirit of patient understanding, mutual respect and compassion, always working towards the promotion of justice and dignity of the individual and for the greater good of society.

Accordingly, we have shared the Church's concerns with the authorities and they have assured us that the government has not changed its position on the family (comprising heterosexual couples with children) as the indispensable, basic building block of society. As Church, we will continue to engage and work with the relevant authori-



ties to ensure that the marriage institution and family values are upheld so that our children can be formed in an environment that is holistic, nurturing, caring and loving. We also need to ensure that society does not become too individualistic in pursuing their needs at the expense of the greater good of

society. Because the future of Singapore society and humanity at large passes by way of the family, every Catholic should endeavor to save and foster the values and requirements of the family. This call is urgent and important because if the family is destroyed, then our society would become fragmented.

That said, I am also aware that some of our faithful are confused and are struggling to come to terms with their own sexuality, or that of their loved ones. I wish to take this opportunity to assure you that the Church feels with you and views every individual as unique and precious in the eyes of God, regardless of his/her sexual inclination or state of life. However, the Church's position on the matter of LGBT relationships has always been consistent; that sexual activity outside of a heterosexual relationship is not in accordance with the laws of creation because such acts are not open to new life. It is in this spirit of compassion that I am exploring the setting up of support groups to assist those who are struggling with same sex attraction and their loved ones who have difficulty accepting them.

Finally, I urge you, my dear faithful, to continue to pray with me for all those who are confused, fearful and struggling with their sexuality, that the Lord will guide, protect and strengthen them, especially in their most vulnerable moments and bring them healing and peace of mind. May the Lord, who created all things and proclaimed that 'it is good', renew the face of the earth. ☩

Archbishop William Goh

May he rest in peace

AS THE DIOCESE was celebrating the ordination of a new priest, another priest who had served the Diocese for many years passed away in Portugal. Fr Albino Pais, director of *O Clarim* for 28 years, passed away on July 11, the feast of St Benedict of Nursia, one of the patrons

of Europe. He was 73, having served for 61 years with the Society of St Paul. He was ordained priest in 1967.

In 1985, he was invited to be the director of *O Clarim*. His superiors entrusted him with the mission of "building a bridge for the return of the Paulines to

the great Chinese nation" which Fr Albino gladly "received in a spirit of faith."

In 2009, he had a vehicular accident which left him in coma for some time. After the accident, a brain tumor which had been undetected until then, started to aggravate. He went back to Portugal

to receive appropriate medical treatment and also to be close to his next of kin.

Fr Albino's confreres remember him as a jovial and sociable person. The Society of St Paul, which celebrates its 100th year this year, requests all the faithful to offer prayers for the eternal repose of Fr Albino. ☩

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Rebels attack Bambari's Cathedral, leaving at least 20 people dead, dozens injured

(Rome Reports) - A GROUP of armed men reportedly attacked dozens of refugees housed in the Saint Joseph Cathedral in the city of Bambari.

Despite conflicting reports, it is estimated that about 20 people died in the attack and about 25 were injured in the Central African Republic.

Bishop Eduard Mathos, believes the Monday attack was carried out by a coalition of Muslim Séléka rebels.

Despite the presence of the United Nations and the French army, violence has continued in the city.

Lawrence D. Wohlers, Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN, said that "The population, Muslim and Christian, which has lived together in perfect harmony for years, feel caught between the Séléka on the one hand and the Anti-balaka forces on the other, and this is actually beginning to divide the population."

The rebels opened fire against the group of refugees,



hoping to target members of a rival group, known as Anti-balaka. Both groups had allegedly engaged in fighting near the site.

The Séléka is a mostly Muslim rebel coalition that overthrew the government of President François Bozizé (a Christian) in March 2013. The leader of the Séléka, Michel Djotodia, took over as the first Muslim president of the country. Djotodia tried to dissolve the Séléka in September 2013, but most of the militia refused to disband.

The Anti-balaka ("anti-machete" or "anti-sword") are militia of Christians and animists originally formed in the 1990s as village self-defense forces.

On July 1st, the Bishop requested humanitarian aid to deal with the region's instability.

The rising violence has forced thousands of people to flee their homes in the last month. It is estimated that about 12,000 sought refuge in the Cathedral. ■

Pope names three new...

► FROM PAGE 1

Bishop-elect Yeung Ming-cheung was born in Shanghai, China in 1945 and was ordained a priest in 1978. He holds masters degrees in social communications from the Syracuse University, U.S.A., and philosophy of education from Harvard University, U.S.A., and has served in a number of pastoral and administrative roles, including parish vicar of Ha Kwai Chung district, New Territories; Director of the diocesan office of social communications; director of the diocesan office for education and schools; Director of Caritas Hong Kong, and Vicar General of Hong Kong. He is currently a member of the Pontifical Council "*Cor Unum*".

Father Yeung has been one of the three vicars general of the diocese since April 2009, along with Father Dominic Chan Chi-ming, who Cardinal Tong announced will retain

his position, and Father Pierre Lam Minh, who will be relieved of his duties as he is taking sabbatical leave. Bishop-elect, Stephen Lee Bun Sang was born in Hong Kong, China in 1956 and was ordained a priest in 1988. He holds a degree in architecture from the London School of Architecture and a doctorate in canon law from the University of Navarre, Spain. He has served in a number of pastoral and administrative roles, including director of the Tak Sun school in Tsim Sha Tsui, and is currently defender of the bond at the diocesan tribunal of Hong Kong and vicar of Opus Dei for East Asia.

Father Lee said that he was surprised when asked to take on the position of bishop, as up until now his whole life as a priest has had quite a different focus. Bishop-elect, Fr. Joseph Ha Chishing, O.F.M., was born in Hong Kong, China in 1959 and was ordained a priest in 1990. He holds

a licentiate in spiritual theology and Franciscan culture from the Pontifical University Antonianum, Rome, and has held a number of pastoral and administrative roles, including priest of the "St. Bonaventure" and "Our Lady of the Angels" parishes in Kowloon; lecturer in spiritual theology in the seminary of Hong Kong; Consultor of the Commission for the Church in China; and Regional Superior of the Order of Friars Minor for Hong Kong. He is currently parish vicar of the Church of St. Bonaventure in Hong Kong.

Father Ha said that it is not a normal thing for a Franciscan to become a bishop, as the spirit of the order is to take a low key presence in the world and not to seek prominence in society.

It is anticipated that the three bishops-elect will be ordained in Hong Kong in either late August or some time in September, but a date has yet to be set. ■

FOR RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE
AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

Pope convokes soccer all-stars for 'inter-religious' match in Rome

THE BIGGEST names in the world of soccer will meet at Rome's Olympic Stadium in September for an "inter-religious match for peace." The idea is part of Pope Francis' *Scholas Occurrentes* project. He tasked former Argentine captain Javier Zanetti with coordinating the event.

It will take place on September 1, at the home turf of Rome's major soccer teams, not far from Vatican. Zanetti will not only coordinate, but take part in the match, along with superstars; Messi, France's Zinedine Zidane, Italy's Gianluigi Buffon and Francesco

Totti, among others.

The purpose of the event is to foster dialogue and promote peaceful coexistence between religions, Zanetti explained. The Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences is co-organizing the event, although it's unclear yet, whether Pope Francis will attend.

Last year, both Messi and Buffon took the field at the Olympic Stadium for a match in honor of Pope Francis. Argentina came out on top, 2-1. The Pope has constantly praised soccer's ability to bring people together and build relationships. ■

SUNDAY JULY 20, 2014 - 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

There is plenty of wheat in our world

Wis 12:13,16-19; Rom 8:26-27;
Mt 13:24-43

WE ARE very much aware about the presence of weeds in our world. Mass media keep on reminding us about violence, hatred and so many other signs of weeds that grow in our society. So, when we read today's gospel, what immediately come to our minds are the weeds, and it is easy to identify the weeds with concrete people. Even in our family it is easy to find the black sheep. What we forget are the positive signs.

Even though pessimism overwhelms us often, the parable tells us, first of all, that there is a lot of wheat sown. So much that it is worth to wait until the time of harvest to remove the weeds. There are plenty of good seeds sown by the Son of Man, as Jesus himself says in the explanation of the parable. That good seed is growing in our world. There are those who want to see only the weeds growing in the field, but the truth is that the good seed, the wheat is much more. Had there been only weeds, the owner of the field would have asked to remove everything. There



would be no reason to wait for the harvest.

Jesus is telling us something similar in the parable of the yeast. Just a bit of yeast is enough to leaven the mass, even though some think, it is impossible. To those who think that the rotten

apple will spoil the rest, Jesus—always revolutionary—says that the good apple will be enough to transform the rest.

The first reading confirms the above. Our God is omnipotent and that is why he governs us with overindulgence. His power

is manifested in his capacity to forgive and give life. Or, as the second reading states, the Spirit comes to help us in our weakness and expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words. The power of God is on our side, it is on the side of life

and goodness and will not allow the weeds to triumph.

This Sunday's readings bring us a message full of life and hope. In our society, in our family, in each one of us, there is much more wheat than weeds. There is much more positive than negative. Even more, no one is definitively condemned. Our God waits for each one until harvest time. It will be then— at the final moment of purification— that He will retain all that is wheat in us and free us from all the weight of weeds. The Holy Spirit helps us in this venture.

For reflection

- Are you drawn by pessimism looking at the reality of our world, our society, your family or your own self?
- Follow Jesus' advice: What signs of goodness, of hope, do you see in yourself and on the people around you?
- What could you do to make the presence of the wheat more visible—since it is more abundant—and weeds less visible? ■

Fr. Fernando Torres, CMF
CLARETIAN PUBLICATIONS

MASS SCHEDULE IN MACAU

SATURDAY (Anticipated Mass)

5:30 PM – St Francis Xavier (Mong Ha)

6:30 PM – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Taipa)

SUNDAY

10:00 AM – St Francis Xavier (Coloane)

10:00 AM – Our Lady of Mt Carmel (Taipa)

11:15 AM – Salesian Institute

12:00 NN – Our Lady of Fatima

4:30 PM – St Augustine

5:30 PM – St Joseph the Worker

6:00 PM – Cathedral

TAGALOG MASS

10:30 AM – St Augustine

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WHAT ARE PRIESTS FOR?

Offerers of sacrifice

WHAT IS A PRIEST? What is our task? What is our role?

The Letter to the Hebrews offers us a summary. "For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this, he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was." (Hebrews 5:1-4)

"Chosen from among men ... he himself is beset with weakness." There were only two people in the world who were immune from sin: Jesus and Mary. Everyone else, all of us, are vulnerable. We can fail. We can fall. In the older version of the missal, the priest prayed, "look not on *my* sins, but on the faith of your Church." This is why Jesus gave us the means by which we could rise again, not with our own strength, but with his. "I can do all things in him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) This is why he instituted the Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation and – in Benedict XVI's words – the "Sacrament of the Reconciled" (the Eucharist). Ordination does not make us supermen. But it should make us super humble.

Early this year, Pope Francis said, "The bishop who does not pray, the bishop who does not listen to the Word of God, who does not celebrate every day, who does not regularly confess – and the same is true for the priest who does not do these things – in the long run lose their union with Jesus and become so mediocre that they do not benefit the Church. That is why we must help bishops and priests to pray, to listen to the Word of God which is one's daily nourishment, to celebrate the Eucharist each day and to confess regularly."

"Appointed ... called by God." In spite of ourselves, God has looked at us. "*Miserando atque eligendo*," goes Pope Francis' motto: God takes pity and then chooses us. How stubborn God's love is. How deep his mercy. "How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!" (Romans 11:33)

"To offer gifts and sacrifices for sins ... for his own sins as well." Jesus told his apostles, "Do this in memory of me." This is a command to offer Jesus in sacrifice. But, in a secondary way, it is also an invitation to imitate his self-immolation. The most precious gift that we can offer someone is our own selves. Christ is both Priest and Victim. And so are all those whom he has invited to share in his priesthood.



Benedict XVI said of St John Paul II on the first anniversary of the latter's death, "Among the invocations dear to him was one that comes from the Litany of Jesus Christ Priest and Victim that he chose to place at the end of his book, *Gift and Mystery* ... 'Jesus, High Priest who gave yourself to God as offering and victim, have mercy on us.'"

"How frequently did he repeat this invocation! It expresses clearly the profoundly priestly character of his whole

life. He never made a mystery of his desire to become increasingly one with Christ the Priest through the Eucharistic Sacrifice, a source of tireless apostolic dedication."

This applies not only to priests who share in Christ's ministerial priesthood (obtained through Holy Orders), but to all who share in his common priesthood (obtained through Baptism). "Through baptism all of us have been made priests of our own lives," wrote St Josemaría.

Already in the 5th century St Peter Chrysologus (406-450 AD) spoke about this. "How marvelous is the priesthood of the Christian, for he is both the victim that is offered on his own behalf, and the priest who makes the offering. He does not need to go beyond himself to seek what he is to immolate to God: with himself and in himself he brings the sacrifice he is to offer God for himself.... Truly it is an amazing sacrifice in which a body is offered without being slain and blood is offered without being shed."

Pius XII, in *Mediator Dei*, taught, "If the oblation whereby the faithful in this Sacrifice offer the divine Victim to the heavenly Father is to produce its full effect ... they must also offer themselves as victim, desiring intensely to make themselves as like as possible to Jesus Christ who suffered so much, and offering themselves as a spiritual victim with and through the High Priest himself."

"Deal gently with the ignorant and wayward." Pope Francis asks us to go to the "peripheries", to seek out the lost sheep for whom we are instruments of God's forgiveness in confession.

In his first Holy Thursday *Letter to Priests*, John Paul II wrote, "Dear Brothers: you who have borne 'the burden of the day and the heat' (Matthew 20:12), who have put your hand to the plow and do not turn back (cf. Luke 9:62), and perhaps even more those of you who are doubtful of the meaning of your service: think of the places where people anxiously await a Priest, and where for many years; feeling the lack of such a Priest, they do not cease to hope for his presence. And sometimes it happens that they meet in an abandoned shrine, and place on the altar a stole which they still keep, and recite all the prayers of the Eucharistic liturgy; and then, at the moment that corresponds to the transubstantiation a deep silence comes down upon them, a silence sometimes broken by a sob... so ardently do they desire to hear the words that only the lips of a Priest can efficaciously utter. So much do they desire Eucharistic Communion, in which they can share only through the ministry of a priest, just as they also so eagerly wait to hear the divine words of pardon: *Ego te absolvo a peccatis tuis!* (I absolve you from your sins.) So deeply do they feel the absence of a Priest among them!... Such places are not lacking in the world. So if one of you doubts the meaning of his priesthood, if he thinks it is 'socially' fruitless or useless, reflect on this!" ■