

Wednesday Evening, 11th October 1959

My dear Sing-Hong:

Forgive my writing in English - a sick man's poor excuse. I was delighted to receive yours written on the eve of the Feast of St Michael and All Angels and was much moved by your remembrance of me and the Sixteenth anniversary of my consecration. At six o'clock early in the morning of 29th September I celebrated the Holy Eucharist in my room, the only other person present being Mrs Chang. Here in Foochow the only other person who kept this feast day and offered the Holy Sacrifice on my behalf was the Reverend Pang Heng Ong who gathered round him a group of the faithful in All Saints' Church in the city that same morning about six o'clock. The rest of our fellow workers simply

forgot. So you can understand how deeply touched I was to hear that you so far away remembered me on this Feast day. As I looked back on the sixteen years of my Episcopate how many failures, sins of commission & omission loomed up before me and I could only cast myself in utter penitence on the manifold mercies of the Saviour of the world who by His Cross and Passion had redeemed even me.

It was very wonderful that you should still remember your Confirmation so many years ago. I still have a photo of the twelve people confirmed in the Parish Church here on that occasion. Of those twelve, three are now serving Holy Church, two as priests and one as my personal secretary & General Secretary of the Diocese. It was a most meaningful service to me as it was to you.

I am still on the sick list, keeping to my rooms upstairs, practically never going out. The Diocese is being administered by our two Bishops assisted by the Diocesan General Secretary.

We had a glorious celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of our People's Republic. There is a wonderful spirit abroad throughout the length and breadth of our vast Patrialand. And the Church is taking its place in the New China.

I am very much interested in your being appointed to a rural church - and I am so glad you like this kind of work. You are learning early to avoid worldly ambitions and the seeking of so called preferments. I do thank the dear Lord for this, and I pray that He will always keep you amongst the holy and humble men of heart. True shepherding is the only thing that counts. I am always trying to rub this in with my fellow workers, how successfully I do not know.

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As you know with one or two exceptions all the clergy & catechists in this diocese are old pupils of mine and I feel that a special tie binds them to me. And most of our women catechists too. As for the faithful in this diocese, they are indeed very dear to me, and somehow I mean a good deal to them too.

Thank you so much for the gift you sent some time ago. & for all your loving remembrance. Please remember me to your father & your step mother - though now on the shelf, I trust your father is on a pleasant shelf and in the words of the Psalmist still bringing "forth more fruit in old age"

Please give my very special blessing to your two fellow workers and to all your beloved flock.

Every blessing on you and on your work.

Affectionately Yours Rev. Fr. X. P. P.

+ Michael