

## CHINESE SISTERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

# New look orphanage

## MODERN COTTAGES FOR CHILDREN

(By JILL DOGGETT)

The Fanling Orphanage of the Chinese Sisters of the Precious Blood is to have a new look. Instead of an institutional-style building they are to have 10 modern stone cottages where 12 children and house-mother will live together in each as a family unit. The aim is for them to grow up in a happy home-like atmosphere.

To raise funds for this project, a bazaar is being held today at the Tak Ching Girls' Middle School in Shamshuipo where Archbishop J. Caprio, Apostolic Internuncio to China, will preside and open the charity function to benefit the Orphanage Fund.

The Chinese Sisters of the Precious Blood are the Hong-kong Diocesan Religious Congregation, established in 1922 and now numbering 96 Sisters.

### Five schools

They have five schools in various parts of the Colony, a clinic in Fanling, Precious Blood Hospital in Shamshuipo, with a Babies' Home in the same area and the Fanling Orphanage where 75 girls between the ages of six to 16 are sheltered.

Young girls taken to the Sisters for care are at present housed in a two-storey building with schoolrooms, dining rooms and kitchen on the ground floor and dormitories above. The majority of the children are foundlings and some are referred by the Government Social Welfare Department or the Police.

With the reputation of never refusing a child in need, the Sisters look after the abandoned and orphanag-

ed girls with loving, motherly concern.

The cost of the Cottage home project is estimated to be about \$400,000 and the Sisters still need half of the total. Government is providing an annual subvention of \$30,000 for running expenses and furniture and some equipment. Caritas, Hongkong, has paid for the electrical installation and food and clothes are being provided by the Catholic Relief Services.

### Trained nurse

Watching the construction side of the work is the Rev Fr Ambrose Poletti, as "building foreman" and general overseer. Of the four Sisters at the Orphanage, one is a trained nurse and the St Joseph's Free Clinic at Fanling is always busy.

When the cottages are ready for occupation, the old dormitories will be converted into a vocational training school where each of the girls will be equipped to earn a living after reaching the age of 16 years if she has not already started an academic career or special vocation. Some will stay on longer until situations are found and the girls feel secure to look after themselves.