

FROM THE EDITOR . . .



The year of the Rooster has just begun. For thousands of years we Chinese, observing the Rooster's external appearance and actions, have said that he has the "five virtues": literary and military ability; courage; charity; faithfulness. The crown on the Rooster's head shows his literary powers, his spread-out feet his military prowess. He is always ready to guard against the enemy at the door, and so he is brave. He calls out to others as soon as he finds food, and so he is charitable. He watches through the night without rest, and thus he is faithful.

Through this periodical we especially hope to imitate the charity of the Rooster. The flock of chickens scratches the earth for food. When they find it, they call out to their companions to come and enjoy the food with them. In the same way, we are "scratching" and searching among the various questions about contemporary China. When we find some material on religion and ethics, we hope to be able to proclaim it aloud, and share and reflect upon it with our brothers and sisters.

Besides introducing our Centre's newsclipping and classification system, this issue contains five articles. "Moslems in a Marxist China: An Uneasy Balance" is a rich and interesting article. It presents to us a good mirror with which to study and

reflect on Christianity in our motherland. "The Fourth Centenary of Matteo Ricci's Arrival in China" not only enables us to call to mind our history, but also can contribute to the present-day dialogue between the Chinese and Western cultures. Moreover, in our time of many and various kinds of trips to China, it reminds us that if the opportunity arises, we can pay our respects at the grave of this great personage in Church history.

1980 has seen the first issue of the new publication "*Catholic Church in China*" and resumption of the publication of "*Tian Feng*". This signals the opening of a new page in the account of the Church in China, and also indicates a greater freedom of religion in the motherland. Besides congratulating these publications, the Centre Staff have attempted, in two separate articles, to introduce as well as recommend them to our readers.

The article "Book Review: *The General History Of Christianity* - by Yang Zhen" was written by a French scholar. To read such a long book in Chinese, then introduce it to readers in this concise form, was a very time-consuming task. You will find this summary worth reading. The English translation will appear in the first issue of 1981 of "*Ching Feng*", so is not repeated here.

This issue is going to press on the day after Pope John Paul II gave his address to the Chinese Christians during his visit to Philippines. The whole text of his speech is simple, significant and full of affectionate concern. It expresses his great esteem for our motherland for its agelong and rich culture and for the progress of today's modernizations. This issue respectfully selects some of the important passages in the speech in order to echo his appeal for reconciliation.

Since the first issue of our periodical appeared, we have received encouragement and support from many quarters. We are indeed grateful for this.