



## FROM THE EDITOR



The Techny meeting of the Catholics in America Concerned with China, held last December, offered us a golden opportunity to build an issue of Tripod around a subject that we have wanted to sink our teeth into for some time now. Departing from its usual format of information exchange, CACC decided to dedicate a full day of theological study to the theme of the Local Church. Even those with just a passing knowledge of China will recognize this as a major issue confronting the church there. Our own Sister Goretti Lau was invited to give one of the two presentations during the colloquium. She also prevailed upon Father John Linnan who gave the other address to allow us to print in full his paper on the Theology of the Local Church. We are most grateful.

Sister Goretti's paper on the Challenge of China follows Father Linnan's here as it did at Techny. Sister has long been quite at home in the area of Asian Local Churches and their rapidly developing theologies. At Techny, she brought some of that expertise to a Western audience in an effort to assist them in their theological reflections on the Chinese church. Sister's talk is remarkable for its expression of Christian faith in the future of the Church in China, a spirit that she was able to pass on to the Techny delegates.

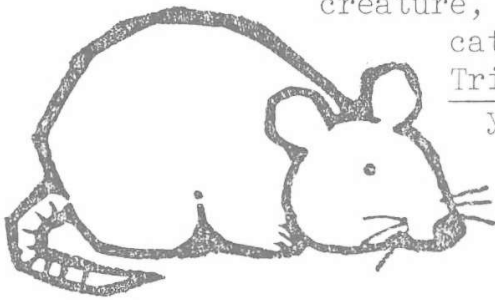
For more of what happened at the CACC meeting, we refer you to Sister Mary Lou Martin's report from Techny. Sister Mary Lou, one of our associate members, is presently on work - leave at the Maryknoll Sisters Center in Ossining, New York.

Because we found it lucid, positive and relevant to our theme, we decided to reprint an abridgment of the talk given by John Cardinal Dearden, former Archbishop of Detroit, to the United States Bishops Conference held in Collegeville, Minnesota in June of 1982. We are sure our readers will agree that the Cardinal's words add much light and clarity to the key role pastor's play in the growing self-awareness of

local churches.

Our final offering is from Peter Barry who, perhaps nostalgic for his own seminary days, thought you might be interested in hearing what its like to resume seminary education after a thirty-year pause. Peter's work is taken from the first-year report of Father Louis Jin Luxian, rector of the newly opened seminary in Sheshan, which appeared in the most recent issue of The Catholic Church in China.

As we go to press, the Year of the Rat has just put in an appearance. Since the Rat is known to be a most industrious little creature, we are including in this issue our general catalogue of articles that have appeared in Tripod from numbers one through eighteen, so that you can start nibbling away at anything you might have missed in the past. We here at the Centre wish you all a prosperous and happy New Year.



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\* *PUBLICATION NOTICE* \*  
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The first Chinese history of the Catholic Church in Hong Kong ( 香港天主教掌故 ) has just been published by the Holy Spirit Study Centre in conjunction with the Extramural Studies Office. Documenting the history of the Catholic Church in Hong Kong from its beginning in the 1840's to the present day, this 320-page paperback should prove to be a useful tool for researchers as well as providing interesting reading for the non-specialist. Priced at HK\$30.00 per copy with a 10% discount for the purchase of ten or more, the history can be ordered from the Holy Spirit Study Centre or the Extramural Studies Office, 6, Welfare Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong (Tel. 5-530141). For overseas orders: sea mail - US\$4.50; air mail - US\$6.50. Cheques or postal money orders are to be made out to "Holy Spirit Study Centre".