

# FROM THE EDITOR



We have chosen for our theme this month patriotism, and we have invited several people with a particular interest in or who have made a special study of this highly relevant and controversial subject to share their insights with us.

Our lead article, "The Meaning of Patriotism: A Biblical Perspective", is by Father Mark Fang, Rector of the Theological Faculty at Fu Jen University, Taiwan. Father Fang is a noted biblical scholar. Here he explores the biblical concepts of veneration of ancestors, deep longing for the homeland and the virtue of patriotism in order to bring us to a clearer understanding of the Christian responsibility for loving one's country.

Father Jean Charbonnier, Doctor of Religious Science and Oriental Studies, is no stranger to TRIPOD readers. Writing from his post as Director of the China Catholic Communication Centre in Singapore, he comments on China's recent campaign to nourish in its citizens "A Patriotism of Three Loves": love of the fatherland, love of socialism and love of communism. Father Charbonnier writes from a theological perspective formed by much study and personal experience of China's history and culture.

"Some Words on Patriotism and John Paul II" is the work of Father Elmer Wurth, one of our Research Associates. It is a summary of papal exhortations on the subject of patriotism with particular reference to Chinese Christians.

In our fourth article, Miss Chen Xiulian, a Christian who is a secondary school teacher from Hong Kong, shares with us some personal reflections on "The Patriotic Sentiment of a Hong Kong Christian." Miss Chen's words are particularly timely and pertinent as Hong Kong Christians face the challenges of 1997.

Finally, with the Catholic Church of Korea celebrating its bicentennial this year, we have asked Father Elmer Wurth to give us a brief history of its origins, which he does in "Korean Catholicism Celebrates 200 Years". We congratulate our Korean Christian brothers and sisters on their unique, heroic and inspiring history and join with them in their prayers for God's continual blessings for the future.