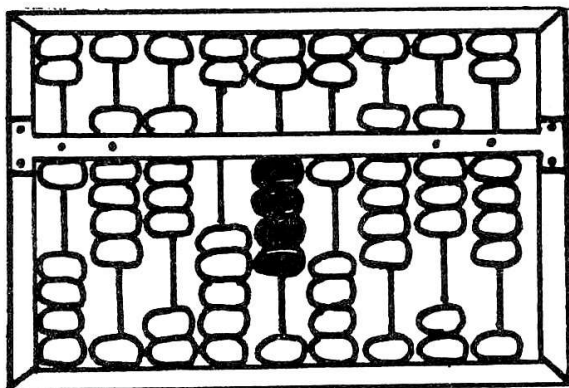


# The Year Report of

## Holy Spirit Study Centre



by John Tong

translated by Peter Barry

On October 1st of this year our centre celebrated its fourth birthday. Looking back over the past year, we are pleased to report the successful completion of the year's major plans. A brief summary follows.

Regarding *Tripod*, each issue during the past year had a special topic... Karl Marx, the Local Church, Patriotism, Mission, Religion and Science, and Catholic Seminaries in China. For the convenience of our readers, we also provided, as an addenda to Issue 19, a general index of all articles which have appeared in Issues 1 to 18. The general critical comment of *Tripod* has been that it continues to improve in both style and content.

The work of clipping and classifying pertinent material from English and Chinese newspapers and periodicals continues to progress. Materials on the two topics-religion and the 1997 Question-have already been bound together in book form with an index added. In future, we plan to bind material dealing with the subject of religion once every three years, while the 1997 materials will be bound when a sufficient amount has been collected.

Sister Maria Goretti Lau's *Jesus Christ and Redemption*, has just been completed. It will be published at the end of this year. The Hong Kong Diocese is now in the midst of a renewal program and the death and resurrection of Christ is both its climax and source. Publication of this volume will serve as a further contribution to the diocesan renewal by the Centre and the Seminary Extramural Studies Program. We hope the book will encourage in Catholics a deeper awareness of the Gospel, and that it will be a source of wisdom and grace for their continual renewal in christian growth.

*Papal Documents Related to the New China*, edited by Fr. Elmer Wurth, M.M., one of our research associates, was published jointly in mimeograph form in November by Orbis Books in New York and the Holy Spirit Study Centre. It is a selective collection of excerpts from papal encyclicals and statements beginning with Pius XI's "Divini Redemptoris" (1937) and extending to the address of John Paul II on the occasion of the Korean Church's Bicentenary in May of 1984.

Our original plan to set up an exhibition on the Catholic Church in China in the vesting room of the Holy Spirit Seminary chapel had to be modified due to lack of space and an abundance of material. Our current plan is to first exhibit at the end of this year in the chapel vesting room materials relating to Catholic seminaries in China. If the work goes smoothly and the response is good, then we will renovate the upper floor of our centre to allow for a larger exhibit concerning the history of the Catholic Church in China.

In July members of our staff visited five of the newly opened Catholic seminaries in China. It was an opportunity for all of us to get to know each other. One immediate practical result was a mutual agreement to exchange printed materials dealing with Philosophy and Theology. In September, we also accompanied members of the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences' Office of Human Development on their visit to Shanghai, Nanjing and Guangzhou. The purpose of the bishops' visit was to learn more about recent developments in modern China and to further develop dialogue between the



churches inside and outside of China. Staff members also visited Hangzhou, Suzhou, Wuxi, Tianjin, Huhehot and Zhanjiang during the past year.

Because of Fr. Sergio Ticozzi's departure from Hong Kong, research work on the history of the Catholic church in Guangzhou has been temporarily suspended.

In August, the second Asian Conference of Third World Theologians was held at the Holy Spirit Seminary. Members of our staff joined those of the Tao Fong Shan Ecumenical Centre to help with preparations and facilitate operations during the meeting. Throughout the year Centre staff and our researchers were called on to either chair meetings or share experiences at a number of seminars held by various groups in Hong Kong.

While pleased with our accomplishments of the past year, we give credit to God's blessings and the generous support we have received from Hong Kong's diocesan authorities. We also wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our many friends and ask for their continual guidance, support and prayers. The centre on its part will continue to strive to do its utmost to serve, in the spirit of Christ, the church of Hong Kong, China and the world.