



## FROM THE EDITOR



This, our Christmas Issue, offers a stockingfull of choice yuletide gifts for our faithful readers. In departure from our recent policy of organizing material around a specific topic, we present a variety of subjects ranging from Jaime Cardinal Sin's recent visit to China to an introduction to Black Theology and its origins in the American Black experience.

*Cardinal Sin's Visit to China* is a compilation in digest form of the major addresses the Cardinal gave to Chinese audiences on his trip in November. He outlines his purpose clearly, and in so doing underlines his profound love for both his ancestral home and the Church he serves.

A recent resolution on the reform of the economic structure passed by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party received world wide attention, most of it highly favourable. One of Hong Kong's leading economic analysts Mr. Leo Goodstadt subjects the document to his own critical examination and raises some perceptive questions.

We are fortunate to be able to include in this issue a reflection by Fr. Edward Malatesta on Biblical Spirituality. Fr. Malatesta's depth and breath of biblical scholarship needs no introduction to most of our readers; and his lucid, personal style in opening up Scriptural treasures for the non-professional scholar makes his article one not to be missed.

The recent Vatican Instruction on aspects of Liberation Theology has stirred up much interest and not a little controversy. Sister Goretti Lau, our House Theologian, offers some points for further consideration. She indicates the limits set forth by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith beyond which Liberation Theology may not stray, and underscores the need to view both liberation and reconciliation as two aspects of the same biblical reality.

We are pleased to introduce our readers to James H. Cone from New York City's prestigious Union Theological Seminary. Mr. Cone is an expert

on the subject of Black Theology, being himself a Christian theologian and a black American. Here he offers a fine summary of the history of black Americans in their struggle for civil rights and the theological implications of that march for freedom.

Last August, the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians (EATWOT) met in Hong Kong. To learn more about this organization, we asked their Executive Secretary, Sr. Virginia Fabella, to send along her opening address to the Conference, which just so happens to be an introduction and brief history of EATWOT. If you are interested in this relatively new organization of theologians of the Third World, you couldn't ask for a better introduction.

After looking through the galley-proofs of our Christmas issue, we could find no better quotation with which to offer you sincere wishes for a joyful Christmas and New Year than one from Isaiah the Prophet:

*For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord God make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of nations. (Isaiah 61, 11)*

### TRIPOD

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