

FROM THE EDITOR

"Let your eyes look straight before you, fix your gaze upon what lies ahead," Book of Proverbs 4:25.

Bishop John B. Wu's journey to mainland China dominates this issue of Tripod, as well it should. There can be no doubt that the trip was one of major significance for the Catholics of Hong Kong, and for all Christians in and outside of China. Tripod's good fortune was to have Father John Tong, our Editor, as one of the privileged four making up the delegation that accompanied the Bishop. While the trip received a great deal of media coverage not only locally but throughout the world, much of the news was fragmentary and necessarily selective in content. We have tried in this issue to offer a more comprehensive coverage by including the complete texts of the various addresses given by the Bishop to a variety of audiences while in China. We have also included his two pastoral letters to the people of Hong Kong, one before his departure and the other upon his return. Finally, Father Tong himself offers us a brief journal with some interesting comments, and the three other members of the delegation give us some personal impressions of the experience.

Since Bishop's Wu's main purpose in going to China was to promote a spirit of dialogue and further mutual understanding, we have asked two eminent Chinese scholars to write some words on the related questions of communication and reconciliation drawing upon their considerable knowledge within different disciplines. Professor Shen Qing Song of Taiwan's Cheng Chi University leads us back to China's philosopher of antiquity, Lao Zi, in search of a philosophy of communication implicit in his writings, and how it compares with modern approaches to learning theory. Father Mark Fang, scripture scholar and Rector of the Fugen School of Theology, takes us through the Bible, especially the writings of St. Paul, to lay open for us the richness of the reconciliation theme in the revealed Word of God. And almost

as an echo of the same theme, our own Father Elmer Wurth presents selections from the addresses of Pope John Paul II which advances the present Pope's creditability as an apostle of reconciliation.

This year of Bishop Wu's visit to China also happens to coincide with the 300th anniversary of the consecration in 1685 of Father Luo Wenzao as the first Chinese bishop. To especially commemorate this latter event, Anthony Lam, our Centre's Executive Secretary, wrote an article pointing out the significance of Luo's ordination in the history of the Chinese Catholic Church.

It is our hope that this issue of Tripod, with its coverage of Bishop Wu's trip to China, will not only be a source of further information to you about his journey, but also may serve the purposes of history in some small way as a reference for those eagerly looking forward to further developments in the unfolding relationship of Christianity and China.

The Editors



"Mary, don't be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus." (Lk. 1:30-31)