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The 5th Year Report of

Holy Spirit Study Centre

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On October 1st of this year our Centre celebrated its fifth birthday. Looking back over the past year, we are pleased to report an increase in activities that might best be described as "bridge building", a role that is quite suitable for the Diocese of Hong Kong, given its unique past and present historical circumstances.

In March Bishop John B. Wu visited Beijing and Shanghai at the invitation of the Chinese Government. As this was the first time since 1949 that a Roman Catholic bishop had been invited by the Chinese Government's Bureau of Religious Affairs, Bishop Wu's trip attracted much local and international attention. The progress of the trip was followed keenly by those in Catholic and non-Catholic circles alike. As the Director of the Centre, I felt privileged to be one of those appointed as a member of the delegation which accompanied the Bishop. Bishop Wu's visit to Beijing and Shanghai was a real breakthrough, and came as a sign of encouragement to Hong Kong Catholics in their efforts to play more of a bridge-role in fostering closer ties with China and its Christians. We are of the opinion that these formal trips to China by Bishop Wu and the other

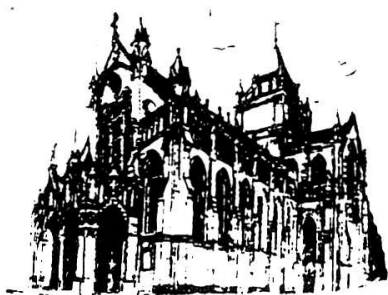
leaders of Hong Kong's six main religions, will have the effect of increasing and deepening contacts between China and Hong Kong as the future unfolds. We look forward to a higher frequency of exchange visits as a natural follow-up to those initiated by Hong Kong's religious leaders.

At the invitation of our Centre, a delegation of eight Shanghai Catholics led by Bishop Jin Luxian, who is Rector of Sheshan Seminary and the Auxiliary-bishop of Shanghai, visited Hong Kong during July. Their ten day trip gave them ample time to observe the many social and educational services operated by the Church both here and in Macao. As this was also the first away-from-home trip by a Chinese Catholic delegation since 1949, it received wide media coverage both locally and abroad. Our Centre set about the task of arranging the delegation's schedule with a view to exposing them to the many changes which have taken place in the church here since Vatican II, and during the 30 years when China was all but closed to outside contacts. We sought to foster greater mutual understanding between the Church on the mainland and the Church in Hong Kong as well as local Churches throughout the world. It

香港天主教



艾巧智著
游麗清譯



於一九八四年十月廿六日為耶穌會士在
香港所舉辦的講習會所發表的一篇演講。

不足一百五十年歷史的香港天主教，以教會標準來衡量，是一個相當年青的教會，她的成員絕大部份僅屬第一代或第二代的基督徒，雖然她經歷年華，但她所肩負的期望和職責，却比得上任何一個較悠久得歷史的教會，同時，不但在教友成員上，而且在華籍司鐸、男女會士，以及具備資格的教友領袖的數目方面，香港教區已是現今世界上最大的天主教華人教區，然而，這個年青、龐大、充滿希望，並且具有規模的本地教會，正正面對着外來的獨特挑戰，這遇到很多

要及有的問題的挑戰；香港教區正處於一個新時代的門檻上，面臨抉擇。

香港：一段充滿危機的歷史

危機危機，對香港教會來說一點也不陌生。這一切關心香港市民在社會及精神方面的權利和需要，分析他們的歷史——一個危機不斷重現的歷史。大傳統的壓迫和憂慮的危機標誌着我們的早期歷史。（把書顯示，

is our ardent hope that this visit will lead to more and more contacts between the mainland local Church and the universal Church. The Centre is now planning to invite a delegation of Beijing Catholics to visit Hong Kong in the near future.

From time to time over the past two years, my colleagues and I have visited newly-opened Catholic seminaries in China. We have had many opportunities to speak with their rectors, professors and students. We have learned from them that one of their pressing

problems is an acute shortage of theological and philosophical text books - a result of the destruction caused by the Cultural Revolution. The seminaries of China are more than willing to receive replacements, and also new materials, from friends outside.

Our Centre has been sending on a regular basis lists of titles and authors, and inviting seminary authorities to indicate their preferences. The seminaries inform the local government of their requests, and we then mail the books requested to their proper destinations. In this way, our Centre has already sent out over two thousand Chinese books to seminaries throughout China. In addition, following through on our contacts, five thousand English books have been sent to Beijing National Seminary by Fr. Edward Malatesta, the Director of the Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History located in San Francisco, and a further twenty-five thousand English books will be sent to the Sheshan Seminary in the near future.

An informal gathering between representatives of the Hong Kong Church and that of Taiwan took place here in July. It was the second such meeting in what we hope will become an annual affair. The nature of such a gathering is to promote mutual understanding and co-operation between these two local Churches, and to share information with regard to each others recent development in religious and cultural areas. Participants were selected and approved by their respective Church authorities, with members of our Centre also participating. It was unanimously agreed that such meetings have been constructive and useful, and should be continued. I personally think that these gatherings have a special meaning for Chinese Christians in their efforts to establish closer ties. Since the Chinese people of the mainland, Taiwan, and Hong Kong are all of the same race and culture, espousing allegiance to the one country, and since all their Catholics belong to the one Church, I believe that we should continue to promote our common unity irregardless of the different political situations under which we live.

At the beginning of June, we played host to five members of the China Catholic Communications Office of



TRIPOD
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關注新中國動態 反省基督徒使命

CHRISTIANITY & CONTEMPORARY CHINA

德肋撒修女訪華

李思德、金魯賢晉牧盛典

香港天主教

香港基督教會的現況報告

主、信、洗

從中國經濟改革看「理論與實際」

書評：基督徒在十八世紀的來華傳教

MOTHER TERESA VISITS CHINA

THE CONSECRATION OF LI SIDE AND JIN LUXIAN AS AUXILIARY BISHOPS OF SHANGHAI

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HONG KONG

THE PROTESTANT CHURCHES IN HONG KONG: A SITUATION REPORT

ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM

THEORY AND PRACTICE: A DISCUSSION OF CHINA'S ECONOMIC REFORM

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS IN 18TH CENTURY CHINA: BOOK REVIEW

topic: "The Catholic Church and Protestant Church in Hong Kong", "Bishop Wu in China", "Amity Foundation", "Dialogue with Non-believers", and "The Servant Church". Planned topics for 1986 include ministry, liturgy, the catechumenate, and the Church and society. Any articles that have to do with these topics will be most welcomed, as well as any reports on Asian local Churches. TRIPOD will continue to be published every two months. In order to facilitate translating and editing, manuscripts should be sent to us two months prior to publication. The length of an article should be between two and three thousand words. Authors of published material will receive a one year free subscription to TRIPOD in addition to five complimentary copies of the issue in which their article appears.

In the Spring of this year, initial work was completed on our Exhibition of Catholic Seminaries in China. Because of difficulty in obtaining materials, contents are meagre, but the Centre is now working hard to remedy that situation. At present, The Exhibition is housed in an upstairs room above the Seminary Chapel. We are now considering the idea of moving it to the floor above the Centre's Offices, which will make it more accessible to visitors.

Singapore - an organization with which we have much in common and with whom we have a great deal to share. Several bishops and priests were in town at the same time attending the Asian Bishops' Conference here. We were able to organize a workshop on China and the Chinese Church for them at the request of their Office of Human Development - a task we were most happy to perform. Participants and guests felt that much of value was gained from the meetings.

Regarding TRIPOD, each issue - this year has had a special

PAPAL
DOCUMENTS
RELATED TO
THE NEW
CHINA

天主教

Edited by
Elmer Wurth, M.M.

In co-operation with the Extra-mural Courses Office of the Holy Spirit Seminary, our Centre has begun a Chinese translation of the book Papal Documents Related to New China, which is edited by our own research associate Fr. Elmer Wurth. We plan to publish it at the beginning of next year. These documents indicate a change in the attitude of the Catholic Church towards Communist China from one of confrontation

to one of dialogue, a dialogue that seeks to preserve Catholic principles of faith while maintaining a spirit of genuine openness and reconciliation. Although there may be some gaps in the material, all the significant papers are recorded. For those interested in studying Chinese-Papal relations during the past 30 years, the book should serve as a helpful reference.

Through the aid of Fr. Laurence Murphy M.M., President Emeritus of Seton Hall University, New Jersey, our Centre signed an agreement of affiliation with this American University on May 31st. Monsignor John Petillo, Seton Hall's Chancellor, and I did the honours. We look forward to a future of mutual co-operation and valuable exchanges in our China research programmes.

While pleased with our accomplishments of the past year, we must give full credit to God's blessings, and also to 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 continued guidance, support, and prayers. The Centre for 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.

October, 1985

John Tong