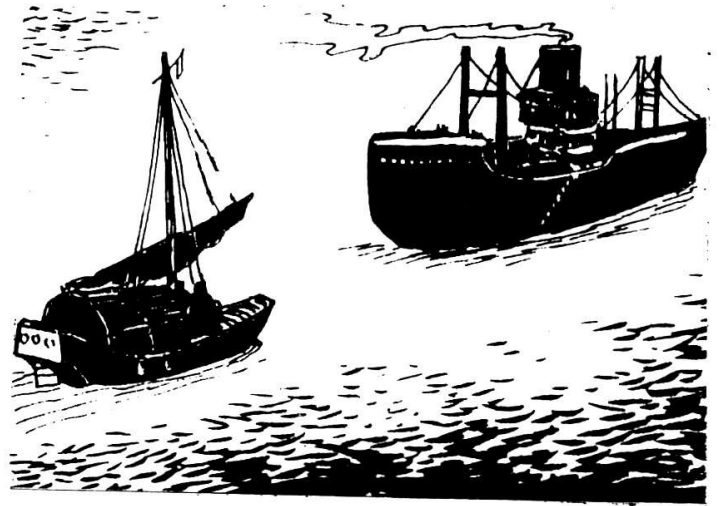


FROM THE EDITOR



This issue of TRIPOD features "The Servant Church". The first of our three major articles is written by Fr. Joseph Au, Professor of Biblical Theology at St. Pius X Seminary in Taiwan. Father Au gives us a biblical perspective of Christ as Servant and demonstrates how central this image was in the self-understanding of the early Christian communities.

Fr. Luis Gutheinz, Professor of Dogmatic Theology at the Theologate of Fujen University in Taiwan, reflects on the contemporary challenge the concept of the Servant Church presents to today's Christian communities.

Our third article was written by Bishop Francisco Claver, former Bishop of Malaybalay, Philippines, and now Secretary of the Office for Socio-Economic Life of Asia. Based on his rich pastoral experience of many years in a third world context, Bishop Claver recounts the development of a local Church when true concern for the basic needs of its people is given top priority, and the ideal of a Servant Church is translated into practical action.

We also include in this issue a most thought provoking treatment of the morality of The One Child Family by Louis Gendron. Fr. Gendron, a Canadian, is a professor of Moral Theology at Fujen University and a member of the Society of Jesus.

During October, two of the editors of TRIPOD accompanied Fr. William Boteler, the Superior General of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America (Maryknoll), and Fr. Laurence T. Murphy, M.M., President Emeritus of Seton Hall University of New Jersey, on a visit to China. The highlight of their trip came in Shanghai where they became the first visitors from abroad to be received by Bishop Gong Pingmei of Shanghai, who was paroled from prison on 3rd July 1985. While in Sichuan they were also invited to participate in the 36th anniversary celebration of the episcopal consecration of Bishop Duan Yinming of Wanxian. We thought our readers would like to hear more about the trip and have asked Fr. Peter Barry to give us a brief report.

Finally, Fr. John Tong, our director, submits his annual report on Holy Spirit Study Centre's activities during 1985, one made memorable by Bishop Wu's visit to China, and the arrival of the Shanghai Catholic Delegation in Hong Kong, a harbinger, we hope, for many more exchange visit in the future.

We take this opportunity to wish our readers on behalf of all of us here at TRIPOD a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Edited by
Elmer Wurth, M.M.

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