

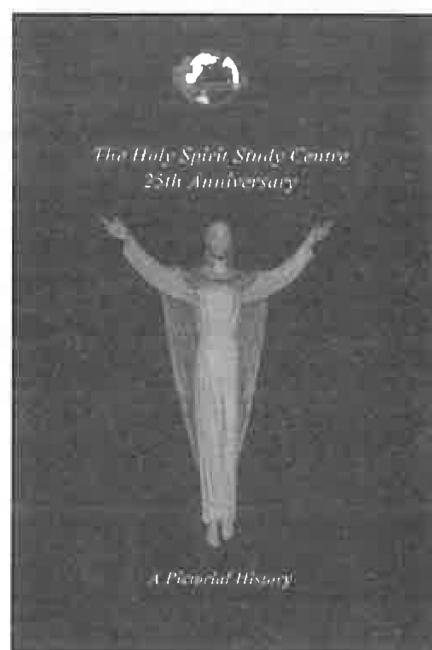
A Special Remembrance for the 25th Anniversary of the Holy Spirit Study Centre

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In 1980, Cardinal, then Bishop, John Baptist Wu, aware of the rapid changes taking place in the Mainland, realized that it was necessary to establish a link among Hong Kong, the Universal Church and Catholic brothers and sisters in Mainland China. In order to respond to their many needs, John Baptist Wu established the Holy Spirit Study Centre. Bishop Wu gave the Centre its role and function, its location and name. On the occasion of the Centre's 10th anniversary, Cardinal Wu summarized the purpose of the Centre with these words: "Build a bridge with our brothers and sisters inside and outside China, promoting the mission of reconciliation through the Gospel."

In 2005, various activities were held to celebrate the Centre's Silver Jubilee. We published a commemorative book *"The Holy Spirit Study Centre 25th Anniversary. A Pictorial History."* Sister Betty Ann Maheu, MM, was the author of the text, the collector of the pictures, and in one word the coordinator and editor of the whole book. She dedicated many weeks and long hours to the task. She was helped by other staff members and by our friend Ms. Moira Shaw.

The book, which can be requested from the Centre, is dedicated to the much beloved Cardinal John Baptist Wu. In the book, Sister Betty Ann introduced the bishops of Hong Kong, the



co-founders of the Centre: Fathers John Tong, Peter Barry, MM, Angelo Lazzarotto, PIME, and Elmer Wurth, MM; those who have served the Centre in the past 25 years, and those who are serving now. Then the history of the Centre and its multi-faceted service to the Church in China are illustrated through dozens of selected pictures, captions and texts.

This beautiful book of 80 pages is intended to be a simple gift to our friends throughout the world who have supported the Centre, to the various researchers who have worked here, to the members of the staff who have served with so much devotion throughout these 25 years, and to the many volunteers who graciously gave us a hand and helped lighten our work.

On November 17, 2005, the Centre celebrated a special Eucharist in the chapel of the Holy Spirit Seminary, presided over by Hong Kong Bishop Joseph Zen, to mark the anniversary. After the Mass, before numerous invited guests, Bp. Zen presented awards to the four co-founders of the Centre, and to four other members of the staff, in recognition of their long service and exceptional contribution to the Holy Spirit Study Centre.

The recipients were presented with a framed scroll, drawn by Fr. Edward Chau, who is known for his beautiful calligraphy. The text, written in Chinese characters, is taken from the famous "Hymn to Love" of the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (chapter 13, verses 4-7). They were also presented with a special certificate with Bp. Zen's official *coat of arms*.

As a token of gratitude towards the eight recipients, we reproduce here the commendation read on that occasion for each one of them.

Special awards to the four co-founders of the Holy Spirit Study Centre

To Bishop John Tong, co-founder and long time director.

Bishop John Tong has been the soul and the head of the Centre from the very beginning. His extensive knowledge of the situation

in China, his profound learning, united with great prudence and wisdom has gained him the respect and devotion of our brothers and sisters in China and all around the world. John Tong is a man of untiring zeal, totally devoted to the good of the Church. We wish that he continued to serve the Church and undertake even greater responsibilities in the years to come.

To Father Angelo S. Lazzarotto, PIME, co-founder and frequent contributor.

Fr. Angelo arrived in Hong Kong in 1956. Since then he has never stopped being actively concerned with the Church in China. Fr. Angelo has untiringly supported the Catholics in China in countless different ways, always pursuing moderation, reconciliation and unity. He was among the first to establish a contact with China scholars studying Christianity, and support such an important endeavor in China's academic institutions. He keeps contributing excellent papers of well-researched and in-depth analysis to *Tripod*, for the benefit of the Church in China, of the Holy See and of other concerned parties.

To Father Elmer Wurth, MM, co-founder and friend.

Fr. Elmer has been a hard worker, good and cheerful friend of our Centre, always encouraging us with his optimism and enthusiasm. He is parish priest of St. Anne's Church in Stanley, but keeps coming to help the work of the Centre whenever he can. He has especially collected and commented on the pronouncements of the Holy Father regarding China, supplying valuable material to researchers in the field.

To Fr. Peter J. Barry, MM, co-founder, long time researcher and editor.

Fr. Peter, together with Bp. Tong, has been present daily at the Centre from the very beginning. He has become profoundly knowledgeable about the Catholic communities in China, and of the religious policy of the Chinese government. He has translated

dozens of documents and articles from China, and often contributes his own reflection and analysis. He especially enjoys teaching Mainland seminarians and young priests, and encourages them to be true evangelizers in their own homeland. This year is also Peter's 40th anniversary of priestly ordination. Congratulations and best wishes to you, Peter!

Special awards in recognition of long service and exceptional contribution at the Holy Spirit Study Centre

To Father John Cioppa, long time administrator and tireless supporter.

Fr. John joined the Centre in 1988, and since then has become the indispensable administrator, who helps us to run the often-complex daily operations of the Centre. He has done this with tireless devotion, with charm and respect, gaining from the members of the Centre our most sincere affection and gratitude. Fr. John is not only a straightforward and efficient administrator, but also a man who loves beauty and grace. He was behind the renovation of the facilities and offices of the Centre, giving us a nice, well-lit and pleasant place to work everyday. Father John has also been the capable convener of past Church in China conferences. He really deserves our gratitude.

To Sister Betty Ann Maheu MM, long time Editor and tireless supporter.

Sr. Betty Ann arrived at the Centre in 1990. She has been the competent and efficient English editor of *Tripod* for 14 years. We have been witnesses of the great amount of work that this humble, dedicated and generous woman has done. Hundreds, if not thousands of articles, letters, documents and books have been translated or proofread by her. Many ranking members of the Hong Kong diocese, including the two incumbent bishops, have asked for and have always obtained her help. At her young age (82), via public transportation and long walks, she still comes to the office

everyday, being the first to open the doors and to turn on the computer. Without her, most of our work could not have been done. Her cheerfulness, optimism and simplicity make her a favorite co-worker. Long life to you, Sister!

To Mr. Anthony Lam, long time editor and senior researcher.

Anthony arrived at the Centre as early as 1983. Since then he has been the main man behind the Chinese section of *Tripod* and our Chinese-language work in general. Anthony has not only directed *Tripod*, but has also published numerous articles and editorials, and also several valuable books. He has become one of the most sought after experts on the Church in China. He is definitely one of the most knowledgeable persons on China's Catholic communities and personnel. Many people concerned with the Church in China have taken advantage of his comprehensive compilation of information. His analysis of China's religious policy and Catholic issues is always well informed, sound and balanced. We wish him much success in all his future endeavors.

To Miss Rosa Chung, long time secretary and invaluable aid.

Rosa is one of those unassuming people, often women, who, without attracting much attention, become so indispensable that everything stops without them. She arrived at our Centre in 1988, and since then she has been our much loved, smiling, efficient and reliable secretary. Rosa has gained our total affection and respect by her daily dedication to her work. A painful illness has made her almost unable to walk. In spite of that, for many years she has kept coming to the office, and walked long distances from the bus station. She then climbed the hill, and walked up five flights of stairs. (Fortunately, she now takes a special shuttle bus to the Centre and back home, and the Centre now has a lift.) She endured all that with admirable patience and devotion to a cause, the Catholics in China, who are very dear to her heart. No wonder that many Mainland Catholics, bishops and priests, Sisters and lay persons, see her as a spiritual and trustworthy sister.