



FROM

THE

EDITOR

One of the major results of the Second Vatican Council has been the renewal of Ecclesiology, which has led to a deepening awareness and broader perspective in our attitude towards Mission. There is a new emphasis on Christians being together with people in society, living out their Christian values and spirituality as they join the common search for truth, goodness, beauty, justice and peace. Living the Christian life thus becomes a primary form of witness to Christ's presence in the world. It is for this reason we are happy to bring to your attention in this issue of Tripod, A Theology of Christian Presence in a Secular Society by R.J. Schreiter, a timely and thought provoking article on what it means to be a Christian in the growing secularistic and materialistic atmosphere of our times.

The Director of China's National Affairs Bureau, Mr. Ren Wuzhi, led a delegation of officials from the Bureau on their first formal visit to Hong Kong this month. Tripod presents a summary report of the visit along with Bishop John B. Wu's formal address at a dinner which he gave in their honour.

As a follow up to Fr. Adolfo Nicolas' excellent article on lay ministry, which appeared in our last issue, we have three reports from local churches in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and mainland China on the progress of lay ministry

in their respective areas. Fr. Jess Brena, in The Age of the Laity, explains in detail progress made in forming lay ministers in Taiwan. There is also a brief up-date of the work of Hong Kong's Central Council of the Catholic Laity, and some comments on the changes in Guangzhou City's Cathedral Parish by Zhang Minggao, the Secretary of the Guangzhou Municipal CPA (Signs of progress in the Stone House Church).

To round out this issue, we have contributions by two of Tripod's staff on recent matters of interest to those following developments in the Church on the mainland. Peter Barry gives us a review of a new journal being published by the Diocese of Shanghai. Entitled A Compilation of Catholic Research Materials, its purpose is to serve as a vehicle for the updating and renewal of mainland Catholics, both clergy and lay. It promises to be a happy addition to Chinese Catholic publications, filling a vacuum created by years of isolation from the Church at-large. Anthony Lam's article is a brief sketch on China's newly opened minor seminaries, some of which will serve as feeder schools for the more well-known major seminaries; others hope to graduate into the ranks of major seminaries themselves over the course of time. The multiplication of seminaries to house the ever-growing number of candidates to the priesthood augurs well for the future of the Church in China.

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