



**HOLY SPIRIT
STUDY CENTRE**

THE ANNUAL REPORT

On October 1st of this year our Centre celebrated its sixth 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 circumstances.

In January of this year, Bishop John B. Wu spent two weeks visiting Guangzhou and Eastern Guangdong at the invitation of the Bureau of Religious Affairs for Guangdong Province. The purpose of the visit was to promote dialogue and deepen mutual understanding. As the Director of the Centre, I felt privileged to be one of the members of his delegation. This is the second time that Bishop Wu has been invited by the Chinese Government to visit China. This time the Bishop was able to return to his hometown for a

joyful reunion with his mother after 40 years of separation. We also experienced the depth of religious fervour expressed by the many Catholics there.

From time to time over the past year, my colleagues and I have been able to visit the newly opened catholic seminaries of China. There we had many opportunities to speak with rectors, professors and students. As a result of this and at the request of the seminary authorities, we have been sending them books relating to theology and philosophy to help build up their libraries. Many thousands of English books also have already been sent to Beijing National Seminary and Sheshan Seminary by Fr. Edward Malatesta, the Director of the Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History located in San Francisco, and an additional five thousand English books are in the process of being sent to the Central-Southern Regional Seminary in Wuhan.

In August and September my colleagues and I participated in the dedication of the Church in the Beijie section of Jiangmen City, Guangdong Province, and attended the opening ceremony for some new buildings at Sheshan Seminary. We also went on pilgrimage with some Jesuit priests and Maryknoll seminarians to St. Francis Xavier's tomb and memorial chapel on Sancian Island. Here we also spoke with government officials on how the site might be developed to attract future visitors, both local and foreign.

A Chinese Catholic Friendship Delegation consisting of ten members visited 5 cities in the United States at the invitation of U.S. Association of Catholic Universities and Colleges during the month of October. Throughout their journey they were able to exchange ideas on theological education and pastoral formation not only for seminarians, but also for laypeople. Their trip included visits to universities and Church-run social service organizations, and offered many opportunities to meet with American Church leaders. Our Centre was invited to assist in making arrangements for the tour, and to accompany the delegation on their trip. Those involved profited much from the whole process.

In November an exposure tour of the economic zones, cities and villages of Guangdong Province was organized by the Office for Human Development of F.A.B.C. with 19

persons participating. Our Centre helped in the preparation, and Elmer Wurth, one of our research associates, went along with the group. Participants felt that much of value was gained from the pre-tour briefing and post-tour debriefing sessions as well as the trip itself.

In December, in cooperation with the Diocesan Basic Law Committee, the Hong Kong Catholic Social Communication Office, and the Catholic Institute for Religion and Society, our Centre organised a two day-seminar on "Constitutions and Religious Freedom". Experts from Hong Kong, Mainland China, Taiwan, Asia, Europe and United States were invited to participate and to submit papers dealing with this topic in detail. The seminar aimed at providing international input that might prove helpful with regard to the religious freedom issue in the drafting of the Basic Law for Hong Kong. The response was most enthusiastic.

As for TRIPOD, each issue this year was given over to a special topic or key issue: "Lay Ministry", "Christian Presence in a Secular Society", "Hong Kong: What Sort of a Bridge?", "Church and State in China Today", "Liturgical Renewal: Hong Kong and Taiwan", "Reading of the Bible", etc. Beginning this year, TRIPOD also has unveiled a new cover design; full credit goes to Michael Yeung.

Throughout the year, we have played host to many overseas visitors. We have also sent representatives to participate in many regional and international meetings, e.g. the annual meeting of Catholics in America concerned with China, and the yearly gathering of Church representatives from Macau, Taiwan, the Philippines, Singapore and Hong Kong. These get-togethers further the exchange of ideas, and offer mutual support and closer cooperation in the task of serving the Church in China and in the world.

In co-operation with the Verbiest Foundation, University of Louvain, our Centre has just finished a Chinese translation of Nicolas Standaert's Yang Tingyun's Life and Thought (1562-1627). We plan to publish it next year. It is an investigation into the life and thought of this Confucian scholar and Christian, who lived during the latter part of the Ming Dynasty. The book will help readers to gain insights into the spread of Christianity in China during that period.

While pleased with our accomplishments of the past year, full credit must be given to the blessings of God, and also we wish to express our thanks to the generous support we have received from Hong Kong's diocesan authorities, and our many friends, asking for their continued guidance, support, and prayers.

by John Tong, Director
December, 1986



Fourth Catholic Patriotic Association Conference Takes Place in Beijing

At the end of November Chinese news agencies reported that Catholic representatives from all over the country gathered in Beijing to convene the 4th conference of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and the 2nd conference of the Chinese Catholic Church Administrative Commission.

During the sessions Bishops Zong Huaide and Zhang Jiashu were re-elected chairpersons of the Patriotic Association and the Administrative Commission respectively. Elected vice-chairpersons of the Patriotic Association were Bishops Dong Guangqing of Hankou and Cai Tiyan of Shantou. Elected vice-chairpersons of the Administrative Commission were Bishop Liu Jinghe of Tangshan, Bishop Yu Chengcai of Haimen and Mr. Liu Bainian, who serves concurrently as deputy secretary general of the Patriotic Association on the national level.

The delegates to the conferences passed a new constitution for the Patriotic Association, adding the words: "to support socialism" and "to make a contribution to the unification of the motherland."

Politburo member Xi Zhongxun attended the meetings and reiterated the previous stand of the government regarding the Chinese Catholic Church's relations with the Vatican. He said, "The Vatican must break diplomatic relations with Taiwan, recognize the PRC government as the only legitimate government of China, refrain from interfering in China's internal affairs and respect the Chinese Catholic church's policy of administering the church autonomously."