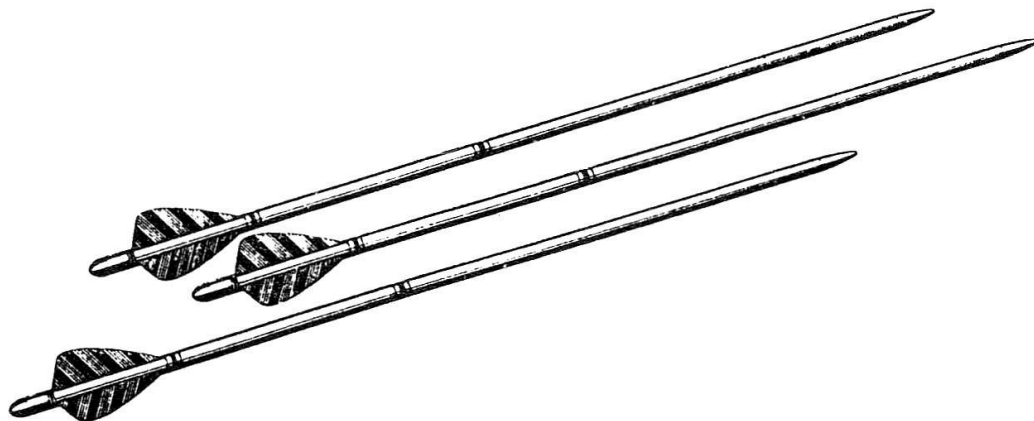


HOLY SPIRIT STUDY CENTRE

Annual Report



On October 1st of this year our Centre celebrated its seventh birthday. Looking back over the past year, we are pleased to report that the three main works of our Centre, i.e. a) documentation and newsclipping, b) publication and research, and c) contact and dialogue, have been going on smoothly under the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they were started and planned.

a) As far as the documentation and newsclipping service are concerned, in order to deepen our understanding of and concern with China and the Church in China, our Centre has continued subscribing to or having exchanges with over a hundred newspapers and magazines. We have been clipping and filing on a daily basis from all these sources all articles concerning religious and moral issues. As one of the diocesan institutions, our Centre welcomes local and foreign scholars to come and use the abovementioned materials.

b) Regarding publication and research, our Centre, besides continuing the bimonthly publication TRIPOD, printed two books: PAPAL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE NEW CHINA and YANG TINGJUN: A CONFUCIAN AND CHRISTIAN IN LATE MING CHINA (Chinese edition). The latter publication was done in cooperation with the China-Europe Institute of Leuven University in Belgium. Each issue of TRIPOD is normally devoted to a special topic. The contents included Christianity and modern China, Church history -

events and personalities, philosophical and theological approaches to the East-West dialogue, and the exchange of research materials among China study groups. The reprinted book, PAPAL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE NEW CHINA is a major help to understanding the change in the church's attitudes from a hard line stance to one of dialogue. The book on Yang Tingjun introduces the life and thought of one of the converts of Matteo Ricci, and contributes much valuable material on Church history in China and sinological studies which help to explain the cultural encounter between China and the West.

c) Concerning contact and dialogue, our Centre has given briefings on the Church in China to a number of visitors. We have also sent representatives to participate in various China related meetings in the Philippines, Taiwan, San Francisco, Leuven, Belgium and Hong Kong. Besides sending philosophical and theological books to the libraries of the Chinese seminaries, our colleagues have also paid visits to some of the open Churches in Beijing, Shanghai, as well as many in the provinces of Guangdong, Fujian, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Hubei, Shanxi, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Manchuria and Xinjiang. We continue to build up friendship and promote exchanges with our brothers and sisters in China. We also had the opportunity to accompany a delegation from the Association of Major Superiors of Religious Women in Hong Kong, a group of Hong Kong and Japanese Catholics, members of German Misereor and Caritas to visit China. These visits included pilgrimages to Sheshan Basilica in Shanghai, St. Francis Xavier's tomb in Shangchuan Island, Guangdong Province, and Matteo Ricci's tomb in Beijing.

According to the Scriptures, the number "seven" means fulfilment and also has an implication of rest. God rested on the seventh day. But, reflecting on what we have done in the past seven years, we feel that although we have made a certain amount of progress and achieved some results, yet there is still much work to be done. Thus on this occasion of our seventh anniversary, we feel we cannot rest. Rather, encouraged by all our friends, we hope to make even greater efforts. In the coming year we are not going to increase the "quantity" of our work, but will concentrate on improving the "quality" of our services. Along with the general pastoral policy of the Hong Kong diocese, more attention will be given by our Centre to the formation of local Catholics, in order that they can carry out the mission of becoming the "Bridge Church," (between the Universal Church and the Church in China), thus echoing the appeals of Our Holy Father and Hong Kong's Bishop John B. Wu.

by John Tong, Director
December, 1987