

THE WISHES OF TRIPOD



by the editors

With this issue, TRIPOD has just completed its seventh year of publication. On this occasion of the seventh anniversary, we would like to express our wishes through inspirations drawn from the Chinese philosophy regarding tripod as follows:

1) At the time of ancient dynastic change and the installation of a new emperor, the first thing done was to cast a new tripod and place the promulgated laws into it, symbolizing a new beginning. Thus tripod conveys the meaning of "renewal". Since Vatican II many changes have taken place in our Church, placing much emphasis on dialogue and openness to the modern world for the welfare of mankind. So our earnest hope is that we will continue to carry the new spirit of Vatican II, promoting dialogue among Catholics in Hong Kong and in Mainland China, and playing a bridge role between the Chinese Church and the Universal Church.

2) A tripod as a vessel was used by ancient Chinese to offer sacrifices in honor and respect to the memory of their ancestors. Therefore tripod has the meaning of "proceeding from tradition to modernization". Certainly renewal is important, but this must include the good things which derive from tradition. So our journal hopes not to confine itself to contemporary news only, but also will especially feature research on history, in order to see the future by looking at the past.

3) In China we have an old story about the tripod: Three immortals wanted to use a tripod without legs to make celestial

soup, so in a flash they changed themselves into tripod legs. But one of the immortals, out of selfish motives to gain credit for himself, made himself taller than the others, causing the other two legs to be unable to touch ground, with the result that the tripod lost its balance and tipped over, spilling the celestial soup. Thus the structure of a tripod teaches us to "work together with united heart." This inspiration is also one of our aspirations for publication. In fact, the theme of this issue of TRIPOD is "Laity and Mission", which precisely expresses the meaning of this ancient story. This theme also fits with the theme of the Bishop's Synod held in October in Rome, "The Vocation and Mission of the Laity in the Church and in the World since Vatican II", showing that our Church has moved from the time of the pyramidal hierarchy to the present era of co-responsibility of the whole People of God.!

4) A tripod as a receptive vessel also reveals that, the more we can tolerate and accept, the greater we can become. In other words, without tolerating and accepting differences, we can never develop and grow well. Thus in the spirit of seeking a variety of opinions and viewpoints, we sincerely invite all readers in Hong Kong, Taiwan, the mainland of China and elsewhere in the world to send us articles for publication.

CALLING ALL AUTHORS!

If you would like to contribute a manuscript to TRIPOD, the following guidelines may be of use:

1. TRIPOD'S focus is Christianity and China. Articles relating to this field are most welcome. Our more specific emphasis is on religion and morality, Church history - events and personalities, philosophical and theological approaches to the East - West dialogue, and the exchange of research materials among China study groups.

2. We encourage a wide variety of literary forms: dissertations, China travel reports, critical reviews of books and the arts, pictorial essays and personal comment.

3. The ideal length of an article is about two to three thousand words. If in English, please type and double space. If in Chinese, please use Chinese manuscript paper.

4. Submitted manuscripts will be returned at the request of the author.

5. Also upon the authors request, the final English and Chinese versions will be returned for comment and correction before publication.

6. The authors of published material will receive, in addition to five complimentary copies of the issue in which the work appears, a one year free subscription to TRIPOD.

7. Please submit all manuscripts to: The Editor, TRIPOD, Holy Spirit Study Centre, 6, Welfare Road, Aberdeen, HONG KONG.