

FROM THE EDITOR

We have chosen as our theme for this and the following issues of Tripod the changing role of the foreign missionary. The number of foreign missionaries in China increased from 945 in 1900 to 11,142 in 1949. But after liberation, political changes brought to an abrupt halt all foreign missionary activity there. While the contributions and mistakes of the missionaries have been discussed at great length during the past four decades, opinions vary, and it is up to historians to write the final evaluation of this vast missionary enterprise. Certainly there can be no question about the sincere dedication and genuine love for the Chinese people which the overwhelming majority of these men and women brought to their evangelical task. And not a few were called upon to sacrifice their lives that the Good News might be heard by the people of this ancient land. An example of the highest expression of the missionary ideal might be found in the words of Fr. Vincent Lebbe, a Belgian by birth, who endeared himself to the Chinese people by a lifetime of self-sacrificing service. One day in 1933 he said to a visiting journalist: "Do not look at the shape of my nose, nor the colour of my eyes, but look into my heart. Here I am Chinese."

We have gathered together in this issue a number of contributors, who, by study and personal experience, are highly qualified to reflect on the changing role of the foreign missionary, especially in light of the tumultuous changes that have taken place in China during the second half of the twentieth century.

Michael Amalados, S.J. is a native of Southern India with a doctorate degree from the Institute Catholique de Paris. He is a consultor for the Secretariate for Non-Christians and Non-Believers as well as for the Commission for World Mission and Evangelization of the World Council of Churches. In Collaboration in Mission Father Amalados outlines the new view of mission which has been brought about by historical changes in the universal church.



For valuable historical insights into the delicate role played by the papal delegate to China during the 1920's and early 30's, we invite you to read Arnulf Camps' portrait of Celso Costantini. Father Camps is a Franciscan who has been a professor of Ecclesiology and Evangelization in the Third World at the Catholic University of Nijmegen, Holland, for the past 22 years. Much of his material comes from Costantini's personal papers and diaries which were written during and after his 11 years as Apostolic Delegate to China, and Father Camps is especially revealing when describing the

struggles the delegate had with traditional China missionaries in establishing a local Chinese hierarchy.

Father Aloysius B. Chang is familiar to regular readers of Tripod. The noted Jesuit theologian from Taiwan directs his attention to the 400 year-old history of his own Society in China and how it has adapted to the changing Chinese situation throughout the centuries.



Mr. Anders Hanson brings a fresh and personal perspective to The Changing Role of the Overseas Missioner. His own father, a Swedish immigrant to the United States, was a pioneer missionary in central Henan Province for the Augustana Lutheran Church at the turn of century. Later Mr. Hanson was to follow in his father's footsteps, first in China and subsequently in Taiwan and Hong Kong. He is now living in retirement in Minnesota. His account here of those pioneer days seen from a missionary family perspective makes for fascinating reading and is filled with a wealth of detail about how the foreign missionary saw his task in those early days.

Our final contributor is William M. Boteler, MM. Father Boteler is the present Superior General of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, whose official title is The Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America. While his own missionary experience has been in Bolivia, South America, he writes of how Maryknoll's China experience has had from the very beginning a profound effect on his Society and its members, and how Maryknoll sees its present role in relationship to China and the Chinese as well as the other peoples and cultures in which Maryknoll still serves.



For those attending the week-long Symposium on Evangelization held at Taipei's Fujen Catholic University in early February, the experience was profoundly spiritual and eminently practical. Bringing together over 200 delegates from the church in Taiwan as well as from overseas Chinese Christian communities, it set about the task of how best to spread the gospel message among the Chinese people, not only in Taiwan but also in relation to mainland China and the overseas Chinese communities. We are happy to be able to bring you the statement released by the delegates on the final day of the Symposium. If one is looking for a clear example of how attitudes have changed in recent years with regard to understanding the mission mandate of the church, it can be found here in the enthusiastic commitment of this local church to assume leadership and full responsibility for evangelization not only among its own but also within the larger communion of the universal church.