

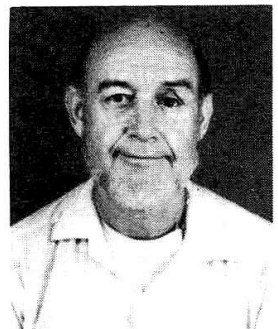
# FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue of Tripod we present part two of "The Changing Role of Foreign Missionaries". The theme has stimulated much interest, especially among our own staff. When we chose it, we didn't expect to receive such a lively and far-reaching response, and while we make no claim to having exhausted the subject, we are quite pleased to offer our readers a representative sampling of how missionaries go about reappraising their vocation as our world moves toward the 2,000th anniversary of when it all began.



We consider ourselves fortunate in being able to begin this issue with a contribution by Rev. Dr. David M. Stowe, Executive Vice President Emeritus of the United Church Board for World Ministries of the United Church of Christ. His "Future of the Missionary" is comprehensive, insightful and informative...not to be missed by anyone looking for an overview of the missionary enterprise - past, present and projected future. Dr. Stowe brings to the task a vast amount of personal experience as an educator and a missionary. He sees missionary motivation as the crucial question about this future, a motivation that depends ultimately on the depth and power of the spiritual energy of Christians.

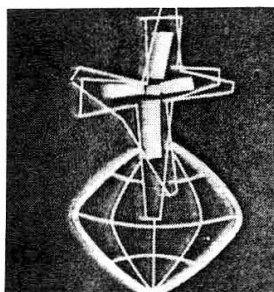
In "From Preacher-Teacher to Listener-Sharer" Douglas F. Venne takes us on a personal odyssey of a missionary who began in the traditional mold and now lives a life of radical Christian simplicity in a Muslim/Hindu community. Father Venne, a Maryknoll priest in Bangladesh, is proof-positive that the changing role of missionaries reaches far beyond mere methodology to the roots of missionary spirituality.



Mary Lou Martin is a Maryknoll Sister who has worked in Hong Kong for over 35 years. In that time she has seen many changes in how foreign missionary Sisters approach their vocation of service. Using personal case histories of women she has known and worked along side of, Sister traces the evolution of their present ministries in parallel lines with the development of the local Church. She notes that there

has been little diminishment of missionary zeal, but some basic changes in how that zeal is to be channeled to serve the local church.

Our regular reader will recognize the by-line of Father Angelo Lazzarotto, one of our Centre's research associates and presently assigned to the Pontifical Urban College in Rome. "Gleanings from the History of the Milan Foreign Mission Society in China" dips into the P.I.M.E. past in search of a better understanding of the missionary response to those tumultuous times.



One of the more significant foreign mission sending societies with over a century of service on the China mainland, has been the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Located in Schuet near Brussels in Belgium, they now number over 1,500 members and have missionaries in 18 different countries throughout the world. Michel Decraene, their present Superior General, addresses himself to his Society's present relationship with China. In "CICM and the Chinese Church Today" he sees as critical the re-defining of a new relationship with the emerging Catholic Church of China - a relationship that is rooted in past associations but now offers a new challenge for productive growth.

"All Things to All Men" is the title of Sister Emily Wong's commentary on St. Paul's missionary approach to the Church of Corinth. Sister Emily, a Franciscan Missionary of Mary, is well-known in Hong Kong for her scriptural reflections which appear in the local Catholic press as well as an educator throughout the diocese. Her analysis is especially relevant to modern evangelizers confronting local cultural situations in its call to espouse adaptation as the one authentic missionary method that will allow the gospel of Christ to take firm root in local soil.



*Billy  
Graham*

The recent visit of Dr. Billy Graham, perhaps the world's best-known evangelist, to China attracted a lot of attention in the local and international press. Dr. Donald MacInnis covers that visit for us and records Dr. Graham's pertinent impressions of what he feels is "a great spiritual awakening" now taking place in China, and his optimism about the moral role China will play in the world in the years ahead.

The news of the elevation of the Very Reverend John Baptist Wu to the College of Cardinals was received with surprise and enthusiasm here in Hong Kong. Bishop Wu will be China's first cardinal since Nanjing's Archbishop Paul Yu Pin, who died in exile in Rome in 1978. Having been made bishop of Hong Kong in 1975, he is also the first bishop from the territory to be invited by China to visit the mainland in 1985 since the communist government came to power there in 1949. He was again invited in 1986. The second trip included a visit to his native village in Guangdong Province where 63 years ago he was born to devout Hakka parents. Bishop Wu is equally at home in Mandarin and English as well as in the two Chinese dialects Hakka and Cantonese.



There has been much speculation in the local media here about Bishop Wu's appointment, augmented by the fact that both the Vatican and the Chinese government have been reluctant to offer official comment. Yet it can be safely assumed that Rome's decision was motivated by an awareness of the key role the Bishop and his diocese will play in the eventual restoration of Chinese sovereignty over the British colony in 1997. It will make Bishop Wu the first Roman Catholic cardinal to serve under a Chinese communist government. And this does have implications, both political and religious, for future relations of the Church with Beijing and the Chinese church, which has had no ties with the Vatican since 1957.

Perhaps amid all the speculation, Bishop Wu's own comments on his appointment offer the soundest commentary. While being interviewed at a press conference in Hong Kong, the Bishop said that he believed the Pope's decision was based on his desire to show his love and concern for the Chinese nation. "He deeply appreciates the long history of the culture and civilization of our country," said the Bishop, "and he acknowledges the importance of this territory of Hong Kong, which happens to be the largest Chinese Catholic diocese in the world."

It is well known that Bishop Wu, who also spent 18 years serving the church in Taiwan as a priest and pastor, is a strong advocate of

closer ties between China and the Vatican. He has spoken often of the need to increase contacts with the church in China that differences may be resolved through peaceful dialogue and mutual understanding in order to effect a full communion with in the universal church. He is an active proponent of the re-establishment of normal relations between Beijing and the Vatican, and on many occasions has called for his diocese to play a "bridge-role" in attaining such goals, a role that the Vatican supports, and seeks to underline by this recent appointment.

The Bishop has also clearly stated, while acknowledging that mutual accommodations and mutual concessions must be made to effect closer ties, that in matters of faith there can be no compromise. He was referring to the doctrine of the Church that defines papal primacy, specifically, the Pope as head of the universal Catholic Church. On the other hand, he is most anxious to discuss with churchmen on the mainland a large range of church-related issues, such as social development, human rights, the history and future of the Church, in the hope that concrete steps might be taken along the road towards eventual reunion. This openness to dialogue is no doubt one reason why the Patriotic Association greeted the news of his appointment with genuine warmth, saying of him that he is "our friend as well as our brother". It also indicates that while there are sharp differences yet to be resolved, especially the continuing diplomatic recognition of Taiwan by the Vatican, there is a sincere desire among church-leaders in China for increased ties with the universal church. For this reason, there is much room for optimism, and to-date there has been no negative comment on his elevation coming from China - a marked change from previous papal appointments.

Commenting to the press on the nature of his future work as a cardinal, Bishop Wu stated that one of his jobs would be to help "advise the Pope in administering universal Church business." He was quick to add that re-establishing links with China would be "one of those items of business." Such a remark leaves little doubt about how the cardinal-designate sees his future task. It gives much cause for a well-grounded hope among Christians everywhere that at a time when China is making every effort to open itself more to the outside, and a continual re-evaluation is being made of the often tragic history involving China and the Christian churches, the appointment of a local Chinese bishop to such an influential international body as the College of Cardinals should go to one who is completely dedicated to the idea of unity through mutual respect and creative dialogue. It augurs well for the future of the church in Hong Kong and, for that matter, for the future of the church in China and the world.