

FROM THE EDITOR

Departing from our usual format of offering our readers a number of articles on one basic theme, we have for you this time what one staff member calls a 'collage' and another a 'hodge-podge' of articles covering a wide-range of different subjects. All, of course, have to do with China. Leading off is Anthony B.L. Cheung, who, as a senior lecturer in the City Polytechnic of Hong Kong, is well equipped to give us a Political Overview of China. The recent political, social and economic changes there are particularly hot issues here in Hong Kong, which is readying itself for its return to Chinese sovereignty in 8 short years. Professor Cheung never deviates from the immediate and practical in his analysis of the present reform movement--where it finds its origins, and where it well might lead.

Dr. Aloysius Chang, Lecturer at Washington State University, U.S.A., on the other hand, is anxious that we make more progress towards Understanding the Religious Heritage of China, and rid ourselves of some of the common misconceptions that continue to crop up even today among western sinologists, who should know better. The fly in the ointment seems to be the tendency toward dualistic thinking found among western philosophers, and it results in a failure to grasp the essentially religious nature of traditional Chinese culture taken as a whole.

In the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese in the 1980's: A Bridge, Tripod's chief editor, John Tong, reviews the practical steps taken during the past decade to implement the Diocesan mandate to serve as a bridge-church. After a summary of efforts by Caritas in the field of social work, and the Holy Spirit Study Centre in the area of human relations, Father Tong offers some answers on how we might best minister to the needs of China's Catholics at this time.

With the opening up of convents on the mainland and the upsurge of interest among young women there to dedicate themselves to the religious life, one might ask: How do you go about forming a religious sister? Sister Dominica Cheng of Hong Kong's Sisters of the Precious Blood draws upon her years of experience and, more specifically, her work in religious formation, to offer some indications on how it is done. My Ten Years in Sister Formation is a clear and simple introduction to the formation-education process at a time when the sisterhood is being challenged to change by the ever lengthening shadow of 1997. Changes must come; how will the Sisters adapt?

Jean-Paul Wiest's Maryknoll in China (1918-1955), a history of the Maryknoll Fathers and Sisters in that country, has just been published. Sister Miriam Xavier Mug, a veteran Hong Kong missionary, reviews it for us in this issue. She finds it a "comprehensive and highly readable account" of this American Missionary Society's China experience. Wiest also points out in his closing words how Maryknoll's relationship with the Chinese people continues to influence Society policy today.

Dr. Wiest spent five years researching his book with the full cooperation of Maryknoll. It hardly comes as a surprise that all that material could not be crammed into a single volume work. This loss is Tripod's gain, as Dr. Wiest dips into that rich lode of material to give us an excellent portrait of one of Maryknoll's remarkable figures. In The Spiritual Legacy of Bishop James E. Walsh of Maryknoll, we not only encounter the history of the man, but the history of Maryknoll in China.



Over 20,000 Hong Kong Catholics and Protestants gathered in Government Stadium (on 9th June) and Victoria Park (on 5th June) to celebrate a special Mass or memorial service for the victims of Beijing Massacre.