

are just now resurfacing in various places throughout the continent.

The State Archives in Rome are planning a critical edition of Ruggieri's original atlas. Scholars both in Europe and in China are looking forward to its publication in the near future. When completed, it will be another positive step in the direction of forming closer ties of friendship between East and West.

Formal Address of John Baptist Cardinal Wu

On March 13th, Cardinal John B. Wu hosted a reception-dinner for a visiting delegation from China's National Bureau of Religious Affairs, which was headed by its director Ren Wuzhi. What follows is Cardinal Wu's welcoming address.

"It was at the end of March in 1985 that I led a Hong Kong delegation to Beijing and Shanghai to promote friendly exchange at the invitation of Director Ren, and it was just over a year later that Director Ren returned the visit by coming to Hong Kong as the guest of the leaders of our six major religions. This time he comes at the invitation of the Hong Kong Taoist Association, and I am honoured that he has taken time from his busy schedule to be with us tonight. I hope this simple meal will convey our gratitude and welcome.

On my visit to Beijing in 1985, I pointed out on a number of occasions the sincere desire of the Church in Hong Kong to contribute to the welfare of our Motherland, to promote stability and a spirit of unity within and outside of the Church, and to help foster the good name of China throughout the world. We desire this as Christians following the dictates of Jesus who preached love through service. Happily, our social service agency, Caritas, has been able to initiate over 100 social service projects in China at the invitation of the Chinese government and local community leaders over the past ten years. 20 of these projects are still in operation. On the level of education, we have been able to help reduce the acute shortage of teaching personnel in China and have assisted in the upgrading of educational standards there by sending language teachers and lecturers in theology to various universities and seminaries.

With regard to China's need for religious personnel in the service

area, while recent years have seen a reopening of our Motherland to the outside and continuing efforts towards reform, especially with the implementation of the religious policy which has allowed many churches to reopen and renewed efforts towards evangelization, there still remains a serious shortage of religious personnel.

If clergy from the outside were permitted to enter China under the same conditions that allow for social service and educational personnel to enter, i.e. at the specific invitation of local church leaders for designated tasks, this would be a great help in providing more needed religious services for our Motherland. It would also go a long way towards helping to realize the goal of one human family and one Church. The reopened churches would thus be able to make greater efforts to achieve their mission, and it would be an important step in implementing the government policy of religious freedom.

Recent developments in China having to do with the implementation of the policy of religious freedom have been a cause of more than some concern for us and also for the world at large. We are saddened by the news of conflicts among catholics within the Church, and even more recently, we and the world have been shocked by reports of the arrest and detention of catholics by the government. Indicative of the widespread concern and dismay over these arrests was the barrage of questions you were subjected to by journalists upon your arrival in Hong Kong, all having to deal with this important matter. You also received extensive media coverage and banner headlines in the press. As you know, Hong Kong is a crossroads between East and West, and its mass media is highly developed. For this reason, the Religious Affairs Bureau might well use positively these channels of information to explain the reasons behind the arrests, their possible implications and consequences. We, the Catholic Church in Hong Kong, would be most willing to use our advantageous position with the media to serve as a bridge in clarifying this whole situation in order to help rectify the harmful impression created in the world because of what is happening in China. Also we wish to help to restore harmony within the Church.

Another way of promoting Church harmony would be to improve relations between China and the Vatican by opening an active dialogue. If catholics in our Motherland would be allowed to practise their faith by engaging in normal communication with their brethren outside the country, as catholics do the world over, many of their internal conflicts could soon be resolved and China's international reputation would also be enhanced. I hope this point will receive the serious consideration of all concerned parties. I am convinced that if this can be done, it will

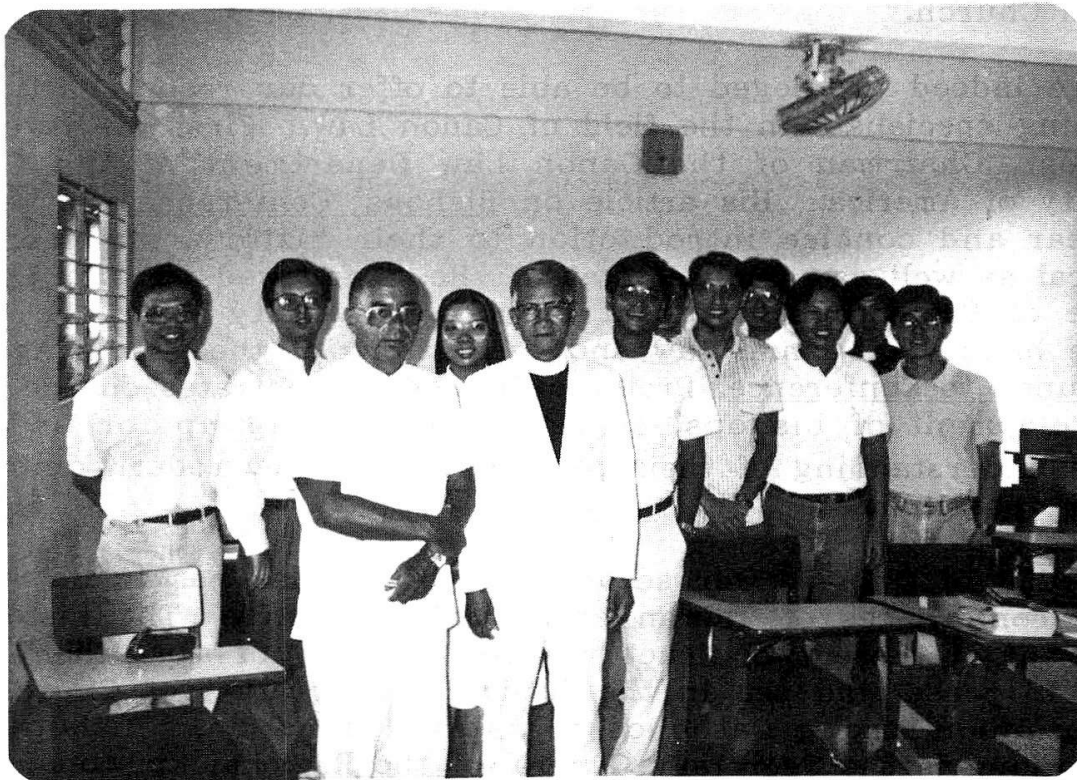
bring much good to our country and our church.

In conclusion, allow me to propose a toast to you, Director Ren, and all the members of your delegation, and also to all the leaders of the Religious Affairs Bureau of our country. May the future bring us many more opportunities to come together in friendship.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fr. James Lin Bingliang, Parish Priest of the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Guangzhou, to be ordained Bishop of Guangzhou on May 6, 1990 by Bishop Zong Huaide.

Fr. Lin was elected on February 15 to succeed Bishop Joseph Ye Yinyun (87) who died on March 13. Bishop Ye was born in Nanhai in 1902, ordained priest in 1934 and ordained Bishop of Huiyang in 1962. In 1981 he was made Bishop of Guangzhou. Fr. Lin was born in 1912, studied at the Regional Seminary, Hong Kong, and ordained priest in Guangzhou in 1941.



Fr. Lin (in clerical dress) visits Hong Kong Seminary