

INTRODUCTION

During the past year, we have received over 500 letters from China. Most of them are from priests, but there are letters from bishops, Sisters and lay Catholics as well. Some ask to be sent spiritual books; others ask for information about the Church outside. Many describe for us the present conditions in their diocese, while others write of their personal experiences of living out their faith daily, while trying to share it with their non-Christian neighbours.

These letters communicate important insights into the present situation of the Church in China as well as offering many reasons for hope in its future. We have chosen four from this large collection to translate into English in order that our readers might taste something of the richness of the faith, love and zeal for the Church that are reflected in the letters of those who write to us.