

Sister Ding lives and works in China's northeast. She is unsophisticated and simple, and also full of joy. She has a childlike devotion to the Blessed Mother, an intense zeal for spreading the Gospel, and she loves people very much, especially her Christian charges. I think you will say to yourself as I did after reading her letter: "Now here is one fine Sister."

September 17, 1994

Dear Sister in Christ,

How are you? The peace of Christ be with you. I know how busy you must be, but in the midst of your busy schedule do remember to take good care of your health. I was so glad to receive your letter. Let me share my own happiness with you.

We just finished celebrating our Blessed Mother's birthday. Everyone rejoiced and celebrated with unsurpassing joy! On her feastday this year over 20,000 Catholics made

their way from all over the province to her shrine here in
order to pray for her help and sing hymns in her honour.
Their devotion was so touching that it moved me to redouble
my own poor efforts to spread the Gospel. It was a day for
thanking God. If I get some photos of the celebration at the
shrine, I shall send them to you.

As for my own work, though our Bible sharing group
has only met five or six times, the results have been most
gratifying. I have discussed with our pastor what would be
the best time for holding these sessions. My happiest
moments, however, are spent in visiting the homes of our
Catholics. I get so much out of each visit. It means much for
me to see their great faith, especially those who live in the
more remote corners of our region. When I go to those
places where there is no public transportation or walk along
those rocky mountain paths, I think of the priests during the

Cultural Revolution and the great lengths they went to keep
the faith alive during such difficult times. I also think of Jesus
and the way of the cross. Such thoughts give me new
strength to continue along my own path. Many of our
people are new Christians. What they may lack in knowledge
of the doctrine, they make up for in their exemplary behaviour
and remarkable faith. They have that kind of faith that
expresses itself in daily prayer to God and to the Blessed
Mother. When I am with them I feel guilty, for I who am a
religious Sister find that they are much more devoted and
fervent than I. The main purpose for visiting the Catholics is
to provide support for each other as we seek together the
happiness of the kingdom of God.

The video tapes you sent to us are all very good. I have
loaned them out to our Catholics, who especially like the
one on the love between husband and wife. If possible,

could you send us more of these religious tapes? They are

most helpful in nourishing the faith of our Catholics.

You really exert a great deal of effort for us. All these

lovely gifts! I especially want to thank you for copies of *The*

Word in the Midst of the Family. Our Catholics find it

reflects the situations they meet in their lives. I gave one

copy to Sister Gong, and the others to our Catholics. I have

only had a chance to read a few pages, but it is of such great

benefit for our Catholics that I don't mind making this small

sacrifice of allowing them to read it first. One of the results

of your many gifts of books on me personally has been that

after reading them I now have more self-confidence when

teaching the doctrine to others. Thank you.

May the Peace of God be with you.

Sister Ding

* translated by Peter Barry, M.M.
