

From the Editor

The Holy Spirit Study Centre is now traveling on the superhighway. We have launched our own web pages. To log on and find out what we are doing, all you need is a computer, a modem, a supplier and a telephone line, of course.

Our web address is <http://confer.net.hk/~hsstudyc>, Our E-Mail is hsstudyc@confer.net.hk

Our aim, in joining the millions of others on the internet, is to be able to communicate and share our pastoral concern for China, especially religion in China, with a larger number of people.

Our web pages provide you with data on our publications: *Tripod*, *China Bridge* and *Vox Mundi*. Although, presently, we do not reproduce individual articles from *Tripod* on the net, we do include the index of the magazine and will regularly furnish you with the table of contents of the latest issues. In this way, our browsers will have some idea of the various types of articles and documentation we publish in our efforts at **dialogue** with culture, religion and atheism. If, as you browse, you find some topic of special interest, and want more information about it, please let us know and we will see if we can be of help.

At regular intervals we intend to update the news of the Church in China and other related matters. In so doing we hope to generate interest in China and China's religious situation.

Vox Mundi is our Catholic newsletter published monthly in Chinese only. This publication carries only small news articles about the Universal Church. This is a free service to Chinese Catholic Communities all over the world. Anyone interested may contact the Holy Spirit Study Centre.

Monthly, we will provide the full text of *China Bridge* that appears in the *Sunday Examiner*, Hong Kong's English diocesan paper. *China Bridge* deals with a variety of China situations and information in an easy readable style.

For those readers interested in source and reference materials on China, we provide a listing and brief commentary on important new as well as old books. We will be happy to include your suggestions for this listing.

We have also started to establish links with other web sites to widen the circle of information on China. We will keep you informed of this development.

We are happy to inform you that through the services of a member of the Paris Foreign Mission Society, the above information will also be available on our web pages in French. In the near future, we hope to provide you with the information in Chinese as well.

This issue of *Tripod*, which basically started out as an issue on Hong Kong, retains the theme in its two major articles. The first, *Old and New Challenges for the Hong Kong Catholic Church*, was written by one of our frequent and well-informed contributors, Sergio Ticozzi. Father Ticozzi analyzes Hong Kong's old challenges and explains how the Church in Hong Kong faced these in the past. He then presents the new challenges that may face the Church in the future with the return of Hong Kong to China. He leaves us with a strong feeling of hope.

The second concentrates on Hong Kong's Chinese Catholics and their struggle, in light of the change of sovereignty on July 1, 1997, to find their identity as Hong Kong citizens, as Chinese and as Christians.

The importance of *The Message of the Holy Father to the Church in China*, and the tremendous interest and responses this message generated, convinced us to change our plan. Much of the space originally designated for information on Hong Kong was given over to this subject. From among many responses, we selected five. Four of the respondents are Chinese and very knowledgeable about the China scene. One is the reaction of some church officials in mainland China. The fifth is from the director of programming at Vatican Radio, that first broadcast the message.

We have two important pieces of documentation in this issue. The first is a letter from the underground church to the Holy Father himself. The second is the new regulations for the annual mandatory inspection of religious premises.

In a lighter vein, and because we are in the midst of the new Lunar New Year, Father Michael Sloboda has written a short essay on the year of the ox.

We have, as usual, our news section and finally the *Tripod* Index for 1996. (BAM)