

Excerpts from Letters of Congratulations

The Holy Spirit Study Centre in Hong Kong has been publishing *Tripod* on a regular basis for sixteen years. In that time it has published innumerable essays offering a wide range of perspectives and philosophies on religion and ethics with a special focus on China and the Chinese. You have presented the many ways of Chinese thought, from traditional philosophies to martial arts, to allow ideas both pro and con, thesis and antithesis to interact effectively and productively. This is not an easy task and, to your credit, no mean accomplishment.

I congratulate you on the occasion of the publication of your 100th issue, and it is my fondest wish that your periodical's popularity may continue to keep pace with your unwavering dedication to journalistic excellence.

There is an ancient Chinese saying: "Look to the old to understand the new." I hope your present editorial staff will continue to follow the aspirations expressed by the editorial in your very first issue "to try by means of an empathetic dialogue to experience the religious and ethical problems of today's China, and in a simple way to introduce them and report upon them." My humble wish is that you continue to reflect the same high quality of reasonable presentation and historical accuracy as in the past, in order that future readers may through you more deeply "experience and empathize" with the people of China as they confront today's "religious and ethical" problems.

(Signed) +-Bishop Domingos Lam
Bishop of Macau

Tripod began publishing when the door to the Mainland had just opened. Not many people had gone into China to visit, and even fewer people understood the situation of the church in the Mainland. Thus it was hard to avoid some incomplete and one-sided reports. During the past decade a constant stream of visitors have gone in, and people know about the situation of the church in every location. The reports and commentary have thus naturally become more balanced and objective and match the original purpose, spirit and direction more closely.

In 1984, the Pope called the Taiwan Bishops Conference to become a Bridge Church. But in fact *Tripod* has been playing the role of a Bridge Church all along. I hope that the efforts and dialog of *Tripod* will bring reconciliation, communion and unity to a divided church at an early date, so that there may be "one flock and one shepherd" (Jn. 10:16)

Tripod assists us who are in other parts of the world to be well informed about developments of the Church in China and to appreciate the

historical background of contemporary events. By its objective, fair and sincere approach *Tripod* contributes to creating a climate of understanding and collaboration among all parties. As a result, *Tripod* fosters the unity of the Church in China with the universal Church. All of us your readers owe you a great debt of gratitude for nourishing us with 100 issues.

Congratulations! May the next 100 issues continue such a fine publishing tradition.

(Signed) +Bishop Paul Shan, S.J.
Bishop of Kaohsiung

The knowledge, analysis, insights and practical information contained in each issue serves to undergird the partnership in mission we are striving to rebuild with our Chinese sisters and brothers in the faith.

At the U.S. Catholic China Bureau, *Tripod* is a frequently and confidently referenced resource for reliable and balanced perspectives on the Chinese Church and its quest to be fully reconciled and renewed for witness to the Gospel in 21st Century China.

Prayerful congratulations to each person responsible for *Tripod*. May the second hundredfold of issues guide us all in this new time for the Chinese People, the Chinese Nation and the Mission of Jesus in China.

U.S. Catholic China Bureau,
Board of Trustees and Staff
Janet Carroll, MM
USCCB

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Edward J. Malatesta, S.J.
Director, Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History
University of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA, USA

Tripod has been faithful to its original purpose of developing a theological reflection on themes of interest for China, the world at large and Christianity. Loyal to its name, *Tripod* has been a kind of incense burner with a foot in China, a foot in the international community of Hong Kong and a foot in the universal Church. A scent of truth and love emanates from the many papers which have fed this review as a meaningful offering to God and to the people of China. May *Tripod* keep this flame alive for many more years to come as a contribution to theological research in the context of Chinese culture and society.

Rev. Jean Charbonnier
Relais France-Chine, 124 rue du Bac
Paris 75007 FRANCE

Since 1981 I have been a faithful and avid reader of each issue and I owe to *Tripod* a great vote of thanks for help in appreciating the Church in China from an insider's point of view. Throughout the past 17 years it has grown into a much respected publication for its feature articles and information. Thanks to its splendid staff!

I hope that *Tripod* will continue to tell the story of the Church in China and in Hong Kong as professionally as it has done so far. That will constitute a great help particularly to publications abroad.

Giancarlo Politi, Pime
Mondo e Missione
Centro Missionario PIME
Milano, Italia

