

Bishop Stanislaus Lokuang responds to “The Chinese Church at the Second Vatican Council” (Tripod #100)

September 28, 1997

Esteemed Bishop Tong,

I was happy to read the article by Fr. Angelo Lazzarotto in issue #100 of *Tripod*. [“The Chinese Church at the Second Vatican Council”] The Italian original has been translated into English and Chinese for the whole world. I praise this effort to hand down historical material about the Catholic Church in China. In reading the article, I notice two points which need of some clarification.

1.) On page 55, [English edition] it states that I “became the secretary of the commission from the very first session of the Council”. I was not the secretary of *De Missionibus*, I was an executive vice-president. The commission started with two vice-presidents, who later had only nominal responsibilities. I was selected as an executive vice-president but Fr. Paventi, head of one of the departments of Propaganda Fide, held the title of secretary.

2.) You mentioned that Cardinal Paul Yupin concelebrated with the Pope. To this you should add that at another concelebration on September 14, 1964, at the opening of the Third Session of the Council, there were twenty-four concelebrating with the Pope: three Cardinals, fifteen archbishops, four bishops, and two superiors general of religious congregations. One of the four bishops was myself, the Bishop of Tainan. Before I left Tainan, I received a telegram from the Secretary of the Council notifying me that I would be one of the concelebrating bishops.

When we received the Precious Blood, we all used a small silver spoon made especially for the occasion, and each one of us got to keep a spoon afterwards as a souvenir. Afterwards, Pope Paul VI never again used a small silver spoon when he concelebrated, and so the liturgical reform began.

Peace,

signed +Bishop Stanislaus Lokuang