

An Open Letter to the Synod of Asian Bishops

Dear Brother Bishops:

Today I had the good fortune to learn the news about the Synod of Asian Bishops now taking place in Rome. Since this is the first such Asian Bishops' meeting, my happiness at the news of it knows no bounds. It is unfortunate and regrettable that I am unable to attend, but it must be God's will. However, I do have the following thoughts, which I would like to share with you.

1. Christianity should first become Asiatic, in order that afterwards Asia can become Christianized.

At the beginning of the Church's history Christianity was preached in the Greek and Roman world. The Church began to be influenced by Greek and Roman culture. Afterwards she gradually became Hellenized and Latinized. Finally Greece and Rome became Christianized. Christianity should follow this path in China.

2. From ancient times Asia led the world. Asian thought held the position of primacy in the world. Moses, Jesus, Laozi, Confucius, Sakyamuni, and Mohammed were all Asians. Their thought has ruled people's hearts up to the present time. Their thought can be called "way of heaven" thought. There once was a man who desired to lead the world. But several decades of experience have proven that he has failed. That man was Marx. Although his ancestry was Asian, his thought followed "the way of the earth." Man is born of God and will return to God. Man is not born of earth, and will not return to earth. Marx and Mao planned to form a man with a nature belonging to the earth. Since this was not in accordance with heavenly principles, they failed.

3. Christianity should be inculturated into Asian culture. Asian culture and Christian culture should be smelted together in the same furnace, so that they blend into one nature and

become an Asian Christian culture. Finally a Christianized Asia would be achieved. The “heavenly way” thought of Jesus would be blended with the “heavenly way” thought of Asia to form a single entity.

Dear brothers, who bear heavy responsibility for the Church, please give careful consideration to these matters!

May God bless you!

Bishop Andreas
May 1, 1998

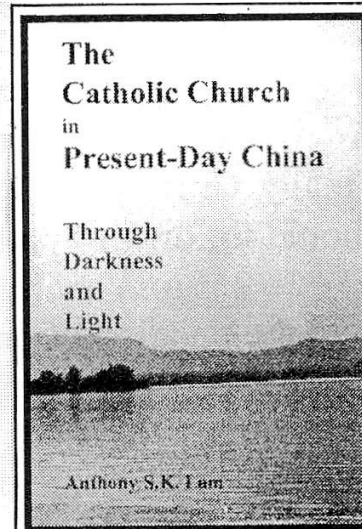
New Release!

***The Catholic Church in Present-Day China
Through Darkness and Light***

by Anthony Lam

Unique source of information and reference
on the Catholic Church in China
from 1949 to the present.

Are there two Catholic Churches in China?
Is there an Underground Church in China?
How many Catholics are there in China today?
Is the Catholic Church in China truly Catholic?



You will find the answers to these questions and many more in
***The Catholic Church in Present-Day China,
Through Darkness and Light.***

Published by
The Holy Spirit Study Centre, Hong Kong, China
The Ferdinand Verbiest Foundation, Leuven, Belgium

Overseas: US\$15.00 (air postage included)

Hong Kong \$ 75.00