

EDITORIAL

At 8 P.M. on April 30, 2009, at a moving ceremony in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception before a packed crowd of Catholics from all walks of life, Cardinal Joseph Zen officially handed over the reins of Ordinary of the Hong Kong Diocese to Bishop John Tong. At one point in the ceremony, Cardinal Zen led his successor to the bishop's seat in the Cathedral sanctuary, signifying the transfer of power. Cardinal Zen said: "This Eucharistic Celebration marks the commencement of the ministry of Bishop John Tong as the bishop of Hong Kong. The Holy Father accepted my resignation on the 15th of this month. On the following day, Bishop John Tong succeeded me as your pastor. As you have accepted me, please also accept Bishop Tong in the same way by obeying him, supporting him and cooperating with him in faith and love. Let us now welcome Bishop John Tong as our Good Shepherd."

The First Reading at the Mass was the account in Chapter 8 of Acts of the Deacon Philip sharing the Good News with the court official of the Queen of Ethiopia. Philip heard the official reading, aloud, the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, and he asked him: "Do you understand what you are reading?" The official replied: "How can I, unless some person show me?" Then, beginning with that Scripture (the one he was reading), Philip proclaimed Jesus to him.

That is the task of the bishop: to show people the meaning of the Scriptures, and to proclaim Jesus to them. However, fulfilling the role of teacher can be done in various ways. Nevertheless, the question inevitably arose: Will the new bishop be as outspoken as his predecessor on religious and social issues? Bishop Tong has said that on matters of Catholic doctrine, he will indeed speak out, and defend the faith. This is his role as bishop. And so, we call

upon the Holy Spirit to bless our new bishop in his task of shepherding the flock of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong.

In this issue of *Tripod*, we re-produce an interview with him, conducted by Gianni Criveller of our staff. We hope that it will help the reader to get to know Bishop Tong better.

The main topic for this issue of *Tripod* is the number of anniversaries taking place in China this year. These are listed and described in a general way in the article by Gianni Criveller. Then a long-time observer of the Catholic Church in China, Santiago Miro, focuses on the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Massacre. In his article he analyzes many reports about what really happened on the night of June 3-4, 1989 in Beijing. Finally, he calls for a rectification of the movement and of the victims. This is followed by Pastor Kwok Nai Wang's call for confidence on the part of the Chinese leaders to have the courage to vindicate the Tiananmen Incident, as well as the victims who died in it.

Our final article is by Professor Chen Fang-Chung on Lou Tseng-Tsiang, the former Foreign Minister of China, who became a Benedictine monk. Readers will recall that Lou's life and contributions were the special topic of the last issue of *Tripod*. But Professor Chen's article arrived after that issue had gone to press. So, we include it this time. It is also timely for this issue on anniversaries, because this year marks the 90th anniversary of the May 4th Movement. This movement arose in 1919 because the Versailles Treaty, at the end of World War I, assigned the German concessions in Shandong Province to Japan. Lou Tseng-Tsiang and the other Chinese delegates refused to sign the treaty, and boycotted the signing ceremony altogether.

May a review of the many anniversaries taking place this year lead China to make greater strides in the areas of human rights, freedom and democracy. (PJB)