

**China Church Quarterly  
US Catholic China Bureau**

**China Church Quarterly**  
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**U.S. Catholic China Bureau  
China Study Tour June 13-25, 2017  
Photo below shows meet with Cardinal John Tong  
Holy Spirit Study Centre, Hong Kong**



**U.S. Catholic China Bureau 27th Biennial National Conference  
August 11-13, 2017 St. John's University Queens, New York  
Theme: *Experience of the Chinese Church in the 21st Century***  
**Conference Participants at Conclusion of August 12 liturgy with Bishop Wang**





Picture to the left shows the June 27 to 29, 2017 RCIA program that was held in the XianXian diocese in Hebei province. Among the 35 Catholics were facilitators and sponsors who gained insight on how to encourage and teach catechumens to follow Jesus. Later there was one session for 28 priests to learn about traditional principles of Catholic Church social teaching in Xianxian diocese. During July 2017, an RCIA program also held in the Beijing diocese .75 Catholics were facilitators and sponsors were part of this group. In early October, 2017, an additional workshop provided the opportunity for 35 priests to learn about traditional principles of Catholic Church social teaching. This is a clear reminder of Chinese Catholics desire to learn and develop evangelization programs that are meaningful and practical.

**UCANEWS 9/ 27/2017** *Fifteen Chinese bishops cancel trip to Belgium* They were to have taken part in an October pastoral forum However, they informed the hosting Verbiest Institute that it was "not convenient" since dates of the trip clashed with the October 19th National Communist Congress.

**Asia News9/18/2017** *Mgr Savio Hon appointed nuncio to Athens.* He is the only high level Chinese member of the Roman Curia. He is well respected by many underground Catholics, many of whom he met during his stay in China.

**AsiaNews 9/26/2017** *WhatsApp in the crosshair of Chinese censorship* As the October 19th Chinese Communist Party Congress approached, the government tightened access parameters available to the public It is not unusual for Beijing to step up surveillance around major events, but it unclear whether this time restrictions will be lifted after the congress or remain.

**UCANEWS 8/ 29/2017** *Understanding the challenges nuns in China face.* Michael Chambon examined the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary. First, the sisters are facing a serious financial dilemma such as needed money for health insurance even as they continue to lead a simple life. Second, Priests and nuns hold increasingly distinct views on the church and their own mission and duties. Lastly, as a Chinese diocesan congregation it cannot define itself through a specific founder and charisma. Chambon concludes: "The visible presence of a Catholic consecrated life is quite strong in China today. Nevertheless, challenges and difficulties remain. Most of them are not from the state per se, but from socio-economic changes and ecclesiological expectations.

**UCANEWS 10/05 /2017** *Former Vatican Radio official advises pope to be tolerant of Beijing*

Father Joseph Shih, the former head of the China section of Vatican Radio, has sent a message to Pope Francis saying that the church needs to have "healthy realism" in its dealings with the Chinese government.

"Tolerance, Shih explained "was not the same as compromise, so the Holy See should not be opposed to Chinese authorities as it continued talks aimed, firstly, at normalizing the appointment of bishops.

Moreover, "Compromise gives something away to the other party, up to a level that the other finds satisfying. Tolerance gives nothing away, nor does it require that the other give (anything) away," He pointed out that those who opposed dialogue between the Holy See and the Chinese government exaggerated the differences between the "official church" and the "clandestine church" to hinder the ongoing dialogue.

The priest also interpreted the case of Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin, the auxiliary bishop of Shanghai, in the light of this "healthy realism." The prelate was put under house arrest shortly after his ordination, which was approved by both Rome and Beijing.

Shih elaborated: "that instead of loving the China of Confucius or of Chiang Kai-shek like many people who had an abstract idea of the country, Bishop Ma loved China as it is today's China, which was governed by the Communist Party.

Shih " pointed out that those who opposed dialogue between the Holy See and the Chinese government exaggerated the differences between the 'official church' and the 'clandestine church' to hinder the ongoing dialogue.

August 12. Sister Janet Carroll, M.M. receiving the Matteo Ricci Service Award at the Banquet and Cultural evening



August 11 Fathers Tommy Murphy S.S.C. (left) and Rob Carboneau C.P with keynote speaker Archbishop Eugene Nugent



August 12 Morning Keynote Professor Richard Madsen



August 12 Father John Liu Manchang offers insight on Evangelization and Formation



The gathering of approximately one hundred participants at St John's University offered insightful reflection by keynotes speakers on recent perspectives on Holy See– China relationships and the international Catholic China diaspora. Instructional workshops stressed parameters of Chinese Catholicism as it applies to charitable and social outreach, catechetics , ongoing religious and personal formation and Eco-Theology and China.

Thought provoking as well was the Catholic and Protestant scholarly exchange. The liturgy, Matteo Ricci Award Banquet and cultural evening renewed the spirit of all .

Watch conference power points at [www.uscatholicchina.org](http://www.uscatholicchina.org)

August 12 Sister Rita Hongyan Ge reflects on Chinese Spirituality Programs



## U. S. Catholic China Bureau Study Tour



Participant Mary Moran took the photo to the left and later wrote: The June 18, 2017 "Sunday mass in Xi'an's beautiful cathedral was full way before mass started, and folks spilled out onto the plaza. The active participation of all ages was amazing. All the people sang so joyfully and strongly, and so many stayed afterwards and knelt on the outdoor cement courtyard for the short but fervent Corpus Christi procession through the large plaza. The huge outdoor canvas painting of Jesus during the agony in the garden with drops of blood being poured into a chalice seemed a powerful display of sincere faith....I noticed several bystanders beyond the fence who stopped and witnessed the procession and the simple and unostentatious blessing of the people.

Photo to the right is at the Church of the Cross of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Hebei. Mary Sluka summarized visiting such locations. "Everywhere we went we witnessed so many sisters and priests involved in serving the elderly, the sick, the children. RCIA is strong, and justice work, and counseling of mental health patients, etc....Priests and sisters everywhere are visibly engaged in prompt and zealous service. and not in bureaucratic nor "clerical culture," and some sounded aware that educating the laity to serve the vast needs of the people is a top priority. Truly, their EXAMPLE of loving service is spreading the Gospel, not simply talking about it." Priestly and religious vocations were very high in the 90's and early 2000's, however since 2010 have decreased due to the one child policy and vast materialism, While the government controls all religious activity, "within certain parameters, there is room for lots of faith engagement, especially when that serves the harmony and flourishing of society."

The photo to the right is in Shijiazhuang, Hebei where the group visited Jinde Caritas Catholic charities and a home for the elderly, which is one of their ministries. "We had an opportunity," remembered group member Fernanda Perrone "to meet the residents of the home. It was inspiring to see people, most of whom were in their 90s, so warm, cheerful and faithful while realizing the years of suffering they must have endured--famine, the Second World War, civil war, and the Cultural Revolution."



Father Jeremy Zipple, S.J. and Zac Davis of America Magazine, the Jesuit Review joined the 2017 China Tour which enabled them to produce an excellent documentary on the Catholic Church in China.

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2017/09/25/catholic-church-china-short-documentary>

Learn more about the 2017 China Study Tour at <http://legacy.archchicago.org/radiotv/programs/MissionMatters/>. Mary Mio of the Archdiocese of Chicago interviews participant Mary Sluka. Scroll down to find the July 20 and 21 broadcasts.



### **Seeing China Through This Lens A Reflection on the US Catholic China Bureau Tour By Chantel Raven**

China: you breathe the word and can feel the weight of history, the beauty of the culture and the complexity of the language. I dreamed of China, of visiting the Great Wall and the Terracotta Warrior Exhibit; of listening to Mandarin and other Chinese dialects; and of watching the people, of how nearly twenty percent of the world's population went about their daily lives. It was the pinnacle of my dreams to visit China, and the US Catholic China Bureau's Guided Tour, led by Father Rob Carboneau, C.P., opened a door to a China I could not even envision.

It started with a text. My daughter saw the message from Fr. Rob and asked if I was interested. Oh the joys of today's technology, where advertisements for tours are now recorded video messages. That two minute video started the application process that would bring me into a foreign world full of people whose strength of character, strength of faith was an honor to observe. This tour brought together about twenty people, mostly strangers to each other, and gave us the story of China, something that will forever mark us in some indelible way. Like many others on this trip, I brought back the stories, the memories, and just as important, the photographs as seen through the lens of my camera.

My Nikon was a last minute gift from my daughter, and although I protested vehemently that a smartphone camera would suffice, she convinced me that I would need something with a zoom lens; she was right. The experience of throwing myself so deeply into the role of photojournalist brought back memories of how much I loved taking pictures. Memories of other roads travelled and other languages spoken as I peered through the camera lens made this experience all the sweeter. I wanted to be in a country where history was measured in millennia, yet, still reflected in modern culture, architecture, and language. I wanted to breathe it all in and have the experience come out through my pores.

difference and captured the attention of both Chinese and foreigners was especially glad to have Fr. Rob leading the trip as he was well-versed in not only Mandarin, Chinese culture and history, but Catholic culture and history in China. He provided the group with insight one achieves as a result of having been an American faculty member at a Chinese University for some time. We clung to his every word as he described the life and legacy of Catholic Priests in China, their trials and tribulations as they fought to practice and preach in a country that challenged their religion and faith. Despite these ongoing difficulties, everyone we met or spoke with had a story to tell; each dedicated to their beliefs and in helping others achieve faith and peace through religion.

We spoke with so many people, doctors, seminarians, priests, nuns, and even a few bishops! Their stories, what they shared with our small group of visitors and guests, are part of what made the trip so much more than a simple tour. I found that people, especially the children, were happy to meet us, to talk with us, or just to see us. They knew we were foreigners and they were curious, ready to ask questions or take a picture with any one of us. I was not expecting to be treated as a celebrity or visiting dignitary but everywhere we went, people celebrated our presence. We had a feast for every meal and guest speakers sharing their wisdom. If some in the group didn't know how to use chopsticks before the trip, they certainly became experts by the time we left China!

As part of my role was to record the trip through the medium of a camera lens, I was afforded some freedoms to maneuver throughout each room and function without question. The lens opened my heart and mind to the story of China and its people, with the US Catholic China Bureau Tour participants and Fr. Rob Carboneau, C.P. as witnesses and guide. This trip introduced me to China and encourages me to continue my studies in the hopes of returning.

- We are planning a 2018 China Study Tour
- You or someone you know can learn the rich, history and culture of China
- Walk in the footsteps of Jesuit Matteo Ricci
- Be enriched by the past and contemporary legacy of Chinese Catholics.

**Tripod** Number 185 (Summer 2017). “Reflections on 500 Years of Religious Reformation” offers numerous historical articles by the *Tripod* staff. Those with long standing relationships and friendships with Catholics and Christians in China might read “Religious Charity Work: Opportunity and Challenge under New Circumstances.” Written by *Zhang Guanglai* and translated into English by *Bibiana Wong*, the article cites points relevant to the promulgation of the Charity Law in March. *Tripod* available on website of Holy Spirit Study Centre, Hong Kong

**Foreign Missionaries and the Indigenization of the Chinese Catholic Church .** (Center for Catholic Studies, CUHK, 2017) Editor: *Cindy Yik-yi Chu*. “Gospel Zeal: Missionary Citizens Overseas and Armchair Missionaries at Home: American Catholic Missions in China 1900-1956 ”[pp. 35-67]by *Rob Carboneau, C.P.* is one of six essays.

**China’s Christianity: From Missionary to Indigenous Church** (Brill, 2017). Editor *Anthony E. Clark*. “Father Leonard Amrhein, C.P.: Missionary Zeal and Shared Experience of Suffering and Compassion with Chinese Catholics in Wartime and Late Twentieth-Century China [pp. 175-198] by *Rob Carboneau, C.P.* is one of the contributors that include China Bureau friends *Joseph Tse-hei Lee, Joseph W. Ho, Amanda C.R. Clark, Christie Chui-Shan Chow, Jean-Paul Wiest* and *Xiaoxin Wu*.

**China’s Last Jesuit: Charles J. McCarthy and the End of the Mission in Catholic Shanghai:** *Amanda C.R. Clark.* (Palgrave Macmillan 2017)

**The Atlantic** “In China, Unregistered Churches Are Driving a Religious Revolution: “The government won’t approve it, but the question is if they’ll shut it down” By *Ian Johnson* (April 23, 2017)

**America Magazine The Jesuit Review** “How-the top-heavy-Catholic-Church-is losing-the ground-game-in China” By *Ian Johnson* (printed in Volume 217. No.7.:October 2, 2017) Johnson writes of Dongergou in Shanxi province which is a Catholic center and home to Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Catholic Church.. The locale “is symptomatic of many challenges facing Catholicism in today’s China. The religion is still predominantly rural, but Dongergou and much of rural China are emptying out, with faith sometimes not making the leap to the big city” In part, Johnsson writes: “And although this village and many religious centers across China are benefiting from a boom in religious tourism, it is not clear that the underlying number of believers is growing. Indeed, some reliable estimates show that China’s Catholic population may be shrinking because of low birth rates, a failure to evangelize and the longstanding rift between Beijing’s Communist rulers and the Vatican.” Johnson continues: “ This failure to grow—estimates have the current Catholic population in China at not much above 10 million in a nation of 1.4 billion—has led many members of the church to see recent negotiations between the Holy See and the country’s Communist Party as especially important. Although talks have slowed in the past few months, locals are hopeful that better ties will inject a new sense of dynamism into the church. They even hope that the pope can visit one day, an event they believe will revive enthusiasm for the faith.”

**Religion & Christianity in Today’s China** “The Monastery Will Be a Chinese House”: The Inculturation of the Church in China from the Perspective of the History of Catholic Monasticism *Matteo Nicolini-Zani* (Vol 7: 2017. No. 3. pp. 41-53) Reflects on themes: Toward A Chinese Christian Monasticism and The Benedictine Monastery of Xishan (Sichuan): A Case Study”; An additional interesting summary is “News Update on Religion and Church in China March 28 – July 7, 2017“ Access for both at China Zentrum e.v.: <http://www.china-zentrum.de/en/retc/>

**China Source Quarterly** *The Chinese Church and Its Historical Past* (September 18, 2017 Vol. 19, No. 3) offers nine articles. Two of note are “The Fragmented and Complacent: Chinese Church that Lacks Historical Consciousness” by *Brother Li* and “Women In China’s Protestant Church and Mission” by *eL*

Access at //www.chinasource.org/about/publications/quarterly

## From the Staff's Corner: Linda M. Crisostomo



Linda Crisostomo enjoying the opportunity to meet and work with those attending the US Catholic China Bureau Conference, August 11-13, 2017

### Reflections As The 2016 to 2017 Events End

Linda M. Crisostomo

Working with U.S. Catholic China Bureau, I no longer pray for God to bless what I would like to do, instead I pray that I simply do what God is already blessing.

I am inspired by the words of one of my most liked author: "Every journey honestly undertaken stands a chance of taking us toward the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep needs," while many answers are still unknown as I say yes to the invitation of Mary the Mother of God, "Do whatever He tells you." The home-run success of our past events have given me a sense of wonder and gratitude. I am encouraged to respond in humility, "Here but by the Grace of God I go!"

During my interview for the position of Administrative Assistant to Executive Director, the challenge from a song The Summons, "Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?" whispered louder than most of the interview questions from Fr. Rob Carboneau, C.P. and Fr. Bob Carleton, M.M.

In the midst of our busy, sometimes puzzling work days, I would ask Fr. Rob, "Are we still having fun?" We continue to remind each other of the Bureau's vision, missions and to have fun. I know for sure that to work with U.S. Catholic China Bureau was a Call for me.

The success of the 2016 Matteo Ricci Award Dinner was the icing on the cake; coordinating the Event with fun, friendship and community every step of the way were the ingredients that the guests, vendors and volunteers had a delightful slice of. On the last couple of weeks before the 2017 National Conference, Fr. Rob asked me how I was with the logistics and coping with the updates from St. John's University. I told him my brief summary: "It's profoundly honing my skills in many dimensions of living the Bureau's vision of building bridges, that is, first amongst ourselves internally, so I can contribute to building bridges of the world," and he concluded, "It's honing of my skills too as a leader of this Organization."

Coming from work experience in a structured corporate environment, and having managed a state-of-the-art Retreat Center and now sailing the unchartered waters, the unfamiliar office operation of U.S. Catholic China Bureau, The Summons song continues.... "Will you let Me answer pray'r in you and you in Me?" thus enlarged my perspectives to new ways to love God's Catholic citizens of China and I was captivated by the works done and the many works yet to be done. This is a time, a place of pilgrimage where I may find myself doing the right thing for the wrong reason or maybe doing the wrong thing for the right treason.

Nevertheless, the opportunity: to accept, to walk the pilgrim-path, to be acculturated, to share my gifts—is a huge divine privilege. Choosing to switch to not-for-profit work now from the many years of successful and profitable corporate career is a mystical journey that still keeps me in awe!



Through the Intercession of Our Lady of Sheshan

Let us all seek friendship and blessings

Let us pray for the Catholic Church in China,

ourselves those in need

**U.S. Catholic China Bureau has now made digital copies of this beautiful originally hand-painted on silk Madonna and Child by Monica Ho-Peh Liu (1928-2016), available for you to order by email: [staff@uscatholicchina.org](mailto:staff@uscatholicchina.org); on subject line put: MARIAN ART ORDER**

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