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CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!

The US Catholic China Bureau wishes you the joy and blessing of a peaceful Christmas Season.



Ricci Institute, USA.

Greetings for Advent and Christmas! As we begin the new liturgical year, it is good to reflect on and celebrate the year just past, as the Church did last month with the Feast of Christ the King. There is much good news this year to celebrate with the China Church - the outpouring of affection by all Chinese Catholics at the death of Pope John Paul II and the election of Pope Benedict XVI, ordinations of new bishops, recognition by Pope Benedict of the importance of China by his invitation of the four Bishops from China to the Eucharistic Synod in Rome, and ever growing contribution of social services for the Chinese people from the Catholic Social Service Centers throughout the country.

However, the recent tragic beating of the Sisters in Xian on November 23 (see insert), reminds us how inseparable are the Crib and the Cross in our faith. In the light Fr. Paul Shi's Christmas reflection on this theme of how the Crib leads to the Cross, [cf. P.2] this unfortunate incident is a stark reminder of the difficulties facing the Church in China. When religious sisters of an officially registered Church, in a diocese

actively serving the needs of all the people in the society, while working within the law of the land and simply exercising constitutionally guaranteed rights to church property and social institutions (such as a school), can be subjected to such violence, one cannot but be astounded at the degree of local malfeasance. This violence derives from the rampant corruption spawned in China, as in other developing countries, by unmitigated greed and an inadequately regulated market economy. In their sufferings, these Sisters join innumerable other marginalized people all across China who are losing property and rights because of such greed and corruption.

To give readers more information on this incident, a special insert is enclosed giving background to the official letter from Bishop Thomas G. Wenski, Chairman of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on International Policy, addressed to the PRC Ambassador to the United States, demanding an explanation of this tragic incident. We encourage you to share this news with friends and colleagues and to join us in a call for a just and peaceful resolution of this matter, including reasonable restitution for those whose civil and social rights have been so severely violated.

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION: Before the Manger

Paul SHI Hui Min, a priest of the Beijing Diocese, shares his early experience of Christmas at home in Inner Mongolia, contrasted with his current experience in the USA. Currently an STD candidate at GTU Berkeley, CA, Paul is preparing to return to teach at the Beijing Diocesan Seminary.

My first Christmas was in 1982 when our local church reopened after the Cultural Revolution. The church was like a warehouse and very cold, crowded and filled with emotion. After the long Latin Vigil Mass, I followed the crowd to the crib and knelt before the manger where the natural silence drew my eyes to the figures of Mary and Joseph, the Kings, shepherds and animals. I saw a naked baby lying lifeless in the manger and I assumed he was Jesus. The figure was crude and painted with simple colors. My first impression was how ordinary he looked, how cold he must be, and how unfortunate to be born so poor. The tears of the people before the manger stirred my heart and I felt a close connection between the poor baby Jesus and us.

Later I learned from Scripture about Jesus' birth and believe that Jesus began his journey to crucifixion from the moment he was born. The body laid in the manger is the same body hung up on the cross; the same mystery of love is in the crib and on the cross. Since my first Christmas, I have seen many nativity sets and my reverence of the crib remains the same.

In the U.S., when I have knelt down before nativity sets however, I have not experienced the deep connection with the infant Jesus as I did back home. The beauty and elegance of the nativity scenes in the warm and comfortable churches stirred my heart but I couldn't find the poor baby Jesus. Instead I sense the aura of Christmas as the birth of a triumphant King who brings victory and peace to the earth.

How can I integrate my Christmas experiences of my home with those in the West? The Gospel infancy narratives provide the answer. Different accounts in Luke and Matthew make the story meaningful. In Matthew the revelation came to Joseph, but came to Mary in Luke. In Matthew the good news came to the Gentile Magi while in Luke it was announced to the Jewish shepherds. These differences teach us that no one should take Jesus as their private possession or as their own cultural possession. Jesus Christ belongs to all genders, races and status, etc.

We bring the Magi and shepherds together in the crib. Jesus lay in the manger to be worshiped not only by Kings with precious gifts, but also by poor shepherds with warm hearts. Jesus was born not only as a King

but also as an ordinary person engaged with poor people. Before the Manger we should be full of joy, but also remind ourselves of the sorrow of Jesus' life. I learned that Christians in England took Holly as their Christmas symbol since its thorns and red berries are a reminder of the suffering of Christ. John Paul II, once in a Christmas season homily said that at Christmas, the Crib lies always in the shadow of the Cross.



New Bishop for Wanzhou

Rev. Paul HE Zeqing was consecrated Auxiliary Bishop for the Wanzhou Diocese in Sichuan Province, by 89 year old *Bishop Joseph XU Zhixuan*. He is the third new bishop this year to be appointed by the Holy See for the China Church with concurrent approval of the government. *Bishops Anecetus WANG Chongyi of Guiyang* and *TAN Yanchuan of Nanjing* served as co-consecrators. Bishops from Shandong, Nanjing and Tangshan attended the ordination along with 80 priests and 1000 Catholics. Representatives of several government ministries and agencies were also present. Wanzhou is an area affected by the flooding of the Three Gorges Dam. Six churches have had to be relocated and two new ones have been built. HKSE 10/05

Bishop Peter ZHANG Boren, 91, revered Bishop of Hanyang City (Wu Han) in central China, died on October 13 and was buried in his native village. His funeral, attended by over 1600 people and government officials, was concelebrated by fifteen priests from both registered and unregistered communities, another sign of hope for increased cooperation and understanding. Bishop ZHANG, highly respected for his holiness and gifts of healing was strongly opposed to the Patriotic Association. Despite this opposition, he took pride in his four nephews who were ordained for the open church. HKSE 10/05

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Highlights of Fall Visits to China

Cardinal Roger Mahony in China

In mid-October **Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles**, visited China informally on a two week sabbatical. At the invitation of officials, he lectured on Priestly Spirituality at the National and Regional Seminaries in Beijing, and at Shanghai's Sheshan Seminary. While in Beijing he met with representatives of the State Administration for Religious Affairs and CPA. In Shanghai he met with Bishop Aloysius JIN Luxian and celebrated Mass at St. Peter's Church, which serves the city's international Catholic community. Cardinal Mahony was impressed with the new signs of life he found in the China Church. Writing for the *Hong Kong Sunday Examiner*, he noted that **Catholics "realize that a new type of cultural collision is beginning to take place in China as the values of the Gospel and Jesus Christ are in sharp contrast to the new Chinese values of making money and having more and more possessions."** Further noting this quest for material goods, he said that this **"reflects what we have experienced in the US for decades."** The Cardinal wrote that "among the Catholic community he found no signs of despair," and that "they are filled with deep zeal and new energy to bring fuller evangelization to their people;. . . youthful leadership now in place will also seek to allow the Gospel to permeate the rich and enduring values of the Chinese Culture." HKSE 11/05

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, current Vatican Archivist and considered a long-time friend of the Church in Taiwan, visited in November to receive a medal from the Taiwan government and to give a speech at Taipei's Fu-jen Catholic University. While the visit by the Cardinal raised speculations that he came to explain the Vatican's imminent decision to normalize relations with China, Taiwan's Ambassador to the Vatican, TOU Chou-seng said that the trip had been planned for April but was postponed after the death of Pope John Paul II.

A few spaces are still available for:

USCCB's 10th Religious Study Tour to China

March 18th - April 3rd, 2006

**Beijing - Xi'an - Wuhan -
Guilin - Guangzhou - Shanghai**

**\$300 Deposit to hold reservation due by JANUARY 20, 2006
estimated cost - \$3500 All inclusive - based on double occupancy.**

For more details: www.usccb.net

E-mail chinabur@shu.edu or call 973-763-1131

New Learning for an Old Student

In late October and early November, I returned, after a 15 year absence, to visit the church in *Chongqing* in Sichuan Province; and visited for the first time in SW *Guizhou Province*. New learnings and experiences were as profound as they were varied. Once again, I was reminded of **how little one can generalize about China** and **how much there is yet to experience and understand** about this vast country of a billion and a quarter fascinating people!

My first visit to China was in 1987 - and my last was in June 2004 - with a dozen others in between...including leading 8 *USCCB Religious Study Tours*. Though visible changes are to be expected, **still the pace and extent of change in China is astounding.** **Even more dramatic are the unseen sea changes affecting society, communities and individuals.** And these only such as one can intuit even in the most in-depth sorts of encounters. Even more disconcerting are the profound chasms of disparity between what is *de jure* and what is *de facto* in almost every situation and existing reality. Perhaps, the colloquial expression [rendered orally as 'mao dun'] - best sums it up for a visitor: *many things can seem inherently contradictory!*

Ever so sadly, nothing so vividly illustrate this, as news of the terrible suffering inflicted upon the Community of Sisters in Xian Diocese on November 23rd [cf. insert]. This event occurred just 10 days following my visit, during which I had found so much hope and promise among the small Catholic communities, and bishops, priests and religious Sisters, I met along the way. It was difficult for me to comprehend news of the Xian tragedy [inconsistent in and of itself with China's expressly stated religious policy and practice] in the context of what I had just experienced of the growing maturity and capacity of these living communities of the Chinese Catholic Church.

I have no doubt the lively **communities I met at Guiyang, Anshun, Zhenning and Zunyi in Guizhou Province - and at Chongqing, Nanjing and Shanghai cities** will surely endure. Though poor in material resources and few in number compared to the demands for ministry to ever growing communities of faith, China's Catholics remain irrepressible in living out their baptismal call to be missionaries among the peoples of their own land.

Janet Carroll MM, USCCB Programs Associate



Church News

Holy Spirit Study Center Silver Jubilee *From Watching to Shared Mission*

In November, the Holy Spirit Study Center in Hong Kong celebrated its 25th Anniversary with an International Symposium hosted by the Center's Director, **Auxiliary Bishop John TONG Hon** and his staff. Cardinal Paul Shan, Archbishop of Kaohsiung, Taiwan was among the 75 participants from Asia, Europe and North America. The Center's **four founding fathers**: Bishop John TONG Hon, Peter Barry, MM, Angelo Lazzarotto, PIME, and Elmer Wirth, MM, and other long-serving staff were honored at a liturgy celebrated by Bishop ZEN. In his homily at the Liturgy, the Bishop stressed the importance of unity among all Chinese Catholics.

In their reflections on this milestone occasion, the founders noted **four stages in the development of the HSSC that reflect the state of overall relations and shared mission with the China Church: initial watching and reporting on China; dialogue with the China Church and government; working in partnership with the Church and government; and now mutual sharing and learning between the local and universal churches.**

As China's rapid economic growth creates crises in political control and social welfare, **the Church must challenge China to put its new wealth to good and just use.** Partners in mission with the China Church are now interacting on a wider scope of activities. There was a consensus that churches, religious societies and agencies with the China Church need closer collaboration. Many of the participants affirmed a statement made by Bishop ZEN during the recent Eucharistic Synod in Rome: *"The Church in China is in reality only one Church because everyone wants to be united with the Pope."* Dialogue and partnership should be open to all those in China who consider themselves Catholic.

A 25th Anniversary issue of *Tripod*, (Vol. XXV, No. 138, Autumn 2005) the quarterly Journal of HSSC includes articles by major pioneers in the *Dialogue of Faith* with China. A 1998 preface to the Chinese translation of Pope Benedict XVI's book – *State of the Faith* - reflecting his hopes for the evangelization of China, introduces this issue. Copies @ USD4.50 are available from HSSC at www.hsstudyc.org.hk. Annual subscription is \$26.

Amity Foundation 20th Anniversary

The *AMITY Foundation*, an independent Chinese voluntary organization, was created in 1985 on the initiative of Chinese Christians to promote education, social services, health, and rural development from China's coastal provinces in the east to the minority areas of the west. Its **VISION** is "a China where all people with mutual respect in faith, work closely together for building a just, prosperous, green and civil society." By its **MISSION** it "commits itself to work in partnership with groups and individuals towards empowering communities".



In celebration of its 20th Anniversary, more than 200 people gathered in Nanjing City on November 6 – 8 to renew bonds of friendship and mutual commitment towards these ends. The US Catholic China Bureau was represented by Sr. Janet Carroll. **USCCB has collaborated with AMITY on programs of service in China since our own founding in 1989** – in particular their program to recruit and orientate teachers of English for China's colleges, sponsored by the US Christian Churches and organizations.

The centerpiece of the celebration was an **International Symposium on Social Service Work**, at which sociologists [notably, *Prof. Sun LiPing* from TsingHua U.] and leaders of Chinese charity foundations, social welfare and service organizations presented critical analyses of the most pressing socio-economic issues. **China's rapidly over-heating economy and drive to modernization is spawning social and civil problems and challenges faster than the government can devise domestic policy and social infra-structure to deal with them.**

Consistent with **AMITY's six point organizational paradigm**: *Compassion, Commitment, Competence, Communication, Cooperation and Creativity* - the entire event was organized and orchestrated in a most productive manner – engaging the services of the very professional staff – with assistance of many student volunteers from Nanjing Union Seminary and Nanjing University.

CONGRATULATIONS to AMITY General Secretary QIU ZhongHui and Executive Secretary ZHANG LiWei and all our collaborators and friends!

5th European Ecumenical China Conference

The 5th EECC, held in Rome Sept. 16-20, brought together some 150 Catholic and Protestants from churches in 18 countries in Asia, Europe, and North America, all of whom are actively engaged in dialogue and cooperation with the Churches in China. **Cardinal Roger Etchegaray** in an opening address noted the conference was particularly valuable because **ecumenical initiatives are “still too rare” in China.** The credibility of Christian witness in China depends on the visible unity of the Christian Churches. He **emphasized** the importance of meeting **two critical challenges:** “to what extent has Christianity really entered China? and to what extent has China joined the wider world?” “This is the first time in their history that the Churches in China are on their own to face up to an earthly power.” In the “Long March of the Gospel” in China from the 7th Century, the spirit of **Matteo Ricci** is with us to guide us along the way as he taught us **to understand the Chinese people through their eyes and to respect their unique identity.**

Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli Honored

Dialogue and reconciliation were key themes in the address by **Archbishop Celli, a key emissary in China-Vatican relations since 1982** at a special event following the EECC. The *Freinademetz Award* (named for the first SVD missionary priest to China, St Joseph Freinademetz) was presented to Celli for his extraordinary contribution to better understanding between the cultures and peoples of China and Europe.

In accepting the award, he reminded the audience that *the Holy See is disposed from morning to night, to a constructive dialogue with colleagues in China to reach normalization, a dialogue started many years ago.*” Recalling Pope John Paul II’s great love for China as he constantly received letters from the Church in China, Celli said: “*John Paul’s approach to that Church was to facilitate as much as possible the full communion of both communities.*” Celli acknowledged the difficulties experienced by the Church in China and its relations with the Holy See, but said these have lessened in recent years. Acknowledging the suffering many Chinese Catholics have endured, he said, “*this will be the glorious aspect of the life of the Church in China.*”

Looking to the future Celli predicted that “**Tomorrow, when the archives will be opened, you will realize the greatness of the history of the Church in China. What testimony of faith, and of life, the Church in China is giving to Christ and to us!**”

UCAN/HKSE 10/05

Continued China-Vatican Dialogue

During an impromptu press conference at the Gregorian University on October 25 **Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican Secretary of State**, was quoted as saying, “**If we could have ties with Beijing, then—not tomorrow but tonight-- the nuncio-- or rather the chargé d'affaires who is now in Taiwan -- would head for Beijing.**” While he indicated that the Vatican is prepared to change the nature of its relations with Taiwan, it will not compromise on religious freedom for Catholics in mainland China. “**We must always insist on the understanding that the Church is undivided throughout the entire world, in all cultures and all countries, and that civil governments do not have the right to tell men and women how to live their faith.**”

CWN 10/05

Bishops and the Synod – Update

In CCQ 63, we reported on the invitation of **Pope Benedict XVI** to four bishops from China to attend the Eucharistic Synod in Rome last October. Ultimately, they did not receive exit visas. On October 6, one of them, *Bishop Luke Li Jingfeng of Shaanxi* addressed a letter to the Synod regretting that they were unable to attend; but expressing the hope that there will be improved relations between Beijing and the Vatican. During Pope Benedict’s closing remarks at the Synod, he sent fraternal greetings to all the bishops in China in the name of the worldwide Catholic hierarchy; “*With deep sadness we felt the lack of their representatives. I would like to assure all the Chinese prelates that we are close to them with prayer, and to their priests and their faithful. The suffering path of the communities entrusted to their pastoral care is present in our hearts. This will not remain fruitless because it is a participation in the Paschal Mystery, to the glory of the Father.*”

Four other Synod Fathers in a separate letter emphasized the Eucharist as the focus of Church life and expressed the unity to be found in communion with Christ and the Universal Church. *In the Lord Jesus, we hope that all the ecclesial communities in China may flourish in listening to the Word, in celebrating the Paschal Mystery and in the generous service to the brothers.*” They also expressed regret at the absence of the China Bishops, saying; “*we would have liked to meet you and listened to your voices, your suffering and fruitful ecclesial experiences. We would like to assure you and the whole Church in China that you are present in a particular way in our hearts and in our prayers.*”

Teaching in China: An AITECE Update

While in China in November, *Sr. Janet Carroll* – USCCB Programs Associate – visited three of the teachers from the USA – among the 7 Americans sponsored by the Bureau – currently serving with the **Columban Society coordinated AITECE program**. AITECE has a total of **53 teachers of English serving at over 30 colleges and universities in 17 provinces in China**.

John Glasheen from Albany NY has been at *Zunyi Medical College in Guizhou Province* the past two semesters and plans to continue there for the foreseeable future. **Jean Maher**, a Daughter of Charity from Illinois, and **Carrie Desrosiers**, a young woman from New Hampshire, have both been at *Sichuan International Studies University in Chongqing* since September. Both these educational institutions located in SW China, - a region only recently undergoing modernization - predominantly serve students from one of the 56 [non-Han] ethnic minority groups heavily populating the SW provinces. Their **assignments are in line with AITECE's priority to supply teachers for educationally under-served communities in China's economically poorer and less developed areas**.

It was most encouraging to find all three happily settled and very professionally engaged with their heavy course load for over 100 students each. Invitations to appear as "visiting lecturer" at both schools, gave me the joy of personally encountering these beautiful young adults, - so eager to learn from their *foreign* teachers - not only English and related subjects - but also about many other topics of interest to them arising from their youthful curiosity. This latter includes Christianity, its values, virtues and customs flowing from what they perceive to be the foundational ethos of the West. Responding to such *student-initiated* queries is well within the bounds of official educational policy and guidelines for foreign experts – distinguishing very clearly from any form of proselytizing or teaching of religion by foreigners.

*USCCB is currently processing
teachers for the Spring 2006 Semester
For AITECE information check our
website: www.usccb.net*



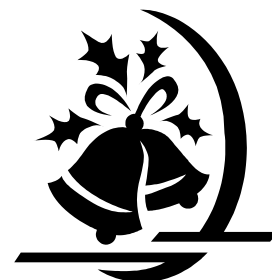
China Dream Comes True

Note: Sr. Leclare Berris, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, was a member of the USCCB Religious Study Tour in November 2004. A nurse by training, she was subsequently invited by school officials she had met on the Tour to return to teach at the Angel International School of Nursing in Wuhan. Aided in her application by the AITECE coordinator in Hong Kong, Fr. Hugh MacMahon, Sr. Leclare succeeded in her quest and taught for six months in 2005. Excerpts from her journal follow:

I knew the moment I stepped into the classroom that this was a gift for me. Teaching students with varying degrees of English was a challenge, but a meaningful one. I felt the students were open to learning about nursing in America. **Although I could not teach about God or religion**, and the people I met did not know I was a religious sister, **I did teach many things not in the textbook, but which had great meaning to my students**. In one session I related to how we are all equal. Even though I was a *foreign expert* [the formal government term for foreign teachers], I explained that while I came with expertise in the subjects I was teaching, they were the experts because they knew about China, its culture and what was going on in China. One student later told me she was no longer afraid of foreigners because of what I had taught. Before that class she would not try to speak English to foreigners, but now she felt she could do so. What a freeing feeling for her. To me, that alone made going to China worthwhile.

Beyond teaching, God touched me in a special way. The first Sunday after Mass, I met a lady who invited me to her home. She told me how she hid her rosary, so it would not be taken away from her and also told me that she had been taught by Sisters, but did not know their community. I told her we had a Community of Sisters in Wu Chang who left in 1949. Through one photo I had of a Sister she knew we learned it was my Congregation! Later I found the place where our Sisters had worked and took a picture of the school, which is still standing. **What I learned in China is invaluable to me. I feel it was a special gift from God in my aging years, one that I will always be grateful for.**

Sr. Leclare Berris, FSPA



China News

Health Care Lags

Under China's booming market economy the country's health care system has suffered. Since 1985 many hospitals have become private, for profit facilities. Even the Deputy Chairman of the *Chinese Hospital Association*, claims that the government has shirked its responsibilities by forcing hospitals to finance themselves through profits. China's Health Ministry receives only 1.69% of the central government's annual budget, most of it going to cities. **The 70% percent of China's population living in rural areas receive only 30% of health care expenditures, while the 30% in cities receive 70%.** More than 40% of city dwellers and 79% of the rural population were NOT covered by health insurance in 2004. The high cost of care has forced many patients to avoid doctors and self medicate with the result that an estimated 190,000 people die each year and 2.5 million are hospitalized for improper drug use. While Chinese make up 22% of the world's population, they are covered by only 2% of the world's health care expenditures. **According to the 2004 World Health Report, China's health care system ranked 189th of 191 countries.**

Asia News 10/05

Jesuit Contributions Recognized

A group of Chinese Catholics in Beijing have petitioned the local government for permission to build a **museum in memory of Matteo Ricci**, the 16th Century Italian Jesuit most responsible for **establishing religious and cultural ties between China and the West.** The proposed site is in the large park near the small cemetery where Ricci and other missionaries are buried. The museum could be a meeting place for religious and diplomatic visitors and local people who hold Ricci's memory in high regard.

Asia News 11/05

The **Chinese-French Grand Ricci encyclopedic dictionary** is now on display in Shanghai in connection with the "*Year of France*" in that city. Begun by Jesuits in Macau in 1949, the seven volume work of 9,000 pages contains 13,500 single Chinese characters and over 300,000 Chinese expressions. An abridged edition with simplified characters will be published in 2007 by China Commercial Press. *Benoit Vermander, S.J.*, Director of the Ricci Institute in Taipei, said the exhibition is very "*symbolic . . . It's the first time work in the lexical field is exhibited and recognized in China.*"

Reuters 09/05

Catholic Relief Service Back in China

CRS, the social welfare arm of the US Catholic Bishops, has a new representative working in China to **support projects in three program areas: HIV/AIDS prevention and care, health care, and capacity building.** CRS first went to China in 1943 to assist the poor during WWII, and later shifted to assisting refugees in Hong Kong and Macau. Beginning in the mid-80s, in collaboration with CARITAS/HK, CRS supported outreach programs to improve the lives of handicapped children. In 2001, CRS partnered with Maryknoll on an HIV/AIDS initiative, providing training on prevention, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS. CRS has working partnerships with *Catholic Social Service Centers* in Shenyang and Xian, and *Befang Jinde Center* in Hebei Province.

Catholic Social Teaching Symposium

Growing appreciation of Catholic Social Teaching in both academic and social fields was highlighted at a May '05 Symposium in Beijing on CST and Social Responsibility. As with an earlier one held in 2001, it was co-sponsored by the *Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Institute for the Study of Christianity* and *Misereor*, the charity fund of the *German Catholic Bishops' Conference*. The Symposium brought together scholars, theologians, priests and laity to address *Religion and Society; Ethics of Catholic Social Responsibility; Society, Culture and Globalization; and Environment, Social Justice and Social Services.* On behalf of the sponsors, *Prof. ZHOU Xinping of CASS*, and the leader of the *Misereor* delegation confirmed their willingness to work for greater collaboration.

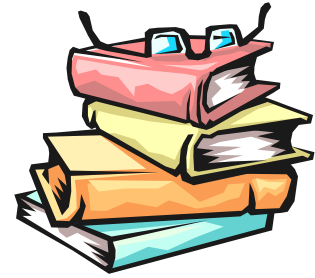
AF 11/05

US Reports on Religious Freedom

- Congressional-Executive Commission on China 2005 Annual Report, October 11. Available at: <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt05/index.php>
- US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report 2005. Available at: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2005/51509.htm>. The China Section includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau. It acknowledges positive developments within the Catholic Church while reporting continued oppression of some unregistered communities. It puts China back on the list of concerned nations.

Reading Notes

The Chinese Face of Jesus Christ. Vol. 3a. Roman Malek, Ed. 2005. Monumenta Serica Institute, Sankt Augustin (Germany). Pp.466. ISBN 3-8050-0524-5 EUR\$60.00 plus EUR \$5.00 postage.



- The third volume in this monumental series covers the first half of the 20th Century to the Revolution and includes chapters that reflect the wide variety of contemporary issues of faith and culture of the period: Interaction of Christianity with Islam; images evoked during the May 4th Movement (1919); and the images and perspectives of major 20th Century writers like Lu Xun, Mao Dun and Lin Yutang. There also are chapters on the Protestant theologian T.C. Chao and Catholic Confucian scholar and American jurist, John Wu.

"The Catholic Church in China," *America* Vol. 193, No. 14. November 7, 2005. Sister Betty Ann Maheu, MM.

- Adapted from her presentation to the 20th *National Catholic China Conference* in June 2005, this article provides a concise overview of the Catholic Church in China today. Descriptions of the different challenges facing the new generation of young bishops, priests and religious women and the laity provide especially valuable insights into the lives of Chinese Catholics.

The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin. Robert Lawrence Kuhn. 2005. Crown. Pp. 720 ISBN: 1400054745 \$23.10.

- Biography of the Chinese leader who succeeded Deng Xiaoping and continued China's reforms through the 1990's. It provides an appreciation of the difficulties facing a reform leader. In its attempt to counter many of the unflattering perceptions of his apparent hard-line approach, the author does gloss over some of Jiang's unflattering moments as e.g. when he ended popular movements.

SARS in China: Prelude to Pandemic? Arthur Kleinman and James Watson Ed. 2005. pp. 208. Stanford University Press. ISBN: 080475313X \$50.00

- The authors of this volume focus on specific aspects of the SARS outbreak—epidemiological, political, economic, social, cultural, and moral. They analyze SARS as a form of social suffering and raise questions about the relevance of national sovereignty in the face of such global threats. Taken together, these essays demonstrate that SARS had the potential of becoming a major turning point in human history. This book thus poses a question of the greatest possible significance: Can we learn from SARS before the next pandemic?

SAVE THE DATE!!!



The 22nd National Catholic China Conference

***Experiences of Jesus Christ
Through Chinese Eyes***

November 3-5, 2006

Atlanta, Georgia

For more information see our website at www.usccb.net or call 973-763-1131.