

China Church Quarterly

No. 97 February 2015

US Catholic China Bureau

As the new Executive Director of the U. S Catholic China Bureau, please join with me to fulfill our mission to educate American Catholics about the past and present realities of the Catholic Church in China and building cooperative relationships with them.

Because China is always in the news, people have many images, observations and questions. Certainly, conversation often turns to the famed Jesuit Matteo Ricci (1552-1610). A true model of cross-cultural understanding, his life offers an example of respect and shared wisdom that still captures the imagination of people worldwide.

Many also recall the efforts of the twentieth century American Catholic missionary religious men, women and lay workers who served Chinese society to create a foundation of faith that still survives today.

This is still a compelling historical narrative. The U.S. Catholic China Bureau encourages academics and students to study this topic. The Bureau also wishes to hear and work with religious congregations who had missionaries in China or have present day relationships.

The Bureau frequently answers questions about China from business travelers, tourists and academics:

How many Catholics are there in China ?

What is the relationship between Chinese Catholics and Rome?

Others want to know more about Chinese Catholics in the U.S and Canada.



Archbishop Savio Tai Fai Hon SDB 韓大輝 and U.S. Catholic China Bureau Executive Director Fr. Robert E. Carbonneau, C.P. meet in Rome

On December 17, 2014 I was granted the opportunity to meet with Archbishop Hon, Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, where I explained to him the mission of the Bureau in relation to the Catholic Church in China especially with respect to the overtures of Pope Francis I.

Since 1989 your prayers, participation and financial support have anchored the Bureau. Thank you. Past Executive Directors were Sister Janet Carroll, M.M., Deacon Doug Lovejoy, Ph.D. and Fr. Michel Marci, S.J. They are fine examples to follow.

Robert E. Carbonneau, C.P.

Chinese Catholic Church News

Dali Lama and Pope Francis I: December 12, 2014 *UCAN News* reported there would be no meeting between Pope Francis and the Dali Lama. December 15, Jean-Louis De La Vaissiere for *AFP*, Vatican City stated “A spokesman for the Dalai Lama said he was “disappointed” but acknowledged that a meeting with the pope could have caused “inconvenience.” Andrea Tornielli, a commentator with the *Vatican Insider* website reasoned. “The Vatican’s diplomatic objective is to avoid actions that fuel instability in already tricky situations and avoid decisions whose consequences are paid for by others — in this case, Chinese Catholics.”



Communication between the Holy See and China:

Speculation increased that the visit of Pope Francis I to Sri Lanka and Philippines from January 13-19, 2015 would lead to positive steps in diplomatic relations. January 19, 2015. *Asia News* reported as Pope Francis I flew over China on his way back to Rome, a telegram was sent to Chinese Premier Xi Jinping: “I assure you of my prayers for you and for all the people of China, invoking upon you abundant blessings of harmony and prosperity”.

However China’s Xinhua News Agency imposed a black out on the Philippines visit.

Bishop Cosmas Shi Enxiang of Yixian, Hebei

has died at age 94, an underground bishop, not seen since his arrest 14 years ago. February 2, 2015 *UCAN News* noted, “Born in 1921, ordained a priest in 1947, first arrested in 1954, imprisonment lasted from 1957 to 1980. He did hard labor, first at camp in Heilongjiang province, then in coalmines in Shanxi province. After returning to Hebei, he was arrested and imprisoned briefly again in 1981 for practicing his ministry. Secretly ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Yixian in 1982, he became the ordinary in 1995 after his predecessor Bishop Liu Guangdong retired. In 1989, Bishop Shi was arrested again and later released in 1993 as a result of international pressure. He was arrested for the final time on Good Friday, 2001.

Ordination of Catholic Bishops in China:

On January 15, 2015 China’s State Administration of Religious Affairs (SARA) website quoted director Wang Zuoan: “2015 will be a very important year for religious work.” Wang added the administration’s work “must be done according to religious regulations, promote the rule of law and take the opinion of the faithful into consideration when implementing religious policies and directions of the central government” because of the outstanding issues which include support for the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association and the bishop’s conference in proceeding with the independent election and ordination of bishops

In *Asia News* January 24, 2015 Bernardo Cervellera wrote “Already now faithful refuse to participate in the ceremonies of the illicit bishops.” “Much remains to be done, but Vatican-China relations may be improving.” was a February 5, 2015 *Catholic News Agency* headline in a story by Vatican Observer Andrea Gagliarducci. She wrote: “Despite the recent death of a long-imprisoned Chinese bishop, there are mixed signals suggesting the People’s Republic of China wills an improved relationship with the Holy See.” She concluded: “However, steps forward will be made with a certain caution. Yet the Holy See and China seem to be a little closer now.”

Tourism and respect for Missionary Ancestors

The US Catholic China Bureau can provide advance background and understanding that will help tourists visit areas where missionaries once ministered or are buried

Sister of Charity from Convent Station, NJ Catherine Gabriel Whittaker served as a missionary in the Yuanling diocese of Hunan, China from 1939 to 1941 at which time she died from typhus.



Seeking to learn and respect the missionary service of her great aunt, in January 2015 Christine Richmond and Galen, her husband, visited Sister Whitaker's grave site in West Hunan.

This is one simple way that tourists can be a witness to history. This is a photo of Christine and Galen at the West Hunan gravesite.

“Thy Kingdom Come In China” Sisters of St. Francis Heritage Exhibit

Dedicated to the Franciscan Chinese Sisters, Archivist Sister Celia Struck, O.S.F coordinated the artifacts, letters and photos which described the ministry of the Sisters in Shandong province. Sisters of St. Francis, 3221 S. Lake Dr. St Francis, Wisconsin, 53235, located just outside of Milwaukee, ran the exhibit until February 6, 2015. It told of the request of American Franciscan priests to Mother General to send the Sisters to the China mission. Highlighted as well was the internment of the American Franciscan Sisters under the Japanese in 1943 at the infamous Weih sien Internment Camp in Shandong province and the story about how the Sisters were expelled from China under the Communists in the late 1940s.

Polish Catholic tourists reflect on their August 2014 visit to Shanghai and Qingdao

Their trip helps all of us understand Catholic life in China today.

The tourists went to Sunday Mass three times, twice at the international Mass (in English) in Shanghai, St. Ignatius Church. This was something unique. “There are people of all races, coming from all continents. That multicultural Christian community makes you feel comfortable with your faith.” The third was a Chinese mass in Qingdao, Shandong province. The church was full of Chinese people and during the mass nearly twenty people were baptized. Such an “amazing experience” was something that had become impossible to see in Europe. “People were happy and proud with their faith and there was no fear.” The baptism “seemed to be something normal.” After the Mass police were near the church but they were not intruding. In conclusion, while the tourists “won’t say there is no religious oppression in China” they did feel comfortable to join the mass so as to share and witness Chinese Catholic faith.



**2015 U.S. Catholic China Bureau Conference Registration Is Now Open
October 9-11, 2015**

Go To www.uscatholicchina.org For More Information

**Conference Site: Mercy Center, Burlingame, CA near San Francisco airport
(limit 120 participants)**

Conference participants may register for

- The entire weekend of events (Friday - Sunday)
- Only the Friday keynote and Saturday panels (Friday & Saturday)
 - The academic forum slated for Sunday

The Catholic Church in China: Respecting the Past, Understanding the Present, Envisioning Future Relationships

Friday (October 9) 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM:

Registered participants have opportunity to sign up for visit to Ricci Institute, U of San Francisco.

Friday (October 9) evening keynote:

Father Rob Carbonneau, C.P., Ph.D. Executive Director of the U.S. Catholic China Bureau.

Topic: “*U.S. Catholic China Bureau: A Paradigm for Understanding the Catholic Church in China*”

Reception to follow.

Saturday (October 10) morning keynote: To Be Announced

Saturday (October 10) morning panel options:

Panel One: Opportunities for Mutual Exchange and Understanding with China.

Panel Two: Chinese Students and Catholic High School Education.

Panel Three: Understanding Chinese Faith Beyond the International News Headlines.

Lunch

Saturday (October 10) afternoon panel options:

Panel One: Outreach to Chinese Students in American Universities.

Panel Two: Chinese Catholicism and Chinese on this year of Consecrated Life: panelists reflect on present day Chinese Catholic faith and being Chinese members of religious congregations.

Panel Three: To Be Announced

Liturgy, Banquet and Evening Opportunity for Networking ,Discussion and Caucusing

Sunday (October 11) panel options:

Two Panels: 9:00 AM to 11:15 AM by seven scholars on History of Catholic Church in China
Other topics are possible.

Final Panel: 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM Q and A session to reflect on conference and Bureau outreach and a brown bag lunch.

**The U.S. Catholic China Bureau is a Tax-Exempt 501 (C) charity
Please make a donation to help make the Conference a success
Checks can be made payable to
“US Catholic China Bureau”
1646 Addison Street
Berkeley, CA 94703**

Traditionally the Bureau holds its bi-annual in a different region of the U.S.
Many who wish to attend seek financial help from the Bureau. Consider helping in the following ways

- Donate frequent flyer miles to allow speakers or others attend.
- \$500 to have your name or organization listed as named sponsor at the Conference Reception or Dinner.
- \$100 to have your name or organization listed as sponsor of a Conference Panel.
- \$50 to have your name or organization listed as a Friend of Conference.
- Have your name or organization listed as a Prayer Companion of the Conference.



Please contact the China Bureau office if you want to join our

Speakers Bureau
Scholars Circle
China Friendship and Education Circle
Prayer Circle

Email: director@uscatholicchina.org

Mission Cooperative Plan and China Bureau Stewardship News

Some years ago then board member Father Ron Choccol of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO advised the U.S. Catholic China Bureau to participate in the Mission Cooperative Plan (MCP). Each year, in cooperation with the national office of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, missionaries from Catholic organizations are invited to visit parishes to share their experiences and ask for financial support and prayers. Pope Benedict XVI's *The Letter to the Church in China* (2007) stated: "In the Catholic Church which is in China, the universal Church is present, the Church of Christ, which in the Creed we acknowledge to be one, holy, catholic and apostolic, that is to say, the universal community of the Lord's disciples."

MCP annual appeal donations are carefully used to foster the Bureau's mission of educating American Catholics about the Church in China and building cooperative relationships with them. Our biennial National Conference is one of many important ways we do that. This newsletter is another.

2014 MCP appeals were conducted in

Albany, NY Diocese: Christ Our Light R.C. Church, Loudonville, and St. Augustine Church, Troy, Preacher: Fr. Mark DeStephano, S.J.

Los Angeles, CA Archdiocese: St. Denis Church, Diamond Bar and St. Madeline Church, Pomona: Preacher: Fr. Michel Marcil, S.J.

Philadelphia, PA Archdiocese: St. Francis Xavier, The Oratory, Philadelphia; St. Gabriel, Norwood, and St. James, Elkins Park. Preacher on all sites was Br. Terence Skorka, C.P.

Raleigh, NC Diocese: Basilica Shrine of St. Mary, Wilmington, Preacher: Fr. Bob Carleton, M.M.

St. Louis, MO Archdiocese: Our Lady of the Rosary, Spanish Lake, MO: Preacher: Fr. Rob Carbonneau, C.P.

Sts. Ann & Sts. Gertrude, Washington, Preacher: Fr. Doug Mullin, O.S.B.

Sts. Joachim and Ann, St. Charles, Preacher: Fr. Michael Agliardo, S.J.

U of San Francisco Computer Donation Reward Program assists the U.S. Catholic China Bureau
In January 2015 the U.S. Catholic China Bureau received three PC desktop computers with complete accessories.

Donations to The U.S. Catholic China Bureau: a 501c tax-deductible charity

November 2014 till February 15, 2015 Christmas appeal, CCQ donation and subscription equaled \$3,710.

In February 2015: the Benedictines of St. John's University, Collegeville, MN donated \$2,000.

\$100 was donated by the Knights of Columbus, Novato, CA.

\$100 was donated by a benefactor of the Knights of Columbus, Novato, CA.

March 2016 is the New Date for The Matteo Ricci Award Dinner
to Honor retired Bishop Cummins of Oakland, CA
and
Retired Auxiliary Bishop Ignatius Wang

Additional U.S. Catholic China Bureau News

February 4, 2015 Executive Director Fr. Rob Carbonneau, C.P. gave a presentation the Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Loretto Novato, CA.

Entitled “Fr. Walter Coveyou, C.P. (1894-1929)”: Knight of Columbus and China Missionary and the quest to understand Catholic China in 2015, it stressed that the success of Catholic missions to China during the twentieth century was dependent on the financial and spiritual support that came from local US Catholics.



Opportunities To Teach in China

AITECE is a proven way for skilled educational professionals teachers and experts in sharing their knowledge and Christian values with Chinese youth. Affiliated with the Missionary Society of St Columba (the Columban Fathers) I had was a participant in this program in 2007 to 2008 in Chongqing so I can attest to the its credibility. I urge those of you who might want to participate to contact the Bureau. AITECE stands for Association for International Teaching, Educational and Curriculum Exchange,

The Bureau would also like to know if there are any other Catholic sponsored programs that provide the opportunities for men and women to teach in China.

Chinese Students and Catholic High School and Higher Education

“Leading Colleges Focusing On China” was the storyline of a January 30, 2015 *Associated Press* article. It reported that more and more undergraduates from overseas are coming to U.S. universities. With the help of the U.S. State Department attention is being given to those students with diverse back grounds.

Notable is that 275,000 Chinese students came to the U.S. in 2014. The Institute of International Education stated this was 31% of the total and consequently the largest sending country.

The China Bureau is learning more about the increasing number of Catholic High Schools who have developed program to recruit high school age students from the Peoples Republic of China We welcome the opportunity to learn about existing programs now in place at American Catholic colleges, universities and high schools.

Executive Director Fr. Rob Carbonneau, C.P. was in Washington, D.C in January 2015 to meet explain the mission of the China Bureau with The Leadership Conference of Women Religious, The Conference of Major Superiors of Men, The U.S. Catholic Mission Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Annual Board meeting of the US Catholic China Bureau will take place at Loyola University Chicago April 24-25, 2015.

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Editor: Fr. Rob Carbonneau, C.P., Ph.D.

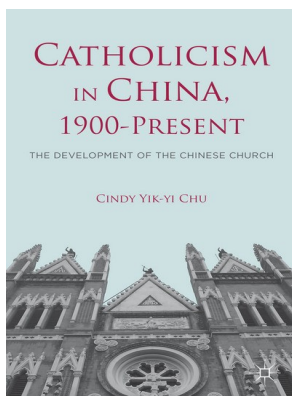
Layout/Production: Fr. Rob and Lily

US Subscription: \$10 Airmail Overseas: \$20.

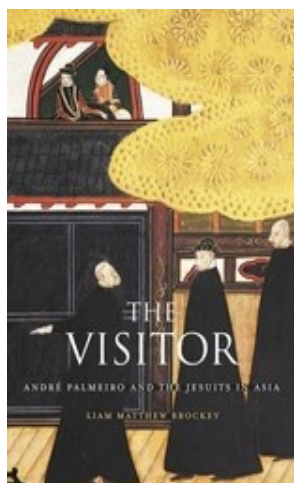
U.S. Catholic China Bureau

**1646 Addison Street
Berkeley, CA 94703**

New Publications on China



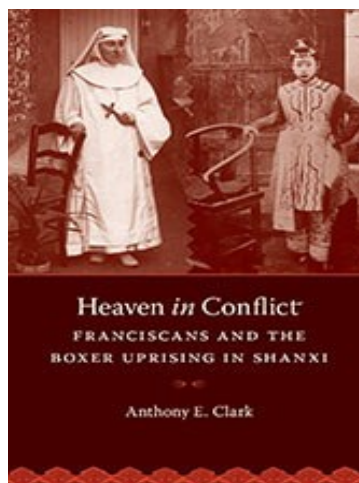
Friends of the China Bureau based in the US published in this volume include Fr. Mark DeStephano SJ: “American Jesuits and the Woodstock Letters, 1900-1969”; Anthony E. Clark: “Catholics in Shanxi, 1900-present”; John Haney: “American Vincentians in China, 1921-1951”. Book chapters are: Introduction The Church In China since 1900; Part 1. Catholic Missions in Local China. Part 2. Religion, Politics, and Culture: Cross-Cultural Issues in the Chinese Catholic Church. Part 3. Catholicism and Politics in the Post-Mao Period, Conclusion. The Church in China Today and the Road Ahead. (Editor. Cindy Yik-yi Chu. Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).



Liam Matthew Brockey,

*The Visitor:
André Palmeiro and the
Jesuits in Asia.*

Belknap
Press, 2014



Anthony E. Clark,
*Heaven in Conflict
Franciscans and
the Boxer Uprising
in Shanxi*

U of Washington
Press,
2014

Paul P. Mariani S.J., “The First Six Chinese Bishops of Modern Times: A Study in Church Indigenization,” Volume 100. Number 3. *The Catholic Historical Review* (Summer 2014): 486-513.

Anthony E. Clark & Amanda C.R. Clark, “Building for the Senses: A Resurgence of a Sacred Architecture in China. *Sacred Architecture* (Issue 25 2014) pp. 10-25.

Jamil Anderlini in Beijing published the following in November 7, 2014 *Financial Times*. Entitled “*The rise of Christianity in China*” content addressed “*The state’s response to this resurgence of faith is an escalating campaign of repression.*”

“A Window into Catholicism in Today’s China” *China Source* Vol. 16, No. 4 (December 16, 2014) includes editorial by Brent Fulton as well as Tricia Bølle, “Finding Faith and Purpose: The Search for Meaning of Young Adult Catholics in China” and Gabriel Aquinas, “The Catholic Church in China and Evangelization through Social Media Contact.”

Contact the US Catholic China Bureau for news on electronic access to the above sources.