

China Church Quarterly

**On Pilgrimage During This Year of Mercy:
An open mind and heart is needed as we read the news about Catholic China
By Father Rob Carboneau, C.P., Ph.D**

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Headline news about Auxiliary bishop Mgr. Thaddeus Ma Daqin of Shanghai stunned many people

On a June 12, 2016 blog, he publicly regretted quitting his role in the state-run Catholic Patriotic Association (CCPA), reversing his July 7, 2012 position. He was ordained with approval of the Holy See and the Chinese government.

As Editor of the *China Church Quarterly*, I thought it might be helpful to summarize content from varied press releases.

Commentators are still trying to understand the decision-making process. It is unclear how this incident will come to influence the pastoral practices of Shanghai Chinese Catholics, church registration laws, impact options for improved Holy See (Vatican)-China relations and influence the overall view of world-wide Catholics. Furthermore, I ponder how might this situation be understood the pastoral initiatives of Pope Francis that we seek to follow life based on the Gospel value of mercy.

Bishop MA's use of a blog (seen below) to voice his opinion is a reminder of the impact of social media in China Catholic life. Despite China's regulations, will additional voices of support or debate emerge as a result of his action?



UCANN 6/14/2016 headlines captured the moment “*Shanghai Bishop Ma's open repentance shocks Catholics. Prelate who openly resigned from Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association in 2012 says he now regrets decision.*” In *Asia News 6/17a/2016* “*China and Vatican: incredulous reactions and distress over Shanghai Bishop Ma Daqin's Volte-face.*” Bernardo Cervellera wrote: But among Chinese priests and lay people from different parts of China, the bishop of Shanghai’s “re-conversion”, after four years under house arrest, is provoking reactions of dismay, disbelief, pain, as well as anger toward the government that has managed to “isolate one of its citizen for four years” and after considerable pressure “make him confess to anything.” In addition, a bishop fears that someone in the Vatican suggested *Ma Daqin* “confess” to please the government.

Publication of *Mgr. Ma Daqin: the text of his 'confession'* in *AsiaNews 6/17b/2016*. It offers a layered perspective set in the context of Ma's understanding *Bishop Jin of Shanghai*.

Excerpts are as follows: “In Shanghai, I always think of *Bishop Jin's* ‘chariot of four horses’ (Shanghai Municipal Catholic Patriotic Association, Shanghai Municipal Catholic Administrative Commission, Shanghai Municipal Catholic Intellectuals Association, and Shanghai Diocese of Catholic Church) is the best way for the Shanghai Catholic diocese to do its pastoral evangelization work, because each organization has its unique value and role, and they can work from different angles, use different ways to make up for the insufficiency of Church work. In recent years, I have studied *Bishop Jin's* articles over and over

On Pilgrimage During This Year of

Father Matteo Ricci and the other sages. From this, I reflected on my own, keep correcting my own youthful aggression, aspiration to false vanity, pomposity and other shortcomings. Also, over the past few years, I was not involved in anything and quietly reflected on the past, to deepen my understanding of my past immaturity, incomplete and incorrect thoughts. People need to grow up, not only physically, but also in knowledge, vision, heart, thoughts and spirit.

We, the young ones, have relied on the laurels of the older generation, who love the country and love their religion, for a long time, but we lack a profound understanding and conviction of the need for independence and self-administration of the Church, complying with our nation's constitution and regulations, actively adapting to the socialist society. I remember the liturgy of resurrection, where we sang a verse of the 'Passover song': 'Felix culpa': This verse seems to encourage us today and give us hope. The encouragement is when we have sinned and fallen, we have to accept the punishment; the hope is we have learned a lesson, we have to start again from where we have fallen and to begin a new life."

In the opinion of this writer, what is troubling is the idea of sin in MA's closing thoughts.

AsiaNews 6/21c/2016 Vatican silence over Shanghai's Mgr. Ma Daqin causing confusion and controversy. Bernardo Cervellera weighed in once again. "For some, Mgr. Ma's blog post praising the Patriotic Association and acknowledging his mistakes is nothing but "dirt." For others, he chose humiliation for the 'sake of his diocese.' Many wonder why the

Holy See has remained silent about the article's content and the bishop's persecution. Some suspect the Vatican views the episode in positive terms. Yet, the *Ma Daqin* affair raises a major question. Has *Benedict XVI's* Letter to Chinese Catholics (which describes the Patriotic Association as 'incompatible with Catholic doctrine') been abolished? If it has, who did it? A journey of compromises without truth is full of risks."

Vatican Radio 6/23/2016 In order to clarify the Vatican's position, *Fr Lombardi* issued a statement. Here it is: "In response to requests for information from various journalists, I am able to say the following:

- With regard to the recent declarations attributed to Msgr. Taddeo Ma Daqin, auxiliary bishop of Shanghai, these have come to the attention of the Holy See through his blog and via press agencies. No direct information is currently available.
- Any speculation with regard to a presumed role of the Holy See is inappropriate.
- The personal and ecclesial life of Msgr. Ma Daqin, like that of all Chinese Catholics, is followed with particular care and concern by the Holy Father, who remembers them daily in prayer.

Speculation continued with the **UCANN 07/01b/2016** notice that Shanghai Bishop under house arrest appears in video. Video was made for a one-day seminar commemorating late Bishop Aloysius Jin Luxian.

Moving forward, various points of view have been taken. **UCANN 6/30a/2016** published that Cardinal Zen of Hong Kong stated "Responding to claims made about Chinese Bishop It's hard to believe the bishop's praise of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association are sincere, says those praises

on the CPA were so tastelessly exaggerated. It is hard to believe they are the sincere words of the bishop. Catholics in China, regardless of whether they belong to open or underground communities, all know that those are 'jokes' — jokes that the government loves to listen to.

UCANN 07/01c/ 2016 Fr. Jerome Heyndrickx, C.I.C.M., reported in *Remembering Bishop 'Louis' Jin Luxian of Shanghai*. His Future planning had "vision and courage."

UCANN 6/24a/ 2016. Michael Kelly and Michael Sainsbury wrote: *Vatican and China: Back on track with bishop's move? Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin, the Catholic Patriotic Association's prodigal son*. They stated: "Coming also at a time where the Communist Party has refocused on religion, it is arguably important for Catholic figures such as Ma, to be inside rather than outside the tent, as it were, as this program takes places. Ma's decision fits with the way the current Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Petro Parolin, works. His recent successes with building relationships with governments where in earlier times hostility and resistance prevailed include a recent and unprecedented development in Vietnam.

6/30/2016 National Catholic Register reporter Brian Fraga wrote: *Chinese Church Conundrum: Why Did Bishop Ma Recant?* Catholic and Protestant China pastoral observers and scholars offered their understanding .

In conclusion, I would suggest that friends of the U.S. Catholic China Bureau keep an open mind towards this event. In my opinion, the worldwide interest in Bishop MA suggests makes clear that voice of Chinese Catholics remains an invaluable witness.

CHINA CHURCH NEWS

AsiaNews 5/25/2016 by Victoria Ma reported: *Eleven new priests ordained on the Day of Prayer for the Church in China.* Excerpts are below:

“Nine, all from ethnic minorities, were ordained by *Ma Yinglin*, Kunming’s illegitimate bishop. *Mgr. Wu Junwei*, bishop of Yuncheng (Shanxi), ordained *Fr. Han Bo* in Jinzhong Cathedral. *Mgr. He Zeqing*, bishop of Wanzhou, ordained *Fr. Peng Yueyu* of Chongqing.”

“*Mgr. Ma Yinglin* heads the Council of Chinese Bishops and was ordained without a papal mandate in 2006....This is the second time he ordains new priests. The first time was in Dali in March 2012.”

AsiaNews 4/25/2016 by John Ai reported: *Xi Jinping warns against foreign infiltration in religions.*

“Speaking at high-level conference last week, China’s top leader underscores the fact that religion remains a matter of “state security” and “national unity.” Sinicisation and the party’s religious policy remain the same.” The article concludes: “From all this, it is clear that the Communist Party’s religious policy remains unchanged.”

Verbiest Update 5/30/2016: Pope Francis Receives Parish Priests from China.

“After the general audience on April 27 on St Peter Square in Rome (seen below), *Pope Francis* received a group of 23 parish priests from the People’s Republic of China. They had participated in an exchange program on pastoral issues at the Verbiest Institute of the Catholic University of Leuven and then came to Rome on a Holy Year Pilgrimage.”

Fr. Jerome Heyndrickx C.I.C.M. introduced the group to the Holy Father. In conversation, the Pope again expressed his desire to visit China. It was the first time *Pope Francis* received in such a formal way a group of Chinese priests



Hong Kong Sunday Examiner

7/22/2016 Pastoral Letter of Cardinal John Tong - Active participation in the coming election of the Legislative Council

Below is an excerpt from the letter to Hong Kong Catholics:

“I urge you to see the upcoming Legco election as an opportunity for contributing to the well-being of Hong Kong society. You should take an active part in voting and in standing for election. Before voting, you should consider carefully the key issues facing our local society and the various needs posed by livelihood and the common good. Assess the personal qualities and platform of each candidate.”

UCANN 7/7/2016 A response to 'Update on crosses in China'

The Chinese government should be held to the same standards as other countries. “Lawyer Charles Tsang wrote that the PRC ‘has signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Communist Party leaders constantly talk about the ‘rule of law.’ We absolutely have the right to follow the same standard applicable to other countries to examine the acts of the Chinese government.

The China Nonprofit Review Volume 8, Issue 1, 2016, pp. 3-26 . Published by Brill. One article of interest might be *Changjuan Geng and Lucas Meijer: "The Democratic Implications of NPOs and the Control Strategy of the State. A Comparative Analysis of China and the Netherlands"*

“According to *public rational choice theory*, various strategies aim at keeping society under control. The authors studied this postulation by comparing the two contrasting civil societies of China and the Netherlands. Results from our investigation of campaigning NPOs from China and the Netherlands confirm that states tend to apply a range of strategies (e.g., political restrictions and financial instruments) in order to assimilate NPOs into the developmental planning of the government (e.g., by stimulating the economic functions of NPOs while weakening their democratic functions in intangible ways’.”

Understanding China: Present and Past

Published by the **Holy Spirit Study Centre in Hong Kong** the quarterly journal *Tripod* remains a consistent source to appreciate ongoing Chinese Catholic realities.

Year of Mercy and the Church in China is the theme in Summer 2016 (No 181) issue. An editorial on recent Communist Party discussions addressing changes pertaining to the Chinese religious policy concludes “make no mistake about it, from this meeting one perceives no change in the blanket Party control over religion.”

Applying mercy to Hong Kong is offered by *Fr. Robert Schreiter, C.P.P.S.* In a presentation to Catholic laity on January 10, 2016, he counsels *Mercy in Concreteness*. This is proclaimed in generosity. This will come into “tension with forgiveness.” Trustworthiness applies “to the complex world of building peace” and empathy calls us to “enter into the complex world of others, especially those who are different than ourselves.” The Hong Kong region, Schreiter went on to say, can be defined “as a place in between” in that it is a Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China. *Annie Lam* samples how the Jubilee Year of Mercy was expressed among some 250 pilgrimage sites from 90 dioceses (or places). Her overview of regional devotion expressed by both open and underground Chinese Catholics amplifies the depth of faith operative in diverse pastoral circumstances.

Finally, although *Fr. Yu Heping* has died under suspicious circumstances in November 2015, *Tripod* decided to posthumously publish his article “Out Time Belongs to God: A Reflection on China-Vatican Relations” As editor of the *China Church Quarterly*, my opinion is *Fr. Yu* informs all of us how committed are Chinese people in the Peoples Republic of China to seek constructive ways to move forward on this important pastoral and diplomatic issue.

Announcement

The U.S. Catholic China Bureau together with the **U.S. Catholic Historian** asks you to pay special attention to this special issue promoting the historical study American Catholic relationships with Modern China.

Early versions of three essays were first presented at the October 11, 2016 U.S. Catholic China Bureau National Conference. Additional contributors were asked to present the fruit of their scholarship. Friends of the China Bureau might be interested to learn new insights about *Bishop Fulton J. Sheen* and China, Passionist missionary photography, the Vincentians and contribution to China studies made by *Professor Richard Madsen*.

Publication of this special issue fulfills a primary mission of the Bureau: to educate American Catholics and general public on the still under-studied legacy of approximately 33 American Catholic mission sending societies to China. Individuals can purchase a single copy for \$16.00. An electronic version of Vol 34 Number 2 Spring 2016 is also available at Project Muse. Order this issue directly via: <http://cuapress.cua.edu/journals/usch.cfm>.

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The Catholic University of America Press

Chinese Catholic Voices

The North America Huaren Mu Catholic Mission Congress is organized by the North American Chinese Catholic priesthood members of religious congregations, Federation (North America Chinese Catholic Clergy, Religious and Laity Association).

*Keynote: 韓大輝總主教
Most Rev. Archbishop HON*

Much of the local coordination is being done by *Fr. Peter Zhai, S.V.D.*, the director of Chinese Ministry for the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

One Peter Yorke Way,
San Francisco, CA 94109
415-614-5575
zhaip@sfarchdiocese.org

Program: Friday October 7th at 3pm till 9:00 pm; Saturday October 8th, 7.30 AM to 10 pm ; Sunday 7.30 AM till 1 PM.

Registration costs increase after August 30, 2016
All are invited:
Registration link is
[www.nacca.sfchinesecatholic.org/
registration/](http://www.nacca.sfchinesecatholic.org/registration/)



Asia News Poland - China - World Youth Day 7/26/2016 Much attention surrounded this event held in Kraków, Poland from July 25-31, 2016. The following news story captured my attention because it symbolizes the clash of desire and purpose in Chinese society. Chinese youth manifest hope. The joined many young people who made their way to celebrate their faith. In contrast the Chinese government operated out of fear.

According to reporter *Vincenzo Faccioli Pintozzi*, "Beijing intends to closely monitor compatriots who managed to make it to the events around World Youth Day, and to do so have dusted off a Maoist era trick: he asked the employees of Chinese companies in Poland and officials of different Chinese cultural institutes in Poland to go around WYD sites carrying the Chinese flag, to approach other Catholic groups of countrymen and try to get the most information possible."

The article goes on to stress that such action will not deter Chinese pilgrims. "The young Chinese will follow the whole schedule." As one young Chinese person stated "It would be a dream to hear [Pope] Francis speak about our country [China]. Do you think he will? I hope so." "Sure, I understand that there are many things at stake: the relationship between Beijing and the Vatican, the freedom of movement of our priests, bishops in prison . . . But if he could spare a moment for us, that would be great, even just a prayer. I do not think Beijing would be angry . . . "

Continuing the U.S. Catholic China Bureau Mission

Now half way through my three year term, I have greater appreciation of the wide net cast by the *U.S. Catholic China Bureau*. Our website shows we are a respected network organization. Many say our newsletter has improved. On behalf of our entire board members, chaired by *Fr. Michael Agliardo, S.J.* of Loyola University, Chicago I ask your continued support. Please make a tax-deductible donation by mail or via our website: www.uscatholicchina.org. Can you donate \$150 to cover our administrative costs for one week? Much appreciated is any donation large or small.

Robert E. Carboneau, C.P.



Fr. Rob Carboneau, C.P. spoke on inculturation at the July 19-21, 2016 General Chapter of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Francis of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows, Our Lady of Peace Retreat, Beaverton, Oregon, Founded in 1939 in Hunan, China by Bishop Raphael Palazzi, O.F.M., their present ministries are in California, Oregon, Canada, Taiwan Hong Kong and China.

His talks were on Franciscan history and present public inculturation; Franciscan charism, culture and religious life; *Pope Francis*, Franciscan inculturation, and their local ministry sites .

Seen on the right is a photo of *Fr. Jim Morton, S.S.C.* He represented the U. S. Catholic China Bureau, which is a participant in the Mission Cooperative Plan in the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ. Under auspices of the Pontifical Mission Societies. The U.S. Catholic China Bureau participation in this program allows us to receive funds that help us sustain operations so that we might educate American Catholics on the living faith of the Chinese Catholic Church through programs such as our bi-annual National Conference. We also respond to specific requests of support from mainland Chinese Catholics. On June 11-12 *Fr. Jim* preached at *Our Lady of Peace Parish, 111 South Street New Providence, NJ*. He is a living representative of the ongoing legacy of the Columban priests in service to the contemporary China.



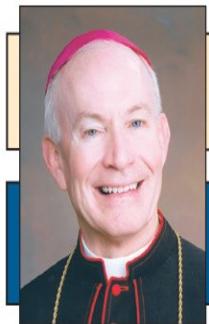
On July 12, 2016 at *U of California, San Diego, The Fu-dan-UC Center on Contemporary China based at School of Global Policy and Strategy*, hosted a panel of experts from the People's Republic and the U.S. to discuss the Chinese government's new regulations on religion and their implications for Christian communities, focusing on the interplay between the globalization and localization processes of Christianity in China.

At the morning session *Fr. Rob Carboneau, C.P.*, commented on "Understanding Chinese Catholic religious relationships, values and experiences in conjunction with overall Chinese principles." An afternoon session on "Christianity in China: Globalization and Localization." included, left to right *ZHUO Xiping, Institute of World Religion, CASS, Amy Lillis, U.S. Department of State, Fr. Rob and Fr. John Zhang, Faith Institute for Cultural Studies in China*



Publications

Commonweal 5/06 /2016 Vol 143 No 8 pp. 17-22 Historian *Nicholas Clifford* wrote “Uncommon Decency: The Careers of *Simon Leys*” This is a probing thoughtful essay on the Leys, who wrote *Chinese Shadows* (1977) and *The Burning Forest: Essays on Culture and Politics in Contemporary China*.



The Shepherd's Voice

ARCHBISHOP GEORGE J. LUCAS

Writing in the *Catholic Voice*, the Omaha, Nebraska Catholic diocesan newspaper, *Bishop George Lucas* offered two positive and educational reflections on his spring trip to China.

Written on 5/04/2016 “Trip to China provides clear reminder of importance of the universal church” was followed by a 5/ 18/ 2016 ” observation that “Young Priests and Religious a sign of hope for the church and faith in China.

Studies in World Christianity, vol. 22, no. 2 (2016), pp. 86-104. *Stephanie Mary Wong*, authored “A society apart: Rural Chinese Catholics and the historiography of ‘otherness.’” This article examines the theme of ‘otherness’ in historical scholarship on rural Chinese Catholic communities. Whereas studies of the Jesuit Mission in China tend to emphasize the potential harmony between Christianity and elite Confucian culture, a methodological turn towards local history during the 1980s and 90s has revealed that ‘otherness’ or ‘separation’ may be a more helpful heuristic lens for understanding the situation of the vast majority of Catholics in rural China. This article surveys English-language and Chinese-language micro-histories of rural villages. It maps three general historiographical views by which historians explain Catholic villagers’ ‘otherness’ as the result of cultural dissonance, socio-economic inequality or relative political power. By period sing these centuries of history according to the feasibility of opting out of mainstream society, this article seeks to show how Chinese Catholic identity continues to be forged at the ever-moving borderline between Catholic and

In June, 2016 **syndicated columnist** *George Wiegel* wrote “Kung-pao diplomacy.” He pondered on diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the People’s Republic of China at the expense of Taiwan. *Wiegel* wondered “If Taiwan is thrown over the side for the sake of a deal with Beijing, what signal does that send to the world....My bottom line concern here,” *Wiegel* argues “is for the church’s evangelical future in China, not for diplomacy.

Journal of Contemporary China Volume 25 issue 100 (July 2016), pp. 628-642. *Ying Zhou & Sabrina Luk* wrote on “Establishing Confucius Institutes [CI]: a tool for promoting China’s soft power?” Founded in 2004 to promote the understanding of Chinese language and culture, authors argues that CI is “a striking example of how China “promotes soft power through cultural means.” Viewed by many as “propaganda tool and a threat to academic freedom and the local community. It shows that China’s soft power is not so attractive in the eyes of receivers. In fact, China’s aggressive cul-

Chris Herlinger is *Global Sisters Reports* international correspondent and also writes on humanitarian and international issues for *National Catholic Reporter*. Long time friends of the U. S Catholic China Bureau might wish to read the following articles which feature ongoing efforts by *Maryknoll China Program*. Begun in 1991 this program has brought Chinese priests and women religious to the United States for graduate academic studies at Catholic institutions. Both *Herlinger* articles were published on 6/11/2016: One was “Catholic faith in China is traditional and deep” which featured some reflections on church life in China as understood by *Sister Janet Carroll, M.M.*; A second article was titled “US training program helps sisters in China improve care for elderly,” which provided details on “Six Chinese sisters from five different congregations recently completed a 120-hour Geriatric Spiritual Care certificate program through the *Avila Institute of Gerontology*, the educational arm of the *Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm*. The Avila Institute compressed a four-month program into four weeks, said [Maryknoll] *Fr. Timothy Kilkelly*, the coordinator of the Maryknoll China Education Project. To read these articles go to www.globalsistersreport.org.

Support the Matteo Ricci Award Dinner November 3, 2016 in Oakland, CA

Join with the U.S. Catholic China Bureau to thank both of our awardees for their many years of guidance that they have offered to the United States Catholic Church, the Chinese Catholic community and the general public in the San Francisco Bay Area. Please plan to attend the Award Dinner, and/or become a Sponsor, and/or advertise in the Program Book, and/or donate for the Silent Auction.

Your generosity, regardless of the amount, honors both Bishops and supports our Mission.

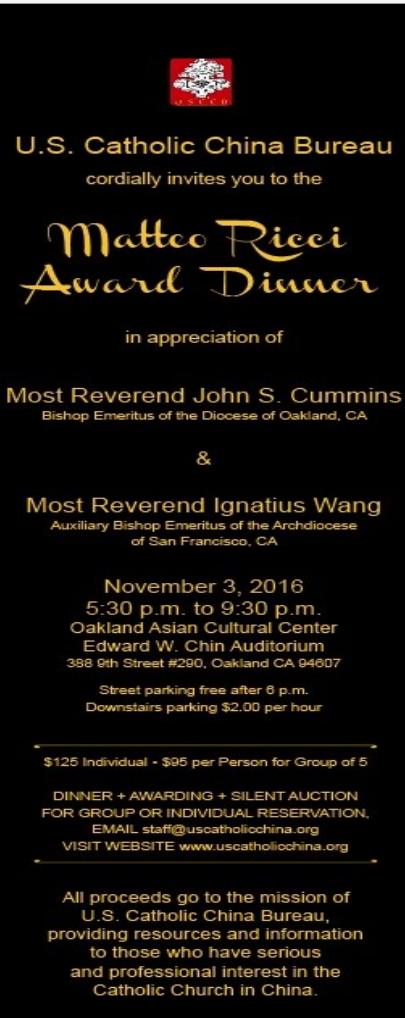
Deadlines: Sponsorship/Advertising Opportunities, September 26, 2016

Dinner Registration open till October 18, 2016

Details to attend or make a donation are at www.uscatholicchina.org



Bishop Emeritus Cummins
&
Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Wang



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