

China Church Quarterly

China Church Quarterly	
106	
China Conference & Rome Verblest visit	1
China Church News	2 & 3
National Conference	4
Conference Participants	5
Monica Liu Art	6
Our Lady of Sheshan	7
Executive Director Reflection	8

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*

Network, dialogue, share, learn and celebrate the Church of China.
Learn Together in Friendship and Build Bridges of Understanding with the Chinese Catholic Church



Friday Evening Keynote: Archbishop Eugene Nugent, Holy See Study Mission Director, Hong Kong 2001-2010.

“Reconciliation in the Church: Experiences of the Church in China”

Saturday Morning Keynote: Father Joseph Zhang, Biblical Scholar from China

“Contemporary Chinese Catholicism: Present and Future Realities”

Saturday Afternoon Bilingual Liturgy: Presider and Preacher, **Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Ignatius Wang**, Archdiocese of San Francisco. (Public is welcome to attend)

Saturday Evening Banquet Honors Matteo Ricci Award Recipient

Maryknoll Sister Janet Carroll founding Executive Director of the U.S. Catholic China Bureau

(Banquet only participation requires one week advance registration in our website)

Early Bird-Registration Till July 21, 2017

All information at www.uascatholicchina.org

The new director of *Verbiest Institute* Leuven (Belgium) guided a group of 33 Chinese pilgrims to Rome.

Among them were 29 parish priests coming from 29 different dioceses in China, 1 religious sister and 2 faithful. Pope Francis welcomed the group on Wednesday May 10, 2017 after the general audience.

It is known that Pope Francis pays special attention to whenever he sees a group of Chinese pilgrims. This is understood to reflect the wish of the pope to improve relations with China and to normalize life of Catholics in China.

[Verbiest Update May 2017]



UCANEWS 4/17/2017 “Shanghai bishop concelebrates Mass with govt appointed prelate “

Chinese Catholics say it is blasphemy to concelebrate Mass with a bishop not recognized by the Vatican. Vatican-approved *Auxiliary Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin* of Shanghai concelebrated Easter Mass with *Bishop Vincent Zhan Silu* at Mindong Cathedral.

A report on the Mass posted on Mindong Diocese's Wechat account on April 16 said, “In the beginning of the Mass, Bishop Zhan introduced Bishop Ma from Shanghai to the faithful and they welcomed him with a long applause.”

ASIANEWS.it 04/27/2017 “Police raid at the underground Catholic Mass in Heilongjiang”

Acting together, the Religious Affairs Bureau, Public Security and the United Front carried out the operation. Seized before Easter, the bishop of Wenzhou is back home. *Bishop Guo Xijin* of Mindong is still in police custody. The confrontation with the Vatican increases.

UCANEWS 5/09 /2017 “The long, winding road of China-Vatican relations Appointment of bishops are the only priority at present but huge roadblocks set up by Party remain”

“The latest round of closed-door negotiations, the first in 2017, took place March 20-22 in Beijing.

It was not announced if a preliminary agreement has been made, indeed the Vatican has strongly hinted that there may never be any formal announcement of a deal.

ASIANEWS.it 4/18/2017 “Baptisms in official and underground communities: pastoral outreach increasingly difficult.” by *Fr Peter*.

“Many catechumens were baptised on Easter eve in many dioceses, but baptisms can take place on other dates. Data for underground communities are hard to collect. Five thousand priests are not enough for pastoral care in China. Believers must deepen their faith to counter the current mind-set full of superstitions and idolatry or money.”

Selected points mentioned are “In some dioceses, the catechumens are not baptised on Easter. In the diocese of Tianjin for example, baptisms are not celebrated on Easter eve because, as a result of the rapid development of local communities, there are so many catechumens that they can pick the date.

In recent years, Hebei Jinde has tried to keep the statistics of the tens of thousands of catechumens and baptisms.

However, these data do not provide a clear picture of the Church in China since it impossible to have updated information about underground believers.

The main issue is the shortage of pastors. Although China has an estimated 5,000 official and underground priests, they are not enough to meet the spiritual needs of 12 million believers.”

The article concludes: “Because of the shortage of priests, catechists and community leaders have an important role to play in the diocese. Together with the former, priests lead the faithful at Easter towards the renewal of their baptism and encourage them to deepen their faith to counter the current mind-set full of superstition and idolatry of money:



UCANEWS 5/8/2017 “Hebei province tops China's baptism rankings” Some 20,000 people reportedly become Catholics on the mainland but some dioceses were still compiling their figures.

There were 4,446 new Catholics baptized in China's northern Hebei province during Easter. Other provinces with over 1,000 new baptisms include 1,593 from central Shanxi, 1,327 from southern Guangdong, 1,234 from northwestern Shaanxi, 1,169 from eastern Shandong, 1,168 from eastern Zhejiang and 1,097 from central Henan.

ASIANEWS INDEX 5/08/2017

“May 24, 2017: 'China, the Cross is Red', AsiaNews Symposium”

by *Bernardo Cervellera*

“The event will be held to mark the World Day of Prayer for the Church in China. A title with many meanings: the Cross is red from the blood of the martyrs; From attempts to suffocate the faith with state control; Because of the contribution of hope that Christianity gives to a population tired of materialism and consumerism that is seeking new moral criteria. The theme is also about the great and unexpected religious rebirth in the country.”

Speaking at the 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Pontifical Urbanian University (Aula Magna) are *Cardinal Pietro Parolin*, Vatican Secretary of State; *Bishop Savio Hon Taifai*, Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples; *Prof. Richard Madsen*, professor of Sociology of Religions at S. Diego University (California); *Fr. Gianni Criveller*, Pime, missionary in Hong Kong and expert sinologist; *Some testimonies of priests and lay people from China*.

At our August 11-13, 2017 National China Conference *Sister Janet Carroll, M.M.* will receive the Matteo Ricci Service Award. She recently published "Maryknoll China Symposium: Celebrating the Pastoral Renewal and the Development of Catholic Church in China" Volume 41 (2) *International Bulletin of Mission Research*, pp 128-133. In part the abstract states: Celebrating the 25th anniversary told how "the project brings to the United States young leaders of the Catholic Church in China, chiefly women religious and priests, for graduate studies in U.S. colleges and universities. Selected by their local bishops and superiors, they are to equip themselves with requisite skills and capacities that, upon their return to China, resource the life of dioceses, parishes, communities and ecclesial programs for the flourishing of the faith of the people and upbuilding the church." U.S. Catholic China Bureau is proud to have a long relationship with this program. As in the past, Chinese participants from this program will speak at our 2017 National

Tripod Number 184 (Spring 2017). "The Catholic Church and Sinicization" remains essential reading. Written by the Tripod Staff, "Pioneering Chinese Catholic Art Work in the 20th Century" offers a succulent historical summary on the topic along with 7 stunning color and one black and white art images. In addition to the January 2017 text of *Cardinal John Tong* [summarized in CCQ newsletter 105], *Sergio Ticozzi*, PIME writes on "China Church and News Update 2016" and "Xi Jinping's Meaning of 'Sinicization of Religions'" while *Paul Rule* offers "Why 'Sinicize' What is Already Chinese." Other English articles are "The Evangelization of Culture and the Inculturation of Faith: An Opportunity or a Challenge in Contemporary China" by *Jing Baolu*, Translated by *Annie Lam*, and "Controversial Organ Trafficking Summit at the Vatican Still Deserves Our Support" by *Anthony Lam*. [On line at Holy Spirit Study Centre]

Nikkei Asian Review 4/15/ 2017 published "American students lose interest in China studies." Contributing writer *Paul Mooney* explained how Increasing "Concerns about pollution, work opportunities take toll on enrollment" programs that send their students to study abroad in China.

Newsweek 5/2/2017 "After a 66-year estrangement, can China and the Catholic Church kiss and make up?" In a multi-themed short essay two noteworthy comments offered by writer *James Chau* are, first: "Some Catholics familiar with the pope's interest in China say it has nothing to do with conversion, which would be unpopular with the Chinese. They say the pontiff is interested in how diplomacy with China can help him tackle problems like poverty, climate change and the crisis in Syria." Second: "[President] Xi has reasons to pursue a relationship with the Vatican. He has been trying to improve his country's moral standing in the world through initiatives like the campaign he announced in March to lift 10 million Chinese villagers out of poverty this year. He has also been building up China's peacekeeping force to become one of the largest in the U.N. and has become a global leader on addressing climate change."

New York Times 5/4/2017 "Watchful Eye of Beijing Felt at U.S. Schools" *Stephanie Saul* reveals "China's booming economy has increasingly allowed more of its young men and women to seek a college education in the West; 329,000 now study in the United States, more five times the number recorded a decade ago. By far the largest contingent of foreign students, they can be an economic lifeline for colleges, since they usually pay full tuition, and they can provide a healthy dose of international diversity. But those students," Saul goes on to say, "often bring to campus something else from home: the watchful eyes and occasionally heavy hand of the Chinese government, manifested through its ties to many 150-odd chapters of the Chinese Students and Scholars Associations." Through the remainder of the article, the reporter elaborates how "The groups have worked in tandem with Beijing to promote a pro-Chinese agenda and tamp down anti-Chinese speech on Western campuses."

Statistics of the Catholic Church in China (2016)

Number of Catholics: between 9 and 10.5 million; *Number of Dioceses*: 114 (112 dioceses, + 32 other administrative territories). 96 (according to the Chinese Government); *Number of Bishops*: 109 (88 in ministry, 21 not in ministry); *Open Bishops* 6 in ministry, 8 not in ministry; *Underground Bishops*: 24 in ministry, 13 not in ministry; *Number of Priests*: *Open Church*: 2,500; *Underground Church*: 1,300; *Number of Seminaries and Seminarians*: *Major Seminaries*: 9, with 464 seminarians; *Minor Seminaries*: 20, with 300 seminarians; *Underground Seminaries*: 10, with 200 seminarians; *Number of Sisters*: *Open Church*: 3,170 in 87 congregations (2015 figure); *Underground Church*: 1,400 in 37 congregations (2015 figure); *Sisters' Novitiate* (The figure to be re-assessed)

published in **Tripod** Number 184. Spring 2017

U. S. Catholic China Bureau National Conference

Saturday Panelists on Chinese Catholicism (Watch for updates on website)

Chinese Priests and Sister: **Father Xu**—"Local Religious Social Opportunities"; **Father Min**—"Seminary Formation in Hebei Province"; **Father Li**—"Forming an Evangelization Team in China"; **Father Xu**—"The Dilemma/Challenge of ongoing formation of priests in China"; **Father Liu**—"Reflection on Chinese Faith"; **Sister Ge**—"Resources Available to Support Chinese Church Spirituality Programs"

Columban Father Tommy Murphy—"My Beijing experience with Chinese priests and Sisters."

Joann Pittman—China Source author of *The Bells Are Not Silent* and **Dr Christie Chow**: both offer reflections on Protestant Chinese Witness; **Deacon Ed Kleinguel**—"Chinese Sisters Retreat Experience"

John Lindblom—"The Legacy and Catholic Voice of John C.H. Wu"; **Luke Liu**, Chinese Catholic Experience

Jinde Charities, China; Casa Ricci, Macau, TherAsia, Italy: Chinese-International Social Service Opportunities

Michael Agliardo, S.J. and Rob Carbonneau, C.P—"U. S. Catholic China Bureau, Past, Present and Future"

2017 U.S. Catholic China Bureau Study Tour Observations- By *America Magazine*/Jesuit Media and Participants

Afternoon Bilingual Liturgy: Presider and Preacher, **Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Ignatius Wang**,
Archdiocese of San Francisco. (Public is welcome to attend)

Saturday Evening Banquet Honors Matteo Ricci Award Recipient Maryknoll Sister Janet Carroll

founding Executive Director of the U.S. Catholic China Bureau

(Banquet only participation requires one week advance registration in our website)

Followed by Chinese Cultural Evening

Sunday Morning Interdisciplinary Scholarly Exchange on Christianity in China

Passionist Father Rob Carbonneau, U.S. Catholic China Bureau—"American Franciscans in 20th Century China";

Dr. Cindy Yik-Yi Chu, Hong Kong Baptist University, "Fu-Jen University, Peking and Divine Word, 1945-1950;

Joann Pittman "*The Bells Are Not Silent*"; **Dr. Christie Chow** "Understanding Contemporary Chinese Christian

Women of Faith" **Dr. Joseph Lee, Pace Univ. NYC** "Study Christianity to Build Bridges of Understanding"

Jennifer Lin- on Watchman Nee: "Shanghai Faithful: Betrayal and Forgiveness in a Chinese Family;

Dr. Monica Romano, Italy "Reading and Understanding the Bible in China A Survey Among Chinese Catholic Communities in Mainland China and Italy" **Dr. Alexandra Wang**—"Virgin Mary in Fuzhou"

Early-Bird Discount Available till July 21, 2017

Register Now: www.uscatholicchina.org

Select from full Weekend Housing or Local Commuter Packages

St. John's University staff/student discount as well as general student discounts available

Questions and details on discounts. Email: staff@uscatholicchina.org

Phone our office in Berkeley, California at 510-900-2015 if you have questions about price options
Should you leave a message speak clear and slow. Leave your phone number so we might call you back.

! Prefer to Register By Mail !

Consult our website www.uscatholicchina.org for prices.

Write out check made payable to U.S. Catholic China Bureau

Fill out this form below and send with check to US Catholic China Bureau 1646 Addison Street Berkeley, CA 94703

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I am attending the Full Weekend single _____ double _____ triple _____ (amount)

I attending as a commuter _____ (amount)

I am attending with the student discount _____

I am attending the Saturday Matteo Ricci Award Banquet only _____

I want to make a tax-deductible donation and be a Conference Sponsor _____ (amount)



Archbishop Eugene Nugent



Sister Ge



Columban Father Tommy Murphy



Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Ignatius Wang



Maryknoll Sister Janet Carroll



Dr. Joseph Lee



Jennifer Lin



Dr. Christie Chow



Dr. Cindy Chu

U.S. Catholic China Bureau has now made digital copies of this beautiful hand-painted Madonna and Child
 Painted on silk by Monica Ho-Peh Liu (1928-2016),
 They are available for you to order at email: staff@uscatholicchina.org
 In subject line put: MONICA LIU ART ORDER



Most Reverend Ignatius Wang (above left) and
 Most Reverend John S. Cummins (above right)
 were each awarded a framed 36"x24" copy of this beautiful
 Madonna and Child painting by Monica Liu (1928-2016)
 on November 3, 2016 Matteo Ricci Award Dinner

This can be a unique, one-of-a kind greeting card or gift
 for any occasion:
 New Year, Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother's Day,
 Graduation, Father's Day, Birthday, Retirement,
 Anniversary, Christmas, Sympathy, Get-Well
 or just keeping in touch and remembering someone

12 cards	15.00 USD
16" X 20"	125.00 USD
36" X 24"	250.00 USD

Plus shipping and handling.



Original Artist: Monica Ho-Peh Liu. 劉河北

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For color image, contact the website copy or email staff@uscatholicchina.org

Celebrate Our Lady of Sheshan, China May 24

In 2013, I was spellbound when I came across this historic photo from the Passionist China Collection as it was being digitized at the Ricci Institute at University of San Francisco. (seen on the right). Taken in the 1920s by an unnamed Passionist photographer this image of the Sheshan Marian Basilica

Located in the western Songjiang District (松江区 in simplified Chinese characters) of Shanghai. It became, and still is today, a familiar tourist and pilgrimage site.

At the top of its bell tower stands a 4.8m bronze Madonna and Child statue known as "Our Lady of Zose". Zose is the Shanghainese pronunciation of "She Shan." May 24 is the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. She is the patron saint of Sheshan.

In the early In May 1981 the People's Government of Shanghai decided to return the Sheshan Basilica to the Shanghai Catholic Diocese.

In the mid-1990s I had the opportunity to visit this historic site. As I remember, it was a very warm day. With immediate determination I innocently decided to proceed forward up the stairway carved into the mountainside. What I thought would allow me some exercise and an opportunity to manifest pious devotion was quickly tested.

Instead what took place was an encounter with my heart that required I find the personal and physical stamina to reach the summit. Maybe you or someone you know had the same experience at Sheshan or even some other Marian shrine throughout the world.

My visit offered me new found respect for the resolve of heart and stamina surrounding Chinese devotion to Mary. I firmly believe her example of compassion and discipleship is ingrained in the Chinese Catholics who have and presently keep the faith.

Wherever we are in the world let our payers be one to Our Lady of Sheshan. With the Chinese let us be surprised and open to how our hearts are healed.

Rob Carbonneau., C.P.



In 2007 May 24 Pope Benedict XVI designated May 24 the day of prayer for the Catholic Church in China.

Let Us Together Say the Prayer to Our Lady of Sheshan

Virgin Most Holy, Mother of the Incarnate Word and our Mother, venerated in the Shrine of Sheshan under the title "Help of Christians," the entire Church in China looks to you with devout affection.

We come before you today to implore your protection. Look upon the People of God and, with a mother's care, guide them along the paths of truth and love, so that they may always be a leaven of harmonious coexistence among all citizens.

When you obediently said "yes" in the house of Nazareth, you allowed God's eternal Son to take flesh in your virginal womb and thus to begin in history the work of our redemption. You willingly and generously co-operated in that work, allowing the sword of pain to pierce your soul, until the supreme hour of the Cross, when you kept watch on Calvary, standing beside your Son, Who died that we might live.

From that moment, you became, in a new way, the Mother of all those who receive your Son Jesus in faith and choose to follow in His footsteps by taking up His Cross.

Mother of hope, in the darkness of Holy Saturday you journeyed with unflinching trust towards the dawn of Easter. Grant that your children may discern at all times, even those that are darkest, the signs of God's loving presence.

Our Lady of Sheshan, sustain all those in China, who, amid their daily trials, continue to believe, to hope, to love.

Come August 11-13, 2017 to St. John's University, New York City
U.S. Catholic China Bureau National Conference
“Experience of the China Church in the 21st Century”
Self- Respect, Faith Respect Culture Respect
By Rob Carbonneau, C.P., Executive Director

Because China continues to surprise and transform me, I cordially invite you to share the same experience by participating in the August 11-13, 2017 at St. John's University in Jamaica, Queens, New York. We at the U.S. Catholic China Bureau believe that your joining us to listen, talk, learn and question will foster self-respect, faith respect and culture respect.

Over the years, so many people have told me that their attending these biennial national conferences has been life-changing. Via networking, dialogue and celebration a greater understanding of the China Church has come to life. This has been an exciting personal journey for me. Throughout the years, every national conference program has presented me with the chance to both probe the past and appreciate the contemporary pulse of Chinese Catholicism. As a result, I have gained greater self-respect as a world Catholic. I hope you might be open to the same experience.

The living legacy friendship embodied in the life of Jesuit Catholic priest and missionary to China Matteo Ricci has always permeated the three-day conference. In this spirit the Friday keynote calls us together. Especially compelling on Saturday is the opportunity to hear the witness of Chinese priests, sisters and laity from China. With clarity they share their faith experience with the vibrant voices of American and international Catholics. All acknowledge, recall, remember and are thankful for the missionary legacy of the past. This is a part of the foundation that sustains contemporary Chinese Catholicism. Invaluable as well is the opportunity to interact with our companions from other Christian traditions. Our Mass and Chinese banquet will provide a spirit of celebration. In addition, you can attend the Sunday Interdisciplinary Scholarly Exchange which will highlight the rapport that exists among so many of us who study and personally share in the China experience. Consistently, Pope Francis has reminded us that that we are people on a common journey, always seeking to build a bridge of understanding with China. This is how faith respect has increased for me. I hope this might be true for you.

No matter whether we find ourselves at a Chinese restaurant in our cities or neighborhoods, follow Chinese business or headline news, travel or hope to travel to China, teach or study Chinese related topics or language in our classrooms. I invite you to register and attend our New York City August 11-13 weekend. I believe your interest in China can help transform us all. This is possible, because so many of us share a fundamental cultural respect for China.

The most successful features of these U.S. Catholic China Bureau conferences has been self-respect, faith respect and culture respect. Together, let us continue on our peaceful journey together in surprising fashion as we “Experience of the China Church in the 21st Century.”

Special Discounted full weekend/commuter and student registration ends July 21, 2017

Conference information is now available at www.uscatholicchina.org

Questions, email: staff@uscatholicchina.org

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