

China Church Quarterly

US Catholic China Bureau

On Pilgrimage: What Would Jesuit Matteo Ricci Suggest We Do To Understand Catholic China During this Year of Mercy By Father Rob Carbonneau, C.P., Ph.D

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My imagination has been quite active since Labor Day 2015 when I first read Matteo's Ricci *On Friendship*. Written in 1595, the treatise grew out of Ricci's discussions on friendship with Zhu Duojie (1573–1601), prince of Jian'an. It was Ricci's first work in Chinese. The treatise includes translated or paraphrased texts and aphorisms by Western saints and sages, which are presented in a format easily recognizable to Chinese scholars. In recent weeks I have been considering going back to reading *On Friendship* in conjunction with the promulgation of Pope Francis *On Mercy*.

In the future I plan to put aside a reflection day on this topic. While I am not sure what would emerge from this spiritual opportunity, I think it would be best if I had several scenarios or questions in mind.

First, might my crossing paths with someone holding a Chinese passport be the opportunity to start a conversation to learn more about China? A simple question asked or observation shared when standing in line at an airport can lead to greater cross cultural appreciation. For example, have we been to the same travel destinations in our respective countries? After sharing answers, we then continue on our journey enriched.

Second, I would take advantage of my reflection day to go to a Chinese restaurant to eat. While this might be quite easy in urban areas and require some a bit more travel in some locales, my decision to eat Chinese food would provide me to focus and name the ways that I satisfy my hunger to learn about China. While my usual preference has been to learn about China via history books, would my hunger to learn be better satisfied if I started watching Chinese movies?

Third, I would take special care to keep in mind the suffering of Chinese Catholics and overall Chinese society. The examples of Matteo Ricci and Pope Francis make this point particularly challenging. On a face to face practical level, would I be inspired to deepen relationship with Chinese Catholics or Christians in my area or church? In what way might I help be more inclusive by being a friend to local Chinese students or new visitors far away from home who might be suffering from basic homesickness. Requiring more thought would be my making the decision to write a letter to my elected representative about human rights issues that must be addressed concerning United States—China relations. Ending immoral and unethical practices could have a positive impact on us all.

Finally, I would pray to Matteo Ricci and Pope Francis that we be given the gift of practical wisdom. All of us associated with the U.S. Catholic China Bureau can benefit from this gift of wisdom as we care about the Catholic Church in China, develop ongoing relationships and continue on our mission to educate the American public. In particular, Ricci exhibited a profound patience in his study and respect for Chinese language and culture. Still, he commands historic transcultural respect. Therefore, all of us might pray for the diplomatic patience and opportunity that is required by representatives of the Holy See, The People's Republic of China and others who seek a path to agree on principles that can sustain a mutually beneficial relationship.

Religion Study Tour

June 2017
Sponsored by
U.S. Catholic
China Bureau

→Hong Kong

→Shanghai

→Xi'an

→Beijing



CHINA CHURCH NEWS

We pilgrims share in the ongoing sufferings of Chinese Catholics.

ASIANEWS.it 04/16/2016. Victoria Ma reported Baoding Catholics have called for the safe return of missing *Father Yang Jianwei*, parish pastor of Anzhuang, Baoding diocese (Hebei) [photo below] Belonging to a church community not recognized by the government, he was reported missing at a driving test venue since April 15. His whereabouts are not known. To help find the missing priest, local Catholics then sent out messages via social media seeking any news.



We pilgrims care about changes in Chinese family life.

UCANEWS.com Beijing 3/28/2016. Amid what has been the largest migration in the history of the world in recent decades, it remains difficult to know the extent to which swelling congregations in [Chinese] city churches have come at the expense of those in dwindling villages across the country.

China is preparing to conduct its first ever study on children left behind in rural areas. Grandparents take care of an estimated 100 million "left-behind children" in the country. Church leaders often cite such social problems as a key driver of evangelism. Together, rampant growth and atheism have created an often-cited 'spiritual void,' pushing many Chinese into the arms of the church.

We pilgrims follow discussions between the Holy See and China.

Vatican Radio 2/2/2016 Pope Francis called China a "great country," and said the world should not "fear" China's growing power, but that the "true balance of peace is realized through dialogue." The Holy Father was speaking in an interview about China with the *Asia Times*, an online newspaper based in Hong Kong. "For me, China has always been a reference point of greatness. A great country," Pope Francis said. "But more than a country, a great culture, with an inexhaustible wisdom."



Reactions Varied to Comments of the Pope

AsiaNews Beijing .Almost 24 hours after the *Asia Times* original publication, following a press brief by Chinese Foreign Affairs spokesman Lu Kang, stated "We have noted relevant reports," Lu said about the interview, "We also hope that the Vatican would adopt a flexible and practical attitude to create conditions for the improvement of the bilateral relationship."

While Maria Chen of *AsiaNews.it* reported a Jilin priest said: "The Chinese Communists are very smart and know how to run the show.... Negotiations to establish diplomatic relations are important and necessary, but in order to obtain them the Vatican should not sacrifice the rights of the Church" when Catholics still are suffering for their faith.

We pilgrims pray with Chinese Catholics during Easter 2016.

UCANEWS Hong Kong 3/17/2016. In China, some Catholics are slow to embrace inclusion of women in Holy Thursday foot-washing ritual. "Physical contact between men and women remains sensitive [in Chinese culture]. It takes time to accept and we need to consider the feeling among different age groups, especially the elderly," said a Shanxi priest. Father Zhao Hongchun of Harbin in Heilongjiang intends to pick two or three women to participate in the ceremony this year to "help laypeople adapt to the development of the church rite." The northeastern province has an estimated Catholic population of 100,000.

UCANEWS.com Beijing 3/28/2016. Chinese Christians flocked to churches for Easter services. Increasing number of young worshippers shows Christianity's growth in popularity in China.

Despite the government's efforts to minimize understanding of Easter — the school curriculum glosses over its significance and the state-run media did not cover events in China.—churches themselves have been remarkably successful at circumventing the atheist government.

About 20,000 new Catholics have been baptized in China during each of the past two Easters. This is according to *Faith Press*, a Catholic newspaper based in Hebei province that receives data on new baptisms from churches across China.

CHINA CHURCH NEWS

Update on NGO Laws in China continues to be of interest. China

AsiaNews it. cited the *East Asia China* 02/24/2016 discussion on the “survival strategy” of religious NGOs in China. The meeting in Manila between leaders of Caritas Internationalis and Catholic members of non-governmental organizations of the mainland China bodes well for the future of the "third sector" in the Asian country. The Beijing government grants more space to social groups, and in some cases even allows for clear faith-based activities. This is because the spread of Christianity is now so broad that even the Party must take it into consideration. But behind these openings remains the authorities' fear that NGOs can subvert the established order.

*Infodocs*service 04/07/2016 made public that “Two unofficial English-language translations of the Charity Law are now available thanks to the hard work of translators and editors at *China Development Brief* and *ChinaLawTranslate*. The most recent translation is China Development Brief's version <http://chinadevelopmentbrief.cn/research/> which appears on their Research site that also lists other laws and regulations relevant to the philanthropy/civil society sector. China Development Brief is an independent, specialized platform that monitors and reports on the philanthropy and NGO sector in China.

A blog about developments in the nongovernmental, nonprofit, charitable sector in China is <http://ngochina.blogspot.hk/2016/03/charity-law-faqs.htm>. This link to frequently asked questions pertaining to the law is worth reviewing.

An internet search on “China Philanthropy blog” cited *China Philanthropy* operated by Social Venture Group. On 02/26/2106 it stated the Top Five Events from 2015 that impacted philanthropy issues

1) The New Environmental Protection Law: On January 1, 2015, China's first environmental protection law went into effect. This law states every individual and entity has a responsibility to protect the environment. At a high level, it broadly lists how this should be done ranging from actions such as public engagement to transparency of corporations. This is a particularly important milestone for environment-focused NPOs as they now have legal standards to which they can gauge their work.

2. Chai Jing's documentary ‘Under the Dome: This documentary tells the story of a child born with cancer and the ramifications of the smog issue and the public health concern of air pollution. It sparked intense debate around the country as it is a concern for everyone regardless of socio-economic background.

3. Second Draft of new ‘Managing Foreign NGOs’ law published: The second draft of the 12th NPC Standing Committee 17th meeting of the "People's Republic of China Charity Law was published. As currently drafted, this new law will put foreign NGOs, which were previously under the administration of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, under the supervision of the Public Security Departments.

4. Tax benefits for donations within the social sector A new process was implemented that will allow those who make donations within the public sector to more easily receive tax benefits.

5. Suicide of abandoned children call into question the safety nets for this population:

Four children abandoned by their parents and other family members committed suicide, which brought to light the gap in the welfare for children who have been abandoned. This caused a large response in the general public as similar cases came to light in the wake of this event. Currently children whose parents are still alive but unable or unwilling to care for their children are unable to go into government welfare programs or orphanages. NGOs that support these children hope increased awareness from highly publicized events such as these will bring more attention to the cause.

Financial Church Management On 04/19/2016 *ChinaSource Team* addressed this topic when it published a March *China Christian Daily* interview with a Christian pastor from Dalian about the importance of properly managing church finances in Chinese churches.

News Headlines From the Chinese Perspective: 2016

Familiarity with China news is a challenging responsibility for all of us. Like me, you might seek diverse perspectives and insight on Chinese historical, business, cultural, religious, economic, social; political, national, and international issues. Given our many personal interests, I found this commentary offered by *Peoples Daily Online* 3/15/2015 a thought provoking Chinese news perspective. Content has been edited for this newsletter. Rob Carbonneau, C.P.

BIAS 1: CHINA IS "NOT A DEMOCRACY," MAJOR DECISIONS DO NOT REFLECT PEOPLE'S WILL. Comment: As a multi-ethnic nation with a large population and territory, China values reaching consensus through broad consultation before taking measures....Currently, China is focusing on realizing the goal of finishing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, which is the people's biggest concern.

•**BIAS 2: ONE-PARTY RULE NATION CANNOT ELIMINATE CORRUPTION.** Comment: Historically, corruption is not the result of a political system, but is related to phases of economic development. In the process of industrialization, the Western nations all witnessed spreading corruption due to fast accumulation of wealth and lack of supervision.

•**BIAS 3: CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT MODE IS UNSUSTAINABLE** Comment: It is true that China is continuously facing problems and challenges in its development, but the cliché prediction of a "coming collapse in China" made by speculators overseas has never come.

•**BIAS 4: CHINA'S ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN DRAGS DOWN WORLD ECONOMY** Comment: This argument ignores the opportunities brought about by China's economic scale and potential.....Many observers also believe that the current slowdown of growth signals an increasingly mature Chinese economy, a "new normal" situation that should be adapted to by both China and the world. They believe China will continue to be a major "engine" for the world economy.

•**BIAS 5: CHINA'S INCREASED MILITARY SPENDING THREATENS WORLD.** Comment: Understanding China's military spending, one might wish to consider the words of U.S. President Barack Obama's recent [2016] State of the Union address. "We spend more on our military than the next eight nations combined. Our troops are the finest fighting force in the history of the world," the U.S. president said. "No nation attacks us directly, or our allies, because they know that's the path to ruin.".... China implements an active defense military strategy. It will never attack others unless being attacked first and it will not waive the power to strike back if it is under attack from others.

•**BIAS 6: IRRATIONAL NATIONALISM IN CHINA** Comment: In a sense, many localities in China are turning into "cities of immigrants" where more foreigners are investing and living. While Chinese welcome them, they remain conscious of the fact that their nation has suffered century-long humiliation inflicted by foreign aggressors since the outbreak of the mid-19th century Opium War till the 1949 founding of the New China.

•**BIAS 7: NO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN CPC-RULED CHINA** Comment: People holding this view should visit China to see the fervor during Christmas or observe the devout prayers at mosques. If the government had really oppressed religions, such scenes could never occur.....According to international consensus, the choice of whether to worship and what to worship adheres to a country's law. If an individual commits crime or conducts terrorist activities in the name of religion, they must be handled in accordance with the law.

•**BIAS 8: CHINA HAS NO INTERNET FREEDOM** Comment: China has more than 600 million Internet users, the most in the world,Overseas Internet companies are only permitted to enter the Chinese market if they obey Chinese laws. The Chinese government has tightened management of illegal remarks posted on the Internet and it won't tolerate the West using the Internet to set agendas to interfere in China's economic and social development.

•**BIAS 9: CHINA PURSUING MILITARIZATION IN SOUTH CHINA SEA** Comment: Islands in the South China Sea were first discovered, named and used by the Chinese. China continues to exercise sovereignty over these islands.

•**BIAS 10: "BELT AND ROAD" GEOPOLITICAL TOOL** Comment: The Belt and Road Initiative is a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient Silk Road routes....to America.... Any country or region can join the network.



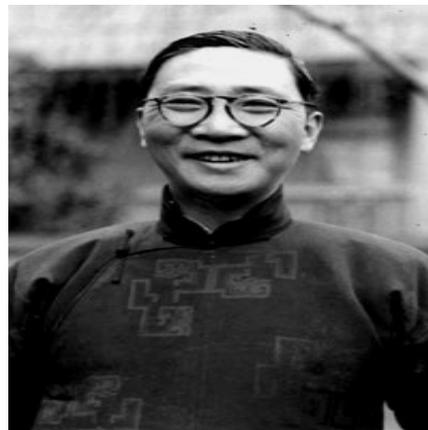
Networking on China: Conferences and Meetings

Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ presented *The Asian Experience at Seton Hall University* “China Studies, Catholicism, and East-West Dialogue: A Symposium in Memory of Seton Hall University Professor John Ching-Hsiung Wu.”

U.S. Catholic China Bureau participants were April 21 Panel II: Researching John Wu and Asian Studies. Chair: Amanda Clark, Ph.D., Whitworth University

April 22. Panel III: John Lindblom, Ph.D. Student, University of Notre Dame “The Uniqueness of Wu Jingxiong’s 1940s Chinese Translation of the Psalms and New Testament.”

Religion, Philosophy, and Intellectualism of John Wu Anthony Clark, Ph.D. Whitworth University. “Beyond the Dusty World: Daoism and the Epistolary Dialectics of Thomas Merton and John Wu” (Right: Photo of John Wu)



At the April 2016 meeting of the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) in Seattle, WA scholars of the China *Christianity Studies Group (CCSG)* elected leadership:
 - Chair: Anthony Clark (Whitworth University)
 - Vice-Chair: Ryan Dunch (University of Alberta)
 - Secretary: John Somerville (Michigan State University)

•Are you planning a trip to China and wish to go to Mass or visit an historic site?
 •Planning to adopt a child from China?
 •Need a speaker for your school, university, business or organization?
 •U.S. Catholic China Bureau can help you
 Contact us: director@uscatholicchina.org

Father Michael Agliardo, S.J. (second from right) presented at a “Engaging Chinese Students” at *Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (ACJU)*. Sponsored by Secretariat for Higher Education of the Society of Jesus, the gathering was held in conjunction with the Ricci Institute for Chinese Western Cultural History at the University of San Francisco (USF) on April 1 & 2, 2016,. After an introductory presentation by three USF Chinese students, panel topics considered Recruitment & Retention; Classroom Dynamics & Challenges Panel 3: Orientation & Student Life Panel 4: Development & Alumni Relations.



Meet the Staff of U.S. Catholic China Bureau at our Berkeley, CA office

Left: Assistant to Executive Director, Linda Crisostomo

Right: Social Media Assistant, Heeyoung Chung



Continuing the U.S. Catholic China Bureau Mission

In mid-March board members elected Father Michael Agliardo, S.J. (left) Chair of the Board
Mr. Tom McGuire, (right) Vice-Chair of the Board



Christianity in China: Past and Present was a free public panel held on March 4, 2016, 12:00 pm-1:30 pm. at Pace University, 1 Pace Plaza, New York. Co-sponsored by the Confucius Institute and the B.A. Program in Global Asia Studies at Pace University, this panel brought together scholars who discussed the historical development and contemporary practice of Christianity in modern China. Left to right: Father Rob Carbonneau, C.P., U.S. Catholic China Bureau; Dr. Christie Chui-Shan Chow, Princeton Seminary; Ms. Jennifer Lin, writer; Organizer Dr. Joseph Lee, History Department, Pace University

In early March, U.S. Catholic *China Bureau* board members Mary Sluka, of the Chicago area and Luke Liu of the Houston area, (photo on right) had the opportunity to reconnect with each other at Ascension Chinese Mission Parish, Houston, Texas. As the month progressed Mary also had the opportunity to meet with Tom McGuire in Arizona.

If you would like a board member to visit your parish, high school, academic institution, or social organization please contact us at the Bureau office.

Visit our website for a list of our current board members.



Public Lecture
A Paradigm for Understanding the Catholic Church in China: Is Matteo Ricci, SJ Still a Model?
By Fr. Rob Carbonneau, C.P. (photo on right)

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology,
Berkeley, CA April 12, 2016

Comments: Dr. Thomas Cattoi, Associate Professor of Christology and Cultures at the Jesuit School of Theology, Dwan Family Endowed Chair in Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue and a member of the Core Doctoral Faculty



Assorted Publications and Ricci and Verbiest Jesuit Maps

●Educators working with overseas Chinese students might be interested in the *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* 3/2015

Concentration was on the theme: Going Out: The Lives of Chinese Students Abroad Anders Sybrandt Hansen and Stig Thøgersen were guest editors. They wrote the Introduction: “The Anthropology of Chinese Transnational Educational Migration,”

Among the seven Research Articles were “The Temporal Experience of Chinese Students Abroad and the Present Human Condition” by Anders Sybrandt Hansen; “Overthrowing the First Mountain: Chinese Student-Migrants and the Geography of Power” by Anni Kajanus; “‘I will change things in my own small way’: Chinese Overseas Students, ‘Western’ Values, and Institutional Reform” by Stig Thøgersen and “‘Creating a Home away from Home’: Chinese Undergraduate Student Enclaves in US Higher Education by Yajing Chen and Heidi Ross.

For more see: www.currentchineseaffairs.org

●*The Tablet*: 2/26/2016 Meg Cornwell “Catholic Charity Concerned After Cross Removed from Catholic Church in China” offered analysis in relation to the organization Aid in the Church in Need.

●*America*: 3/21 2016 Steven Schwankert “How Far Will China Go?” concludes: “Beijing’s primary goal is always social stability. With the economy declining, how much of China’s external assertiveness is intended as a distraction is a concern; and how far China is willing to go to create distractions as its economy heads lower could become a genuine cause for worry.”

3/28/2016 in Current Comment “Safer Homes In China” reacted positively to China’s new Anti-Family Violence Law, which went into effect on March 1.

●*Foreign Affairs*: 3/24/2016 , published “The Pope and the Politburo - The Vatican's Chinese Diplomacy,” by Victor Gaetan. Offered is a systematic, multi-layered overview. Topics covered include: False Shepherds and Illicit Bishops, Church and State, Christianity With Chinese Characteristics, Delicate Diplomacy,

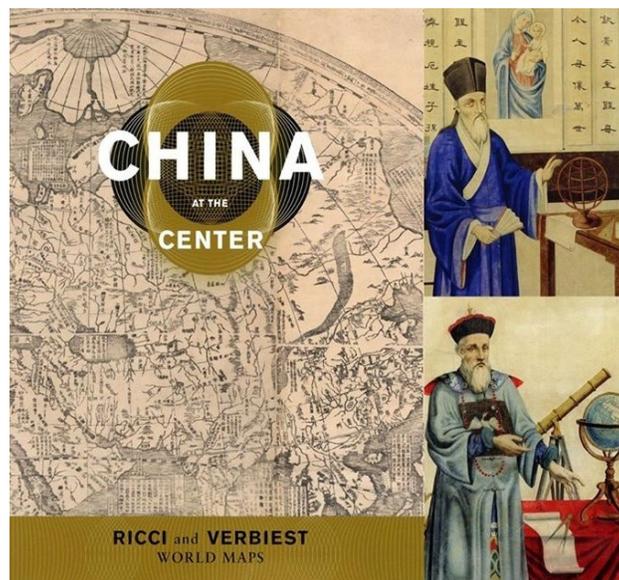
The essay concludes “As Christianity continues to grow rapidly in China, there’s no evidence that it will be a threat to social order—unless the government tries to control it unrealistically. And when the Vatican does come to an agreement with Beijing, China’s fractured Catholic communities will become more united—to the advantage of both the Vatican and the Chinese state. Earlier this year, Francis said, “I would very much like to go to China. I love the Chinese people. I love them very much.” Like his Jesuit forbearers

“China at the Center: Rare Ricci and Verbiest World Maps,” an exhibition at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, continues through May 8.

Presented by the museum in partnership with the University of San Francisco, the event is the first time that Ricci’s World Map (1602) from the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota will be shown together with the Verbiest World Map (1674) from the Library of Congress.

Visitors will be able to better appreciate the historical relationship between European Jesuit missionaries Matteo Ricci (1552-1610) and Ferdinand Verbiest (1623-1688), the Chinese Wanli and Kangxi emperors as well as Chinese intellectuals and new Catholic converts of the 1600s. Both maps marked the first time the Chinese had seen a representation of the whole world, including the Americas.

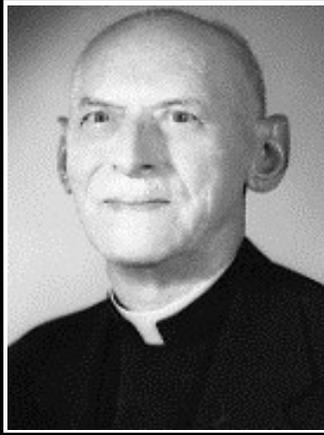
Most remarkable in the Ricci map is the depiction of China on one side and the Americas on the other with the Pacific Ocean at the center. This is a completely different perspective from previous European maps that placed the Atlantic Ocean at the center.



[such as Matteo Ricci], he seems likely to make this wish come true.”

Can’t make it to San Francisco? Visit online
www.asianart.org/exhibitions/china-at-the-center

2016 U.S. Catholic China Bureau Stewardship



Past Maryknoll missionary inspires support for the today's Chinese Catholic church

A friend of the U.S. Catholic Bureau noted the “big impression” made by Father Mark A. Churchill, M.M. (1895-1972). Ordained in 1927 and missioned to China, he was expelled by the Communists in 1952. Back home in the U. S., encounters with him prompted the writer to keep an open mind and travel to China in 1976. In a February letter, the writer enclosed a \$100 check to the US Catholic China Bureau “in memory” of Father Churchill. (Maryknoll Mission Archives permitted our use of this photo).

Please contact us. Share with us your memory of somebody who has inspired your vision of China? A former China missionary? A teacher? Someone you know from China? As a symbol of gratitude, might you be willing to make a similar donation to the “US Catholic China Bureau.” May our prayers and support sustain Chinese Catholicism.

Representatives from the US Catholic China Bureau will conduct Mission Cooperative Plan (MCP) appeals in the following locations. Please contact these parishes and meet us in person

Archdiocese of St Louis, MO: Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis; St Cronan of St. Louis; St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Louis and St. Raphael the Archangel, St. Louis.

Archdiocese of Baltimore, MD: parishes to be determined

Diocese of Raleigh, NC: All Saints Parish, Hampstead, NC.

Archdiocese of Newark, NJ: St. Therese of Liseux, Cresskill, NJ; St. Joseph's Parish, East Rutherford, NJ; Our Lady of Peace, New Providence, NJ.

Diocese of Albany, NY: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Watervliet, NY; Our Lady of Ascension Church, Queensbury, NY; St. Ann's Church, Fort Ann, NY and Our Lady of Hope Church, Whitehall, NY.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia, PA: Our Lady of Fatima, Secane, PA; Saint Isidore, Quakertown, PA.

Diocese of Scranton, PA: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wyalusing, PA; Nativity BVM, Tunkhannock, PA; St. Mary of the Lake, Lake Winola, PA; Holy Cross/Blessed Sacrament, Throop, PA.

Archdiocese of Chicago, IL: St. Damian Parish, Oak Forest, IL; St. Joseph Parish, Wilmette, IL.

We are always seeking Priests, Religious Brothers and Sisters and laity to represent us in our annual appeals.

A donation of \$150.00 or more can support a preacher for a weekend. Contact :director@uscatholicchina.org.

China Church Quarterly ISBN:1084-8401

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

Layout/Production: Linda Crisostomo

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

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