

We proudly announce the 2007 graduates of the Maryknoll Chinese Seminary Teachers and Formators Project



Rev. Joseph Zhang Qiu Lin, Ph. D.
Fr. Zhang graduated from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. with a Ph.D. in Liturgy. He will be teaching at Beijing National Seminary.



Rev. Paul Wang Li Min, D.Min.
Fr. Wang graduated from Catholic Theological Union, Chicago with a D.Min. in Cross-Cultural Studies. He will serve in Anyang Diocese.



Rev. Raphael Gao Chao Peng S.T.D.
Fr. Gao graduated from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. with an S.T.D in Moral Theology. He will be teaching at Xian Major Seminary.



Sr. Mary Jiao Yan Mei, D.Min.
Sr. Jiao graduated from Catholic Theological Union, Chicago with a D.Min. in Cross-Cultural Studies. She will serve in Beijing Diocese.

Arbitrary Detention of Zhouzhi Bishop

On March 17, 2007, **Bishop Joseph Wu Qinjing**, of Zhouzhi Diocese in NW Shaanxi Province was forcibly taken away in a humiliating and arbitrary manner by the local police. Since then, the 38 year old Bishop has been kept in detention; and except for a brief message at Easter, has been deprived of communication with the priests and faithful of his diocese. *The Shaanxi Province Bureau of Religious Affairs* denies Bishop Wu's right to carry out his episcopal responsibilities due to the fact that he was not selected by the leaders of his diocese through the process required by religious policy in China. Bishop Wu [known as Martin] was duly consecrated by *Archbishop Anthony Li Du'an* of Xi'an who, as bishop of the ecclesiastical region in which the diocese of Zhouzhi is located, was simply fulfilling his ecclesial obligations. To organize the required "election" would have been difficult, due both to Bishop LI's imminent death from cancer and the fact that the priests of the diocese were divided into several factions, each with its own candidate. Shortly before his death, Bishop LI determined to choose a priest he judged most qualified to carry on the pastoral leadership of Zhouzhi diocese.

Ironically, by unlawfully detaining Bishop WU and intervening in such an odious way into the internal affairs of the Church, **the local authorities may have unwittingly catalyzed the entire diocese to unite for the good of the Church, in their strong demand for the release of their bishop.**

Citations from Relais France-Chine 6/07

US Peoples' Friendship Association (USCPFA) 21st National Convention

** October 5-7, 2007 – Sarasota, FL **
Convention Program

"CHINA'S NEW DEAL"

Major theme: China's new policies for social and economic progress.
Sessions on China's rising international power and China's cultural legacy.

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Convention Reservation/ Registration

Contact Archie McKee: 813-453-1339 or archie_mckee@hotmail.com

Social Issues



Disparate Education Opportunities

The year 1978 marked China's leap into the 21st Century. Deng Xiaoping introduced his open-door reforms, which inaugurated a quarter century of annual double-digit growth rates, resulting in the economic transformation of China. From 1978 to 2003, China's GDP grew more than 15 fold. In 1999, the World Bank re-classified China as a lower middle-income country.

Notwithstanding the impressive results, the forces unleashed by those reforms: economic liberalization, decentralization, and freer migration, have had unintended negative effects on development, income equity, social justice and gender equality. China now suffers from growing pains in disparities between rich and poor and urban

and rural areas, among regions and between extraordinary economic growth and difficult social development, and conflict between economic growth and environmental protection. **Some of the key social issues can best be illustrated by the popular saying: "Education, healthcare and housing are the three new mountains weighing on the Chinese people"** (comparing to the "three mountains of semi-feudalism, semi-colonialism and imperialism" that oppressed Chinese people when the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949).



Ironically, education is the issue most affected by China's booming economy. Educational expenditures for 2005 accounted for only 2.16% of GDP; despite the fact that **the Education Act stipulates that educational expenditure should be 4% of GDP**. Based on per capita educational expenditure, China ranked number 8 from the bottom, putting it on par with Chad - among nearly 200 member States and Associations of UNESCO.

The inequality between the rural and urban areas affects educational resource distribution, opportunity, and length of schooling. Especially in rural and hinterland areas, many children are locked into poverty - keeping them out of school for reasons as simple as lack of fees for books, accommodations or a ride to school. Educational expenditure in urban areas is three times higher than in rural areas.

[Zhang Liwei, Amity Foundation]

Amity - A "Christian" NGO

On October 17, 2006 the United Nations "International Day for the Eradication of Poverty," **the PRC government awarded the Amity Foundation for its outstanding work among the poor and social uplift programs for the under-privileged.**

Mr. Qiu Zhonghui, General Director of Amity, was among ten organizations and individuals who received this recognition at the Great Hall of the People, Beijing. The award certificate was given by Hui Liangyu, vice Premier of China, who congratulated Amity for its years of tireless efforts in serving the poor in society. Mr. Qiu said that the award was a real affirmation and encouragement for the work done by the Amity Foundation. He expressed deep gratitude for the generation of church leaders who had the vision and determination to take the initiative to establish Amity as a non-governmental organization (NGO) twenty-one years ago. However, even though Amity has made remarkable accomplishments in the last two decades, there remains an enormous task ahead to bring about a "harmonious society" where there is justice for the poor. Though the Amity Foundation is an NGO, independent from the China Christian Council, it was founded by Christians who continue to provide its leadership. To many, Amity is "an organization operated with love." It is in reality a strong Christian witness in the Chinese context.

Tian Feng, January 2007

Cultural Commitment

Oblate Father George McLean, has organized a symposium with 20 scholars from different parts of China on **Public Administration as Public Service** to be held in late June in Aberdeen in Hong Kong. He writes: "There is a deep moral requirement, namely, to assure among public administrators and in the structures that develop that the Chinese heritage of service to the people be maintained and developed. This is a matter not only of systems and techniques, but of deep cultural commitment, of values and of the corresponding virtues."



COD Newsletter 05/07

Chinese Going Crazy for Confucius

Pop culture offerings in China these days run the gamut from Hollywood blockbusters to domestic versions of American Idol, but it is a book about the ancient sage Confucius that is causing all the buzz in the streets.

Notes on Reading the Analects, by Beijing Normal University Professor YU Dan, has become China's best-selling book in recent memory, defying critics who say it turns Confucian thought into self-help pulp for the modern age. Yu first shot to fame in October when she went on state TV to lecture on the Analects, a canon of Confucianism recording discussions between the ancient Chinese sage Confucius (551-479 BC) and his disciples. She wrote the book based on the TV transcripts. Her mass following tells of deep anxiety about morality and beliefs in a society that has gone through a disorienting transformation in recent decades, analysts said.

Yu's book appeals across generations, despite the vastly different experiences of growing up as Tian did, in the relatively prosperous and stable reform era of the 1980s and 90s, or as the older generation did, during the tumultuous reign of Mao Zedong. After the Communist Party took power in 1949, a series of radical political movements plunged the country into anarchy and near economic bankruptcy, culminating in the chaos of the Cultural Revolution. The turmoil is blamed by many for leading to mistrust between people and a breakdown of traditional values, including the Confucian ones which were denounced as "reactionary," as the Party tried to obliterate the country's past.

"A nation which used to value morality above everything else suddenly finds itself in a situation without a moral benchmark. That causes inextricable anxiety," said Zhu Dake, of Tongji University in Shanghai.

Writer Zha Jianying said Yu's books had found a frenetic audience in the ideological vacuum following the collapse of Communism as the "*state religion*" which has made China the world's "*largest soul market*" with its 1.3 billion population. "*So be it Buddhism, Christianity or Yu Dan's version of Confucius, people embrace them*," said Zha, author of an acclaimed 2006 book of interviews with a dozen Chinese cultural figures. "There are so many wounded, helpless souls that are desperate to find something to believe in and to hold on to after these drastic changes."

Guo Shipeng, Reuters, 5/07

Amnesty International Report 2007



Before China's election to the new UN Human Rights Council, it made a number of human rights-related pledges, including ratification of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and active co-operation with the UN on human rights.

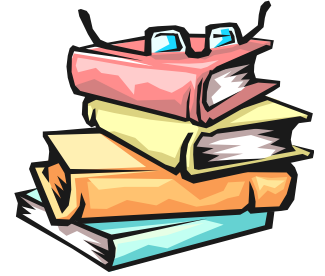
The A.I Report - summarily rejected by the PRC - included these concerns:

Rural migrant workers in China's cities faced wide-ranging discrimination. Despite official commitment to resolve the problem, millions of migrant workers were still owed back pay. The vast majority were excluded from urban health insurance schemes and could not afford private health care. **Access to public education remained tenuous for millions of migrant children;** onerous demands made it nearly impossible for migrant schools to be registered. An estimated 20 million migrant children were unable to live with their parents in the cities in part because of insecure schooling.

Violence and discrimination against women remained severe. The disadvantaged economic and social status of women and girls was evident in employment, health care and education. Women were laid off in larger numbers than men from failing state enterprises. Women accounted for 60 per cent of rural laborers and had fewer non-agricultural opportunities than men. **The absence of gender-sensitive anti-HIV/AIDS policies contributed to a significant rise in female HIV/AIDS cases in 2006.** Only 43 per cent of girls in rural areas completed education above lower middle school, compared with 61 per cent of boys. Despite strengthened laws and government efforts to combat human trafficking, it remained pervasive, with an estimated 90 per cent of cases being women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Repression of spiritual and religious groups - The government continued to crack down on religious observance outside officially sanctioned channels. Thousands of members of underground protestant "house churches" and unofficial Catholic churches were detained, many of whom were ill-treated or tortured in detention. Members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement were detained and assigned to administrative detention for their beliefs, and continued to be at high risk of torture or ill-treatment. China Infodoc Service 5/25/07

Reading Notes



- **Journey to the East: The Jesuit Mission to China, 1579-1724.** *Liam Matthew Brockey.* The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press 2007. A very interesting book on the Jesuit mission to China, written not on the Jesuits working in Beijing for the Chinese Emperor and their relations with the Mandarins, not on the protagonists of the Chinese Rites Controversy, but on the works of the Jesuits in the Provinces, their method of evangelization, their catechesis, their devotions, their way of presenting the Christian faith and their way of building Chinese Christian communities. The author has used extensively the Jesuit Archives in Macau. These resources in Portuguese, untapped before, can be found in Lisbon. In his review [NYT Review 5/28/07], Jonathan Spence says that Brockey's book substantially changes the whole discussion.
- **A History of the Orthodox Church in China, Korea & Japan.** *Dr. Kevin Baker.* Edwin Metien Press, UK. The author has written a fascinating history of the Orthodox in China and its Eastern Church. By correcting popular historical preconceptions he has raised the level of understanding Christians have of Christianity in China and also in Korea and Japan. Baker also provides a history of the Jews in 15th century China.
- **The Chinese Martyrs Red Book.** *Gerolamo Fazzini. Mondo e Missione and San Pedro Paolo Editors,* 2006. This collection of testimonies, which focuses on the first period of religious persecution under Mao, are of significant historical value. Of special interest are the accounts of Fathers Tan Tiande, Giocanni Huang and Li Chang. These life stories do not focus mainly on the suffering endured; they rather provide an understanding of the daily life of believers under persecution and highlight the spiritual tension, even though tempered with mercy and serenity, that pervades the purest faith.
- **Mao's Last Revolution.** *Roderick MacFarquhar and Michael Schoenhais.* The Belknap Press/Harvard University Press. \$35.00. This book assumes its readers are well grounded in modern Chinese history. Access to newly available documents and memoirs enable the authors to establish many facts and clear misconceptions regarding China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. MacFarquhar and Schoenhais provide detailed accounts of the incidents, currents, cleansings and purges of the era. They also shed light on Mao's character and disputed intent in launching the Cultural Revolution. They leave it, however, to sociologists, political scientists and the Chinese people themselves to answer many significant still unanswered questions regarding "one of history's most horrific political cataclysms."
- **One Billion Customers: Lessons from the Front Lines of Doing Business in China.** *James McGregor.* Wall Street Journal Book by Free Press 2005. This extremely witty book presents case studies on doing business in China. Each chapter concludes with a practical section entitled "What This Means for You," and the "Little Red Book of Business" which consists of short pithy sayings that reveal the insights gained in each case study. McGregor ends his book by examining the cooperative Jesuit venture between China's premier university and a consortium of Catholic business schools in the USA. This book has applications not only to foreigners trying to do business in China but others working in different sectors of Chinese society, including faith-based organizations.

23rd National Catholic China Conference

3-5 October 2008

Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL

Continuing Cross Cultural Conversations

Following on the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, the proposed theme will focus on youth: Christian and other religious believers, students, business people and so forth.

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