

# China Church Quarterly

## US Catholic China Bureau

**On Pilgrimage: Taking Each Footstep with Peace To Understand Catholic China  
During this Year of Mercy  
By Father Rob Carbonneau, C.P., Ph.D**

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Having completed one year as Executive Director of the U.S Catholic China Bureau, a common experience has been to find myself before ten or twenty people who seek to know more about the Catholic Church in China. Such encounters have revealed several impressions.

First, American Catholics remain most interested in the Chinese Catholic Church. While the greater percentage of Catholics have heard of the existence of an “underground” or unregistered Chinese Catholic Church there is some surprise when I offer the historical caveat that the Chinese Catholic population has grown from 3 million in 1949 to almost 13 million in 2016. People then understand when I emphasize the point that the Chinese Catholic Church now lives with all the hopes and sufferings that face any Catholics worldwide.

The mission of the U.S. Catholic China remains to educate U.S. Catholics about the Catholic Church in China and sustain bridge projects between them. Many of these bridges have been built because you are the architects. I am amazed and grateful to see positive relationships that continue to develop.

Now we need your help to get new participants interested in our many efforts. Most exciting is our challenge to offer the depth of our mission and message using social media. As our long standing friends and faith network, we know you will assist the U.S. Catholic China Bureau in this effort.

We remain thankful that our bi-annual National China Conferences have become a venue where scholars and ordinary people learn and network about current issues and projects in China. We are discerning the time and place for the 2017 National Conference and welcome your advice.

Invaluable has been how small group encounters increase personal interests. Unsolicited has been how many people share news and interest on the large number of Chinese students matriculated in Catholic colleges and high schools. My hope is that the China Bureau might develop closer relationships in these areas. As the Lunar New Year approaches on February 8, 2016 the China Bureau board members and I look forward to deepening and learning from our long-standing relationship with U.S. Chinese Catholic parishes and diversified organizations.

Finally, promulgation of 2016 as a Holy Year of Mercy from December 8 2015 to November 20 2016 states that “wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.” To enliven this, Pope Francis reminds us of the value of the pilgrimage “because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a *viator*, a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination.”

*As friends of the U.S. Catholic China Bureau may I suggest that each of us make 2016 a year of pilgrimage so as to deepen our perspective on the Catholic Church in China. Together let us share inspiration, witness, faith and mercy.*

mercy

仁慈

mercy

Catholics open Door  
of Mercy at South  
Church, Beijing  
*AsiaNewsit*



## CHINA CHURCH NEWS

### *We pilgrims share in the ongoing sufferings of Chinese Catholics.*

*ASIA NEWS* 11/16/2015 Taiyuan reported the November 6 death of underground priest *Fr. Perdro Wei Heping* [seen below] as having died from “suspicious circumstances” in Shanxi province. Claimed as a suicide by Chinese police Catholic observers in an out of China countered such action was totally “out of character. Ordained in 2004, he drew many young people and founded an underground eminary, with highly qualified teachers.”



### *We pilgrims care about changes in Chinese family life.*

*South China Morning Post* 12/28/2015. Effective 01/01/2016 China officially ended its one-child policy. All married couples will be permitted “to have a second child as it attempts to cope with an ageing population and shrinking workforce.” However, “legislation maintains limits on additional births” beyond two children. “The policy led to sex-selective abortions or infanticide targeting girls, because of a centuries-old social preference for boys.” China’s population is the world’s largest: 1.37 billion. Some think the “shift to a two child policy is likely too little, too late to address the mainland’s looming population crisis.” At the same time, China has instituted a first ever anti- domestic violence legislation.

### *We pilgrims follow discussions between the Holy See and China .*

Given Pope Francis’ impact on Cuba-American relations, speculation heightened when *Pope Francis* and *President Xi Jinping* were in the U.S. at the same time in September for separate events. Adding to the complexity of moment was the a concurrent 10 day U. S. trip of Bishop Joseph Ma Yinglin, two other Chinese prelates of the PRC sanctioned bishops’ conference. They were on a so-called “fence-mending mission” to “seek reconciliation with the universal Church.”



Researcher *Wang Meixiu* of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences explained in *ASIA NEWS* 10/21/2015 how Beijing- Holy See relations has been a “long and tortuous journey, complicated by mutual misunderstandings, [which] must not undermine the possibility of opening channels of cooperation in the future. Episcopal appointments must be left in the hands of the Pope, but the Vatican must better understand the reasoning of the Chinese government and learn to trust more. Underlying need for patience on all sides involved.”

Cited as a “test case” in China-Holy See relations *UCANN News* 12/24/2015 reported the Vatican approval of the appointment of Bishop-designate *Tang Yuange* of Chengdu in October 2015, shortly after a six-member Vatican delegation visited Beijing to meet with Chinese officials. The ordination is to occur in 2016.

### *We pilgrims participate in the pulse of the American Chinese Catholic communities.*

The 12/10/2015 *Georgia Bulletin* newspaper of Archdiocese of Atlanta, acknowledged 25 years of Chinese Catholics in Dunwoody by recognizing it with the title Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Mission. The next step is for the Chinese Catholic community to find a permanent home. See [www.atlantachinesecatholic.org](http://www.atlantachinesecatholic.org).

Metropolitan New York offers another view on Chinese U.S. Catholics. On 11/24/2015 *John Brecher* of *NBC.com* reported while St. Joseph's Church on Manhattan's Lower East Side near Chinatown was to merge, Chinese at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in the Sunset Park Brooklyn remains active.

Overall, U.S. Asians are a minority among Catholics. A 2012 Pew Research Center report cited 8% of Chinese Americans self-identified as Catholic while 52 % of Chinese Americans stated they had no religious affiliation at all, the study showed.

This is important as the US Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church is working to promulgate an Asian Pastoral. This topic will be discussed at The National Pastoral Plan Summit II will be held January 26-30, 2016 in San Diego, CA. For more information or suggestions contact the Bishops’ Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs at [scapa@uscbb.org](mailto:scapa@uscbb.org).

# CHINA CHURCH NEWS

*Perspectives on Christmas in China 2015*



*Xinhua News* "Catholics celebrate Christmas Eve in a church in Xi'an, Shaanxi December 24, 2015

*James Morganite*, wrote "The Spirit of the Season, East and West: the Fullness of Cultural Insight" in *Columban Magazine* Volume 98 (December 2015), pp. 11-12 in which he reflected on his experience of Christmas while an AITECE teacher.

*China Source* December 29, 2015 explained the increased popularity of "Sending E-Invitations at Christmas" In an article originally published in and translated by the *Christian Times*, we learn about how churches and individual Christians are using social media to spread the word about the true meaning of Christmas: "We live in the age of social media. For the Chinese, 2015 has been a year of WeChat and Moments; this has added a new feature to Christmas. Many urban churches and Christians have been using unique and interesting E-invitation cards to invite family and friends to celebrate Christmas. With the rise of social media, e-invitation cards have become popular. Currently there are at least ten free software programs that can be used to make mobile invitation apps. Consumers can make cool invitations using Microsoft PowerPoint."

Since early December, 2015 "urban churches in Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an and Hangzhou have been sending out Christmas E-invitations." Topics in e-invitations are "The Christmas Worship Invitation from XX Church," "The Christmas Concert on X/X," "You Have an Unread Invitation." Readers get access to information and a chance to visit in person if they wish. Christ in Christmas is a priority. One invitation from an urban church in Shanghai says, "Friends! Christmas is coming! What is Christmas? What's special about Dec. 25? Christmas stockings? Discount season? Surprise? Snow? Gifts? The real meaning of Christmas is the birthday party of Jesus."

*Radio Free Asia* December 24, 2015 offered a Protestant perspective: "China's Christians Told To Keep a Low Profile This Christmas." They reported "the ruling Chinese Communist Party has continued to place restrictions on Christian worship over Christmas, with many believers under surveillance or warned off holding large, public services. While it is often the case that the "The government isn't ready to accept large services run by house churches yet," it is also true that "Christmas services at state-approved churches are likely to go ahead as normal." A Beijing Protestant added that "the government is increasingly concerned that more and more Chinese people are becoming interested in Christmas, even if it is only the more commercial aspects of the holiday."

## U.S. CATHOLIC CHINA BUREAU NATIONAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY



Between October 9-11, 2015 approximately 120 participants had the opportunity to reflect on the conference theme **“The Catholic Church in China: Respecting the Past, Understanding the Present, Envisioning Future Relationships.”**

- On October 9, those 20 pre-registered participants who took advantage of the opportunity to make an afternoon visit the Ricci Institute for Chinese Western Culture at the University of San Francisco were not disappointed by the background talk and hospitality offered by Executive Director *Fr. Antoni Ucerler, S.J.* There has been a long-standing relationship between the China Bureau and the Ricci Institute. Later, during the evening keynote *Fr. Rob Carbonneau, C.P.*, offered an invitation that we to draw on our talents in our quest to bridge with the Chinese Catholic Church. Inspiring us is example of friendship as understood by Jesuit Matteo Ricci. Humbling us is the historic realities of Chinese immigrants who had entered the U.S. via Angel Island, San Francisco. This dual perspective, he suggested, keeps us grounded in our journey of faith.

- October 10 proved to be a full day. Morning keynote. *Professor Bernard Chien-Chiu LI*, President Emeritus of Fu Jen University, Taipei, Taiwan presented on the topic “The application of Scholastic and Chinese Philosophy?” As we seek an intellectual map for dialogue on questions that apply to Catholicism we must not underestimate the legacy of valued Chinese traditions.

- Always of interest are the panels. A visual banquet was provided by historian *Lauren Arnold* and contemporary author *Gene Yang* as they spoke on: “Then and Now: Catholic Graphic Art Meets Popular Culture in China.” Another panel addressed the current trend of “Chinese Students and Catholic High School Education.” Engaging discussion ensued based on the comments offered by educators *Locran Barnes*, of Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento, CA, *Dr. Helen M. Hollis, Ph.D.* of Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep, San Francisco, CA and *Al Zappelli* of Woodside Priory School, Portola Valley, CA. A final panel studied “Understanding Chinese Faith beyond the International News Headlines” as understood by the experience of *Rick DeVecchio*, Editor of the *Catholic San Francisco* newspaper and *John Kamm* from the Dui Hua Foundation, San Francisco, CA.

- Afternoon panelists *Tricia Bolle* of DEI in Asia and *Raymond Pun* of Cal State University, Fresno, CA explored “International Student Exchange.” A second segment was by *Br. Gregory Liu, O.P.* and *Frs. Tom Sendlein, C.M.* and *Bonaventure Bai, O.F.M.* All provided personal insight on “Chinese Catholicism during this year of Consecrated Life” while the final group was *Sr. Paulina Shuang Feng* and *Frs. John Chen Guang Qian* and *John Li Bin* commenting on “Chinese Catholic Voices Reflection on Contemporary Challenges.”

- The prayerful spirit of our liturgy was made special by San Franciscans: Retired Auxiliary Bishop Ignatius Wang, *Deacon Simon Tsui* of Old St. Mary’s Cathedral as preacher and the combined choirs from Chinese Catholic communities. An opportunity to network followed our evening banquet.

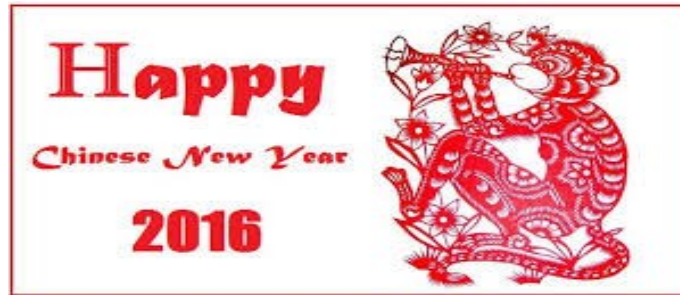
- On October 11, “Chinese Catholicism in Twentieth Century America was covered by historians *Dr. Anthony Clark*, of *Whitworth U*, *Spokane*, *Dr. Xiaoxin Wu*, of the Ricci Institute, U of San Francisco, *Dr. John Harney* of *Centre College*, *Danville, KY*, *Dr. Amanda Clark* also of *Whitworth* and *Dr. Margaret Kuo* from *Cal State University, Long Beach, CA*.

Below are some selected photos from the National Conference. L to R in the left hand image are *Fr. Michael Agliardo, S.J.*, *Br. Gregory Liu, O.P.*, *Tricia Bolle* and *Fr. Rob Carbonneau, C.P.*; Next to him in the center image is *Fr. Joseph Zhang, A.A.*; The right picture shows the combined Chinese choir from Chinese Catholic communities of San Francisco Bay area.



## 2016 U.S. Catholic China Bureau Stewardship

### Join Us On Pilgrimage With The Catholic Church in China.



Since the founding of the U.S. Catholic China Bureau in 1989, you have joined with us in offering prayers and financial support for bridge projects with Chinese Catholics. When requested, we have helped local Catholic communities of priests, sisters and laity in China. With God's grace they have matured in their Gospel mission. Through your efforts, another success of the China Bureau has been lending face to face hospitality and financial resources to many priests, sisters who have participated in United States theological graduate studies. Also, without your assistance we could have not helped underwrite the costs of assisting Chinese participants to attend our National China Conferences.

*Would you be so kind to assist us with these projects in 2016*

● Make a donation in support of \$2000 to be given by the U.S. Catholic China Bureau to pay in part for copyright fees charged to Jinde Press, Shijiazhuang City, Hebei Province, China. so that Jinde Press may legally translate and publish four Loyola Press Chicago books by Father Daniel Harrington, S.J.: *Meeting St. Paul Today*; *Meeting St. Matthew Today*; *Meeting St. Luke Today*; *Meeting St. John Today*

Your donations will also

- assist the U.S Catholic China Bureau support Chinese priests and sisters now in graduate studies in the U.S.
- assist scholars who seek financial support from the China Bureau to study Catholic mission history.
- assist in providing resources for new China Bureau Staff Assistant to the Executive Director Linda Crisostomo and Social Media Assistant Heeyoung Chung.

A donation of \$ 25 or more -or whatever is possible- will support this 2016 Chinese New Year Appeal

Checks made payable to "US Catholic China Bureau"

can be mailed to US Catholic China Bureau 1646 Addison St. Berkeley, CA 94703

Or please use our website via credit card or Pay Pal: [www.uscatholicchina.org/donate](http://www.uscatholicchina.org/donate)

**\$33,901.21 was the total amount collected by representatives from the US Catholic China Bureau**

**Parish participants in the 2015 Mission Cooperative Plan Appeal (MCP) were**

Archdiocese of Cincinnati, OH: St. Luke, Beavercreek; St. Columbkille, Wilmington; St. Remy, Russia.

Total \$9,678.70.

Archdiocese of Los Angeles, CA: St. James Church, Redondo Beach; Visitation Church, Los Angeles.

Total \$12,236.35.

Archdiocese of St. Louis., MO: Assumption Parish, Mattese and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Ferguson.

Total \$5,409.32.

Archdiocese of Detroit, MI: St. Anslem; St. Linus. Both in Dearborn Heights.

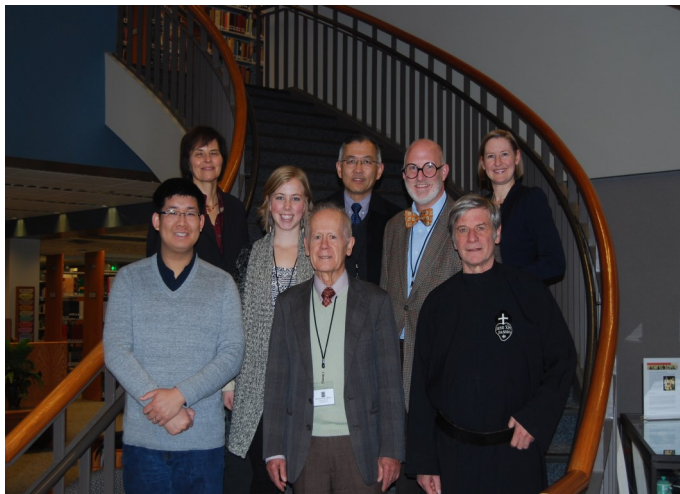
Total \$6,576.84.

*Because of your support we are able to sustain our mission and educational efforts.*

*Still, the U.S. Catholic China Bureau is seeking Priests, Religious Brothers and Sisters and laity who might wish to represent us in the 2016 parish appeals. By preaching or giving a testimonial talk you would explain the way China Bureau reaches out to build relationships of prayers and support between the United States and the Catholic Church in China. If interested please contact us.*

## Executive Director and Board Members

The domestic and international outreach of U.S. Catholic China Bureau is thriving. As we seek to expand our social media presence via our website [www.uscatholicchina.org](http://www.uscatholicchina.org) we ask you to send us photos and summaries of Catholic China Church news you wish to share with the public. Send it to [director@uscatholicchina.org](mailto:director@uscatholicchina.org).



“China’s Christianity: Constructing a Christian Identity – From Mission to Indigenous Church,” was a conference held at Whitworth University, Spokane, WA November 5-7, 2015.

Hosting and presenting were Board members *Drs. Anthony and Amanda Clark* of Whitworth University (back row on right) and *Fr. Rob Carbonneau, C.P.*, and *Jean-Paul Wiest* (front row). We see them among the presenters and staff. More information will be forthcoming at our Bureau website. The symposium also included an archival exhibit in the library with artifacts from the Ricci Institute at U of San Francisco, the family of *Fr. Charles McCarthy, S.J.* and the Passionist China Collection

On November 14, 2015 the Catholic Church in China was the topic at a social gathering in Rome, Italy. Pictured left to right are *Debra Wang*, *Fr. Rob Carbonneau, C.P.*, *Father Augustine Lee, S.V.D.*, of the Centro Freinademetz and *Stephen Wang*.

Board members *Debra and Stephen* operate Corpus Christi, TX based non-profit Queen of China Catholic Ministries which ministers to Chinese Catholics in diaspora beyond mainland China. We discussed the opportunities surrounding this effort. During the fall 2015 the Wangs concentrated their ministry in Europe. The Queen of China Catholic Ministries website is [www.qccatholic.org](http://www.qccatholic.org)



On January 7, 2016 *Fr. Rob Carbonneau, C.P.* represented the U. S. Catholic China Bureau as chair and commentator on three papers about 20th century Asia at the American Catholic Historical Association meeting in Atlanta, GA.

Left to Right are *Dr. Kevin M Doak* of Georgetown University who spoke on Japanese Catholic intellectual Tanaka Paul Kōtarō; *Dr. Franklin Rausch* of Lander University, Greenwood, SC reflected on Korean Catholics Intellectuals from 1910-1945; to the left of *Fr. Rob* is Associate China Board member and U of Notre Dame graduate student *Jonathan Lindblom* who discussed Chinese intellectual John Wu (Wu Jingxiong) as Judge, Pilgrim, and Poet.



## BACKGROUND NEWS

In **The Tablet**: (12/17/2015) *David Fleming* wrote *The Priests Who Mapped the World: Missionary Cartographers* in which he contextualized the map-making efforts of Jesuit Ferdinand Verbiest; same issue reported “*China Supports Call to Open Holy Doors*” in *Beijing at Immaculate Conception Cathedral* on December 12, 2015. Also in (11/12/2015) issue *Sean Smith* stated “*Friends Say No Way Prominent Chinese Catholic Priest could have committed Suicide*”

In **National Catholic Reporter** (12/4/2015) *Jonathan Luxmoore* wrote how “*China's Catholics fear new anti-Christian campaign*”. It was an overview of Chinese Catholic voices heard at the September 9th European Catholic China Colloquium in Warsaw Poland (see below)

Excellent English language summaries on Chinese religion and the international perspective can be found via web access at **China Zentrum**. See [www.china-zentrum.de/E-Journal-RCTC.399.0.html?&L=1](http://www.china-zentrum.de/E-Journal-RCTC.399.0.html?&L=1)

- Included Religions & Christianity in Today's China: 2015, Nos. 3-4, an important context is offered in “News Update on Religion and Church in China. March 4 – September 28, 2015”.
- From September 10-13, 2015 the “9th European Catholic China Colloquium,” in Konstancin/Warsaw, Poland. Jointly organized by the **China-Zentrum and the Polish Sinicum**, U.S. Catholic China Bureau Board members *Debbie and Stephen Wang* were among the 130 participants and lecturers from Europe, the Chinese-speaking world and the U.S. who gathered to discuss the topic “Challenges of Evangelisation– China and Europe.” Available for reading on line are outstanding presentations by
  - *Paul Han, SVD*, “The Church in China Urgently Needs the Attitude and Spirit of Francis”
  - *Richard Madsen*, “Church State Relations in China – Consequences for the Catholic Church”
  - *Cardinal John Tong*, “Experiences of Evangelization in Hong Kong”

> Please contact the China Bureau for more information on the above articles <

### !What an Honor !

- On 01/04/2016 it was announced that author and cartoonist *Gene Luen Yang* was named as the **Fifth National Ambassador For Young People's Literature, 2016–2017**. The Library of Congress, the Children's Book Council (CBC) and Every Child a Reader (ECAR) stated “Yang Champions Diversity with his Platform, “Reading Without Walls.” Those of you who attended the Oct 9-11 2015 National China Conference at Burlingame, CA might recall his excellent presentation.

### Congratulation to the Holy Spirit Study Centre., Hong Kong.

- The most recent issue of **Tripod** (35. Number 179. Winter 2015) concentrates on the theme *A Review of the last 35 Years of the Catholic Church in China*. The fact that the Holy Spirit Study Centre in Aberdeen Hong Kong is 35 years old merits our thanks and attention. Turning to the resources at the Holy Spirit Study Centre is routine for many of us who study and seek to learn about Catholic Church in China. Whether we have visited the Centre in person or via the internet at [www.hsstudyc.org.hk](http://www.hsstudyc.org.hk) a consensus has emerged whereby we have come to value the intellectual hospitality and compassion offered by their many seminars and publications. Unwavering has been the effort of those associated with the Holy Spirit Study to keep us focused of the pulse of Catholic faith in China. As we look below at this photo of the Holy Spirit Study Centre, let us offer a prayer for all associated with its mission.



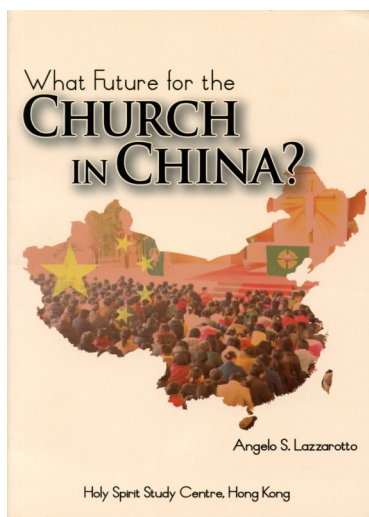
***History of the Catholic Church in China*** (Leuven Chinese Studies XXIX :Ferdinand Verbiest Institute, 2015)

Of the 26 published article selected articles of interest might be

- *Francisco Carin, C.M.F.* “Revisiting History: Harold W. Rigney and Fu Jen’s Fate – Between Hope and Duty” pp 311-344.
- *Rob Carbonneau, C.P.* “The Velvet Glove is Wearing Thinner and Thinner with the Mailed Fist much in Evidence’: American Catholic Missionaries Witness Liberation in West Hunan. 1949 to 1950” pp. 393-418.
- *John B. Zhang Shijiang*: “Papal Envoys To China: Strategies, Contributions and Influences” pp. 443-457.

***Asian American Religious Cultures*** by *Jonathan H. X. Lee, Fumitaka Matsuoka, Edmond Yee, and Ronald Y. Nakasone*, Editors. 2 Volumes ABC-CLO Publishers (2015). Because more than 40% of Asian Americans identify themselves as Christians, these volumes offer helpful thematic essays on Chinese religious and social culture within the framework of the Asian American experience. Included is an essay on the contribution of Maryknoll Missionaries .

*W. Travis Selmier II* “Why the english-speaking world needs confucius institutes,” ***International Communication of Chinese Culture*** . pp 1-14. First published online:10 December 2015, the mission, purpose and contribution of Confucius Institutes in American and world academic circles and continues to draw great interest.



***What Future for the Church In China*** .By *Angelo S. Lazzarotto*. Published by the Holy Spirit Study Centre, Hong Kong 2015.

This book is available the website of the Holy Spirit Study Centre.

- Free link to this book is at [http://hsstudyc.org.hk/bk\\_cover/book17.pdf](http://hsstudyc.org.hk/bk_cover/book17.pdf)

*Hong Kong Sunday Examiner* 11/21/2015 announced that *Father Lazzarotto*, PIME missionary was the recipient of the 2014 to 2015 Matteo Ricci Award sponsored by the Council of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, Italy. The award was presented at a ceremony at the Pius XII Hall in the Vatican on November 25. Father Lazzarotto delivered an occasional address entitled, “The relevance of Father Matteo Ricci between Rome and Beijing.”

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