Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends:

Happy Chinese New Year to you all. May this New Year bring you new hope and every blessing!

At this auspicious time, I would like to take the opportunity to share with you that Friends of Ricci (FOR), an organization formed last October, in memory of the late Fr. Edward Malatesta, S.J. to carry on his good works, has been flourishing with your generosity and support. Our aim is to raise funds and participate in activities to support the Ricci Institute that Fr. Ed founded in 1984.

As a member of Friends of Ricci, you may be pleased to read our first newsletter, which is filled with what the Ricci Institute has accomplished since last October. We hope that, with your support and prayers, the Institute will be able to continue all its programs and activities. Again, my heartfelt thanks to all of you who have helped our endeavor so far, and my gratitude in advance to those who will assist us in the coming year. Best wishes for the new Millennium, and may God bless all of you and your loved ones. I am, as always,

Your Friend,

George Cheng
Chairman, Friends of Ricci

Rev. George B. Wong, S.J.
1918 - 2001

The Executive Committee of the Friends of Ricci would like to dedicate this issue to the memory of Rev. George Wong, S.J.

Upcoming Events Announcements

Monday, February 12, 2001
5:30pm - 6:30pm
A free public lecture by Dr. Richard P. Madsen of the University of California at San Diego
"Social Change and Spiritual Development in China Today"

Friday, March 2, 2001
A one-day symposium and reception
Gateways of Power: 21st Century Religion and Ritual in China, Tibet, and Japan

For further information, call the Ricci Institute at 415.422.6401 or visit our website http://www.usfca.edu/ricci

News!!!

After the establishment of Friends of Ricci, the "Friends" has officially sponsored and co-sponsored two major events at the Ricci Institute.

On October 21, 2000 a book signing event was presented in celebration of a publication by Dr. Claudia Deveaux, Research Associate of the Ricci Institute, and Rev. George Wong, S.J.. The book, entitled Bamboo Swinging in the Wind, documents for the first time Father George Wong’s experiences in China where he was persecuted because of his religious beliefs. The event was attended by more than eighty people and was co-sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of the San Francisco Archdiocese.

On December 2, 2000 the Friends of Ricci also co-sponsored a public seminar in collaboration with the Ricci Institute and the Oakland Museum of California about the Jesuit mission to China as part of the "Secret World of the Forbidden City" exhibit. Four scholars from the Ricci Institute presented lectures on subjects ranging from history, art, science and philosophy illustrating early Jesuit efforts in building a cultural bridge between China and the West in late Ming and early Qing dynasties.
Publications

Three publications in Chinese are now being prepared in China with partial sponsorship by the membership of Friends of Ricci.

100 Roman Documents Concerning the Chinese Rites Controversy. A translation of 100 documents from the English language version of the book published by the Ricci Institute in 1992, this volume introduces for the first time to Chinese readers in the Chinese language original documents issued by the Vatican from the early 1700's to the 1940's concerning the Chinese Rites Controversy, a major cultural and political event that occurred between China and the West.

Mother Theresa for the Poor and Loving Jesus have been translated by Mr. Yang Youfang, a Catholic scholar in Sichuan province, and will be published under the supervision of Professor Wen Yong. Professor Wen, a long time representative of the Ricci Institute and good friend of many members of Friends of Ricci, has been devoting most of his time and energy in the past few years to publications of the Hope Series, which consists of ten publications introducing Catholicism to China.

Friends of Ricci Membership

Thanks to the generosity of many friends and colleagues of the Ricci Institute, the executive committee of Friends of Ricci is glad to report that by the end of the 2000 calendar year it has received a total of $7,700.00. The fully tax deductible membership contributions will be officially acknowledged in the annual newsletter of the USF Ricci Institute and Center for the Pacific Rim. The following indicates the distribution of the contributions for different programs.

Distribution of Membership Contributions

- Malatesta Scholarship $4050
- Chinese Library $2500
- Publication Fund $850
- Ricci Research Award $200
- Unrestricted

Malatesta Scholarship

Liu Jiafeng, a Ph.D. candidate and the first recipient of Malatesta Scholarship, has completed his doctoral research and will defend his dissertation in June 2001. His dissertation, the first of its kind in China, will focus on Christian missionaries who contributed to agricultural development in China. Dr. Xiaoxin Wu, Director of the Ricci Institute, will serve as a member of his dissertation committee.

Presently, discussions are being held between the Ricci Institute and several Chinese universities searching for candidates who will concentrate their research on the Catholic and higher educational efforts in China.

Librarian’s Note:

A Rare Dictionary Acquired Recently

The Ricci Institute recently acquired a very rare, important, and valuable bound copy of the three-volume Dictionary of the Chinese Language by Rev. Robert Morrison. It was published in Macau from 1815-1823. Robert Morrison (1782-1834), was the first Protestant missionary to work in China, representing the London Missionary Society. Morrison's dictionary in its various editions is much sought-after in its own right. Containing both contemporary and ancient character forms, with encyclopedic definitions and many long excerpts from the classics and histories, it is a monumental work of three parts in six volumes (bound as three), printed in folio, by one of the pioneers of the Protestant mission in China and one of the earliest translators of the entire Bible into Chinese (1819).

For further information about Friends of Ricci or membership form, please contact:

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Calligraphy and seal - Wen Yong