Message from the President

Dear friends,

It is a pleasure for me to greet you. St. Francis Xavier died with the desire to enter China. Matteo Ricci not only established himself in the heart of Chinese culture and society, but became a true bridge between the West and China. I witnessed Fr. Edward J. Malatesta, SJ being aware of this tradition in the Society of Jesus when he established the Ricci Institute with the mission to bridge China and the West through scholarship.

I have been with the Ricci Institute for five years. I am delighted to see the Ricci Institute as an interdisciplinary research center promote the encounter of Chinese culture and Christian faith by conducting research projects. I am especially impressed with the Malatesta Scholarship which provides qualified candidates among young Chinese scholars with financial assistance to further their education.

When I know that all this became possible and can continue to grow thanks to the generosity of good people like you, you understand the feelings of gratitude springing from my heart and why it is such a pleasure for me to greet you.

Sincerely yours,

Michel Marcil, S.J.

Upcoming Event Announcement

The Ricci Institute will co-sponsor two public events in the fall of 2003. The first is to be held on September 11. Entitled *Gutenberg Comes to Japan: The first IT Revolution in the Sixteenth Century*, this public lecture is offered by Fr. M. Antoni J. Üçerler, S.J., a distinguished fellow at the Ricci Institute and professor from Sophia University in Japan.

The second is a book-signing to be held on November 8. Co-sponsored with the Oregon Catholic Press and *Friends of Ricci*, this event will celebrate the publications and music compositions in Chinese by Fr. Bob Fabing, S.J. A formal announcement will be mailed to all members of *Friends of Ricci*.

Three Malatesta Scholars receive Ph.D. Degrees

This year sees the doctoral graduation of three young Chinese scholars. Wang Weijia of Central China Normal University, Yin Wenjuan of Peking University, and Zhang Xianqing of Xiamen University. The Ricci Institute offered them each a Malatesta Scholarship for their doctoral dissertation research. Throughout the years, many members of *Friends of Ricci* have contributed to this special scholarship in memory of Fr. Edward J. Malatesta, founding director of the Ricci Institute. The scholarship supports young Chinese Ph.D. candidates for their research in Chinese-Western cultural history through Christian faith. Preparation to established a permanent endowment for this scholarship is underway by *Friends of Ricci*.

Three Malatesta Scholars receive Ph.D. Degrees

(from left to right) Liu Jiafeng, Yin Wenjuan, Wu Xiaoxin (director), Wang Weijia, Zhang Xianqing

Librarians’ Note

The Ricci Institute and the Shanghai Municipal Archives have jointly published a new reference work, *A Catalog of Christian Publications and Documents: Sources from the Rare Book Collection of the Shanghai Municipal Archives*. Listing nearly 4,000 entries, this catalog describes Catholic and Protestant periodical and documentary holdings in the Shanghai Municipal Archives covering the years 1836-1963. The first book of this kind published since 1950 in mainland China, this catalog lists publications by the Catholic Church, the Chinese Protestant Church, the China Branch of the Seventh Day Adventists, Christian youth organizations, and thirty-two other denominations and organizations, all of which were active in Shanghai.

What is the Ricci Institute Doing Recently?

Since 2001, the Ricci Institute has been working with the First Historical Archives of China to reproduce for the first time a collection of over 1,300 imperial documents. These documents portray activities of Catholic missionaries, Chinese Christians and communities from 1644 to 1850. This four-volume publication is expected to be completed in the fall of 2003.