

US-China Catholic Association

Mission Appeal



Today in China there are some 12 million Catholics, according to official estimates, more according to other sources. The US-China Catholic Association exists to promote mutual understanding, friendship and exchange between Catholics in the United States and Catholics in China. Founded in 1989 with through the collaborative efforts of Maryknoll, the Jesuits, other religious orders, and the US bishops, today the China Association represents a cross-section of American Catholic organizations and individuals working in partnership with Catholics in China to advance the mission of the Church in our world today.

Currently, the Chinese government has launched a drive for all religions to limit outside influence and conform to Chinese ways of doing things. Priests operate throughout the country under the strict supervision of the Chinese authorities. These policies have exacerbated the tensions under which Catholics in China live their faith.

In this context, the USCCA provides the American public with balanced information concerning the circumstances of the Church in China through its website, its newsletter, various speaker series, and biennial national conferences. It runs study tours in China so that Americans can have firsthand experience of the reality of Chinese society and the Chinese Church. In collaboration with affiliate organizations, it is developing programs for lay ministerial training, translation of religious and devotional literature, and the provision of informational materials regarding Catholicism in China for Americans traveling there.

This year, in particular, we were able to promote networking between Catholic organizations in China and the U.S. in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

At present we are engaged in a new effort, the Campus Ministry Outreach Initiative. Currently over 450,000 Chinese international students study at U.S. high schools and universities. In view of this reality, the China Association is working with partners to assist teachers, professors, counselors, and campus ministers better host and engage these young people to provide opportunities for deeper understanding, mutual exchange, and friendship, and ultimately, share the Gospel message to take back to China.

We trust that the seeds of faith and friendship that we plant will, with the nurture of the Holy Spirit, bear fruit in the lives of these young people. It is they will go on to make a difference in China and the world in the years ahead.

All our recent popes have emphasized the vital importance of the Church's mission in China. Saint Pope John Paul II constantly sought to strengthen the faithful in China. Pope Benedict XVI wrote a milestone pastoral letter to the Chinese Church to provide guidelines under difficult circumstances. Since his accession, Pope Francis has reached out to Chinese leaders in fraternal charity, recently concluding an agreement regarding the appointment of bishops in China.

Find out more about the vital mission of the USCCA by visiting: www.USCatholicChina.org



Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Hope in front of the retreat center they built.