

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Today we can present to you the second issue 2018 of *Religions & Christianity in Today's China* (中国宗教评论).

The number includes the regular series of News Updates on recent events and general trends with regard to religions and especially Christianity in today's China.

We continue with the publication of the "Statistics on Religions and Churches in the Peoples' Republic of China – Update for the Year 2017" by Katharina Wenzel-Teuber, with many details and trends on the various numerically measurable developments in the religions of China. This year, among others, the phenomenon of "cyber religion" and the interest of the general public in this topic, the question of popular beliefs in Guangdong Province, the official educational institutes of the Protestant Church and figures for the growth of Protestant Christianity among ethnic minorities in the People's Republic as well as baptisms and priestly ordinations within the Catholic Church are within the focus.

Prof. Dr. R.G. Tiedemann, School of History and Culture, Shandong University, Jinan, in his article "Chinese Female Propagators of the Faith in Modern China – The Tortuous Transition from the 'Institute of Virgins' to Diocesan Religious Congregations" gives a vivid insight into the life of those unmarried women in the history of the Catholic Church in China, a topic not much considered in academic research so far. Dr. Tiedemann writes: "Yet while their contribution as a vital force in the preservation of the Catholic faith in beleaguered Christian communities during the years of proscription was acknowledged, with the resumption of evangelization by foreign missionaries in the middle decades of the nineteenth century, the European priests [...] began to view the 'institute of virgins' in a rather more ambivalent light. They were concerned about the relative independence of these laywomen in Christian communities and wanted them to lead more structured lives."

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Sankt Augustin, June 2018

The Editors