



TIANANMEN²

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THE GATHERING

The gathering during the lunar new year started with the phoned in request. Daniel Santos, Fr. Caluag's newly installed acolyte called the ex-Jesuit priest's attention to it. One Janis Mendelsohn, a graduate student of economic management and alleged friend of Fr. Wilfred Ferdinand de la Cruz was requesting for a China reading. She said she will be with the graduate course classmates; nelson Dalisay, Misty Towers, Zaida Tolentino, Christie Marie Reyes and her husband. Then, there was a second request call; Cenrick de la Rosa, the detective investigator will be with some unnamed men, some of which are artists.

Fr. Francis Caluag used the same office phone to call Janis.

Okay, Madam, you can come after my mass for the seminarians here at about seven, he said, _Those of you who are Catholics can attend the mass, right after the angelus. Catholics only please, because I do not want to compromise the Lord's presence with possible irreverence.

Oh, thank you, Father, Janis said, _We will gladly attend your mass.

It will be in Latin, he said, matter of factly, _The dead language of the Church, as they say. I would like our seminarians to feel its solemnity as a perpetual sacrifice. Will you attend mass because you may just come for the reading?

Oh, yes, Father, she said, _I have already attended twice at Our Lady of Victories.

Yes, but may I know who referred you to me? he inquired.

It's Jeff Utanes, Father, but he asked Cenrick first, she replied, _We know it's a delicate matter but there are things not found in books and the internet.

Oh, Cenrick, it is... he intoned, thoughtfully, _May I therefore ask you to inform him top be with your group on Chinese New year, at 7:00 PM. His friends can come along too, even if they are Chinese.

Oh, yes, Father, it will be my pleasure.

But just the same, after his talk with Janis, the priest texted Cenrick the message inviting his group also to join the Latin mass.

On the designated day, prof. Robert Besana and his co-artist, Victor Antonio, came a bit late. The homily was in English although it was a Latin mass. Young men were up front, in uniform. They were the seminarians.

“...And yet, even while Filipino devotees await the Church’s recognition of the lipa apparitions, the warning given there continues to be relevant as the Chinese continues threatening our poor fishermen within our very own sea.

But maybe, it’s never a coincidence that the first canonized martyred Filipino is of Chinese descent, St. Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila. Our Most Loving Father must have an outstanding plan for Filipino and Chinese brothers in faith.

I therefore ask Our Mother, the Ever Virgin Mediatrix, our Advocate, to help us accept the Will of God.”

The solemnities were highlighted by of course, the consecration and then, the communion on the rail by the seminarians. A few of the guests also knelt to receive the Sacred Host without the use of their hands. After the conclusion of the mass, the acolyte led them to the audio-visual room for Fr. Francis’ office was too modestly small to accommodate them all comfortably.

Quite a bustling seminary, I would say, said Cenrick, despite the so-called Vatican II impositions.

I agree, Mang Rick, said the priest, The number of seminarians here at least, are adding up like unlike in most seminaries. In almost every Catholic practice, there is a significant decline: the number of seminarians and novices entering, the number of missionaries being sent, the number of parishes still active, the number of conversions, the number of marriages solemnized by the priests, the number of baptisms, et cetera et cetera...

Statistical fallacy, I hope, said the D.I., It’s been a long time since I was called Mang Rick again. It’s refreshing though.

Oh, yes, it was the height of lobbying against the Chinese proposal to install free internet services for us, Filipinos. That was a Trojan horse!

To spy on us and impose upon us their God damn interests!

Oh, bless you, Mang Rick but no cursing but no cursing even right after mass! he said, May I know the people with you and Miss Janis.

Oh, sorry, Father, I got carried away, he confessed, Our intel was such that the Chinese were trapping us because us because of our poverty. But you, Janis, ladies first...

Oh, yes, I’m Jan Mendehlon, Fr., Janis complied. This is Prof. Zaida Tolentino who teaches humanities, Misty Towers, Christie Marie Reyes, Rose Ann Migalang, Jennifer Erispe, Jjen Magsamoc and Joyce Alag; my classmates in the Graduate School. And Mr. Nelson Dalisay, another classmate and...

Ronnel Reyes, Father, interrupted the rescuer. I’m not one of the ladies first, Father like Mr. Nelson Dalisay here, and not also a teacher but I’m their driver, the ex-boyfriend of Christie Marie.

But he also teaches, Father, said Nelson Dalisay, who is a DepEd official like Mrs. Erispe.

So, the two of you rescued them all, said the priest, And here?

May I present Victor Antonio, Prof. Robert Besana and Simon Fe Dolor; visual artists, Cenrick enumerated, And Ron and Camille Mendoza, who also just came from

another Latin Mass, Jam and Kate Derecho, Dennis and Maritel Atienza; husbands and wives, and Rodrigo Diaz, Vince Erispe and Mar Bustamante, art photographers; and oh, yes, Jeff Utanes, city economist, he one which Janis told you about.

Quite a bunch but I'll remember all of you before the evening ends, _he said,_ Please sit down. I don't have to ask you guys to still pray for me because you've just come from the mass which is the greatest prayer in Christendom. I can see that some of you are in the arts, economics and what have you.

We in the class are all puzzled, Father, _said Janis,_ China is a communist nation but it's economic growth is so fast because it is applying capitalism!

And we don't even know why Chinese art ticks even now, that we have modern movements.-added Robert.

Then let me have a few minutes of prayer and meditation. The Holy Spirit, in fact, teaches the complete truth nowadays but it's me you should forgive if the visions come to you like static TV, or that there is no audio or if it is devoid of color. It is because perhaps, I didn't prepare you well for we have different prayer lines. But I shall be annotating for everyone concerning what we will see or interpret the meaning of a vision. And besides, I will be able to answer questions unless the Paraclete countermands.

After the priest's meditative prayer, the vision of the Chinese and the Japanese fighting in a naval battle ensues. The Chinese have two large battleships while the Japanese have several small warships.

As you can see the Chinese dragon ships are actually big battleships with larger guns. They were the ones which were more aggressive having fired shots first although still out of range. But the Japanese fleet although they have much smaller ships have easier to handle guns. You are witnessing the first ever modern naval battle in Asia because the belligerent ships have already armor metal plates. The Chinese have more ships but they were still wooden and belonged to the past._annotated Fr. Francis Caluag,_ This is the naval battle of Yalu River, so-called because it happened already off its opening but already at the sea.

What's the significance of all these, Father?_asked the alert Misty Towers who had a stint of teaching in China for some years.

That, Miss Towers, is the fact that it was a great debacle for the Chinese because this battle is premised on two kinds of attitudes, two kinds of policies and two kinds of growth._replied the Ex-Jesuit.

Which would redound to two kinds of military strategies,_added Cenrick, who received instantaneous dagger looks from Misty as he was not the one being asked, _The make of the ships is circa 1930s.

Correct, Cenrick,_the priest quipped,_The attitude of the Chinese is more aggressive because the Empress Dowager is keen on holding them back but the Chinese Navy would like to prove something to the grand lady, for it was she who decided on things and not the young Emperor.

A woman military strategist, huh,_said Miss Towers gazing at the men with some pride.

But a new set of visions came down showing scenes of the imperial court.

Yes, an ambitious concubine of the former emperor who planned on gradually becoming empress of Chin by becoming the mother of the heir of the empire. Actually, her own son who was the heir died but she was already installed as Empress. She made the choice of who was to become emperor when the emperor died and chose someone she could use as regent of the empire. And being regent, she would help the emperor on the throne decide by appearances, but she was literally the power behind the throne, hidden by a screen, _he explained.

Just a concubine who rose to become Empress, I'm impressed, _remarked Jen Masamoc.

Yes, you can look up the name of Ci Xi in the internet. Her real name was Yeng Sheng from the Yehe Nara clan when she entered the Forbidden City as a concubine and renamed Yi. The concubine Yi became Consort Ji and later ruled with empress dowager Ci-an and later became the sole empress dowager when the latter died for the last emperor, Pu Yi.

The Empress Regent had a different way of looking at governance and simply abhorred the difficulties of the reign. The Navy men, after having been sent and graduating from the British naval academy, where ironically the Japanese navy men were their classmates, wanted a stronger navy but the Empress Ci Xi was not keen on supporting the idea. She would rather enjoy the Peking Chinese operas where the demons take part to entertain her and keep her from giving sound advice to the emperor. She would just say that the Finance Minister should be the one taking care of this and would tell Emperor Pu Yi that he should not worry of Little Japan as she would call the enemy empire derisively. Hence, the Emperor was helpless against the regent-minister collusion. The Finance Minister was in fact, wantonly corrupt and was an incessant gambler, running the empire's treasury in a gambling den. _ Fr. Caluag continued.

As you can now see, _he continued as the visions showed a very old woman wearing a brocaded silk gown full of dragon designs watching an opera production of "The Monkey King" with only her and the bored emperor comprising the audience, and the latter pretending to watch intently just to humor her. The emperor would have wanted full munitions for the dragon battleships but she wouldn't listen as she argued that Japan is such a little country to threaten a giant like China. The corrupt minister of finance wouldn't want any hand on it because he believed that there are more pressing needs than what the navy demanded. Maybe he was thinking of the mahjong pieces or some things rounded with nipples. Besides, the Empress Ci Xi believed that the navy was just for show to frighten little Japanese toy soldiers.

The last annotation made the women look at each other because it was a priest speaking and they haven't realized how brutally frank the Holy Spirit could be to stress a point.

I think that they have followed Zhuge liang's military tactics so much, _said Cenrick_ Just like what the people trained in martial arts used in the desperate Boxer rebellion. Anyway, he was the real "Crouching Tiger". There was exemplary obedience

in the navy and great Britannia training but the absence of Lin Zoxa's sharpness or modern weaponry logistics will send those good fighting men to their deaths as their heroics amounted to nothing. The early firing of the dragon ships in fact, demonstrate Zhuge Liang's surprise move tactic trying to confuse the Japanese. Yet munitions fired out of range are only wasted. Even the bombshell that pierced the Yasano maru depot was a dud. This would show that the bedeviled Chinese navy was neglected logistically. Hence, when the Chinese ammo ran out the Chinese ships were sitting ducks. The gallant Chin men even went as far as sawing and filing their bombs to fit into their cannon barrels in vain. This is how the British would treat their cheap bargain customers. Would you remember Gen. Aguinaldo's falling into a British arms dealer scam in Hongkong? It's the same thing. One of the Chinese dragon ships even tried running into a Japanese warship just make a score before it sunk but the sinking occurred first. The smaller ships of little Japan were indeed faster in maneuvers and so the dragon battleship trying to ram one of them simply died with its boats on. This same thing happened in the Philippines in the Battle of the Points where only PT boats were used against Japanese warships.

Pui, Mang Rick!_ Father Francis exclaimed his wow in Latin,_ Thank you for that annotation. I personally couldn't do it like that. I wouldn't even know the characters unless the Paraclete identifies them for me.

The D.I. could just smile. He himself, would have not done it, he thought and marveled at the thought. But for Misty Towers and some other ladies, he was mostly talking Greek.

But excuse me, Fr. Caluag, let us just review a little bit on the theatre scene,_ Zaida Tolentino interrupted, _I'm familiar with the ubiquitous props man of the Chinese opera rearranging thing on the stages every now and then but what were those dark shadows interacting on the stage and sometimes even going down whispering things to the duo watching the musical play?

Oh, Prof. Zaida, those were the resident devils of the forbidden city._he replied,_ Those were the influencers of the empress and also the intimidating forces which made the emperor practically worthless as a decision-maker.

My God, they were indeed devils!_ interjected Zaida whose crossing of herself was almost as instantaneous as those of Rose Ann and Joyce.

I believe the Comforter had intentionally darkened their features so that the blot will not discomfort you anymore if you would see how horrendous they really look like._explained the priest.

Apparently, China had its resident demons habituating them for thousands of years,_opined Simon Fe Dolor who often goes to China for his designs,_ But I didn't hear a lot except the Jade emperor who is an acknowledged Chinese god and the three gods whose images are sold and worshipped especially every Lunar New Year. May be the Chinese are just hiding their polytheism because the state shuns religion as opium of the people.

There is one, Can Jie who is now immortalized as the inventor of the Chinese ideographic characters for writing. A disguised avatar, he served as an official historian

of the Emperor Huang Di around more than 5,000 years ago, Camille was surprised to hear her husband spoke. He is of Chinese descent but this was profound.

He must have given his name to the Japanese written characters, too, which is called Kanji, observed Nelson Dalisay who is a school principal.

Obviously, Can Jie and Kanji are one and the same, concluded Miss Towers, The Japanese characters developed only from the Chinese.

He was in fact, the devil, a dragon with four eyes which represented the parameters of Chinese ideographic characters, said Fr. Caluag. Mind you, the very first ideographic character ever was the foot and its toes: the Chinese version of the halberd; a composite of the battle ax which kills by its thrusting, hooking and dismembering for a total kill; and a third, a leather shield for protecting. These archetypes were the most influential ideographs of the first Chin emperor, who in the process of building the great wall, which was inspired by the dragon's long body, systematically decimated his own poor people. All these to protect his reign from the barbarians.

There are so many Chinese gods with deities coming from both Taoism and Buddhism.

When I was teaching English in China, I learned about two mythical men who later became gods. One was Hu Yi... Misty Towers was trying to explain when she got interrupted by Ronnel Reyes' penchant for jokes.

Must be the Chinese inventor of the Chinese cellphone, Hu Yu? said Ronnel but was stopped by Miss Tower's dagger gaze.

Hu Yi, the great archer was the one who eliminated the other suns in the sky so that the world will not be so hot. Miss Towers continued, And Guan Gong, an actual historical figure. he is in fact, Guan Yu, the martial arts sage.

Thank you, Miss Towers. Just to relate a little, one may remember Nimrod, the great archer, the great pontifex and potentate of Babel who would shoot at the sky from his infamous tower challenging God and the Nephelim who would teach mankind the art of war. added the ex-Jesuit whose gentle wave of the hand introduced new scenes. They showed Chinese soldiers under Mao Ze Dong's Northern Command were being attacked by the Uyghurs on horseback after they were sent on a useless mission to secure the Manchuoko or Japanese Mongolia where Pu Yi was designated as puppet ruler and where his empress was finally made mad. Lacking in logistics, the Muslims were butchering them mercilessly. The Chinese had inutile weapons as they no longer have the ammo and were weary for their long trek north. The Chinese women soldiers were raped first before they met their deaths. Wonderful tradition learned from the Islamic prophet and wonderful strategy from the Chinese hero.

Oh, thank you. It's gone now, Janis said remembering her own ordeal with just one man, her husband.

Mao ze Dong's capricious orders are not unlike those of his nationalist counterpart, Chiang Kai Shek causing thousands of people to die needlessly, said Fr. Caluag as scenes rolled on showing both communists and nationalists and their proud leaders leading their people sparingly against the Japanese invaders.

Nelson Dalisay couldn't help the Chinese in him, The Tong Ren and especially

the Li Chu Jiu of Zhou Yi said that when the complicated and confused footsteps are heard, the enemy is said to be invading. "Peace is precious!-That is actually what the foot and toes ideogram is saying. Not to prepare for the imminent invasion is foolishness.

But lest I forget,-added Fr. Caluag, I also mentioned the right attitude. Yes, the interpretation could mean that peace is most precious but the devil speaks like the Delphic oracle as it subliminally proposes another interpretation; "Let's make war to attain precious peace!". For it will be obvious that peace is already achieved when all resistance fighters have already died.

Especially, "The Greeks the Trojans will conquer." The dangling modifier or the invisible one creates the confusion. When you are Greek and confident the interpretation will be that the Greeks will conquer the Trojans but if you Trojan and proud, the interpretation will be that the Trojans will conquer the Greeks. Rodrigo Diaz said, So, nobody knows the correct interpretation and the oracle is never wrong. That's how Satan operates through divination for he is really the god of chaos; of disorder.

Yes, and definitely, the empress had this Delphic attitude of pride and overconfidence which made her insensitive to her naval officers. Jennifer Erispe, who was a Shanghai scholar, said.

On the other hand, the Japanese naval officers were self-sacrificing for their motherland. When the imperial court just didn't have the money, they shelled out money from their respective salaries and the slash made up for what the navy lacked. They even asked contributions from the common but equally patriotic soldiers. added Cenrick, Something wich the South Koreans did too in a grander scale, for thjeir ravaged country. Each citizen contributed anything of value in order to rebuild their nation. Something that we, Filipinos lack such that our South Korean visitors have all the right to say that we, Filipinos do not love our country.

Correct, but then again this was how the Japanese completed their smaller but faster battleships with their ammos for faster tirades. While the empress listened to her court shahmans who were just impressing her about little Japan's being weak in an impending war the Japanese emperor was realistically briefed by the Nippon Shogun militia on how they have prepared for the inevitable.

With new scenes revealed, Fr. Caluag continued: "With the victories specifically emboldened by the one at sea, and although the Japanese military was already exhausted, in terms of resources, the Japs made a great bluff to the Chinese empire;"Surrender or..." And the Chinese empress capitulated despite her 'son's' protestations. The legitimate ruler could only grieve with great consternation as the treaty made gave Japan vast territories it would be exploiting in the future.

How sad that a woman's caprice could bring great havoc to her country, quipped Christie Marie.

How sad indeed that the power behind the throne could make it so powerless, added Kate Derecho.

But going back to the debacle of Mao's army before the Muslims, did he admit

his mistakes?_asked Dennis Atienza who is familiar with Muslim atrocities as he had been abroad to see them.

No, I never think he did._retorted Fr. Francis who was sure that the Advocate would correct him if what he said was wrong,_For him, it was a necessary consequence of war. Remember that he looked up to Joseph Stalin for his implementation of the communist ideology and he was really ruthless of allowing millions upon millions to die, even with his own paranoid instigations.

But it should have been fortunate for China to have scholars to have for them proper strategems,-said Ron Mendoza, China had Lao Zi teaching 'using nothing to teach the world and overcoming hardness with softness'.

Which relates to Plato's "Law of Opposites"_said Rodrigo Diaz ,_Or probably even "the hand that rocks the cradle."

Maybe Mao Ze Dong had misunderstood this when he gave nothing to his army and expected them to win the war. Was the softness the application of his sitting duck army to win over the hardness of the Muslim cavalry?_asked Fe Dolor whimsically.

Hardly. That would be gross. But Lao Zi also taught using military force in extraordinary ways but this just meant to confuse the enemy, in order to put in the element of utter surprise,_declared Cenrick,_But Mao had this bad side like the builder of the great wall, or the evil of Stalin delighting in having their own people killed in the process of achieving their worldly ambitions.

For Lao Zi, even victory should be treated as a funeral and there is no need to pursue desperate foes anymore._added Jam Derecho.

Lao Zi wrote against 'delight in the killing of men'. As a nationalist, after cordoning the the communists, Chiang Kai Shek and his Koumintang delighted in trying to annihilate the escaping communists whenever possible during the long march which is why only a few thousands were left from scores of millions, which would have us reflect on how Mao Ze Dong had implemented his retreat plan. Corollary to this, as a communist flaunting his rise at the turn of events, he also delighted in trying to annihilate the escaping Koumintang. He would even chase them even into Formosa if he had the means and was only diverted from this obsession if he was not pressed to return to secure the mainland from a possible anarchy._Cenrick explained.

Yes, China's invasion of Tibet, involvement in the Korean and Vietnam wars and incursions into India bespeaks Mao's principle of communist world domination,_added Jefferson Utanes.

He did not follow Mo Zi's principle of universal love, _said Simon Fe Dolor,_ Mo Zi would have converted to Catholicism if he had been given a chance.

Yes, also for his policy of non-aggression._Rodrigo Diaz rejoined, cognizant of the strategist Simon mentioned.

Hey, the men seemed to be fired up on military strategy or the art of war,_observed Fr. Francis, and I'm glad there is already a mention of godliness and universal love.

The men laughed at their own indulgence.

Mo Zi?-asked Joyce Alag who finally broke the silence of the women,_There are

too many Chinese names. And though they are short it's hard not to be confused.

Mo Zi is also a military strategist but he only wanted a wartime engagement as a defense against aggression. But he is not related to Lao Zi and yet another strategist, Sun Zi. Simon Dolor explained.

Correct, no relations whatsoever, said Ronnel, the humorist. All of them however are related to *Stra Te Ji*.

When people are sent to senseless war expeditions without the necessary food, weapons and ammo; the logistics of war, this can only mean male braggadocio or androgenous perfidy. Father Caluag said as he waved in new scenes.

Meantime, a very serious artist was trying to remind Ronnel Reyes about being serious. Vince Erispe meantime had to clarify something. The name mentioned ahead is patronymics, the Zis would then be first names, instead.

Are these reflected in China's art nowadays? Victor Antonio asked and since he was focused on arts, the Paraclete manifesting His omniscience, offered new scenes which were showing paintings with Mao Ze Dong as the subject.

Will the Chinese look at Mao now in a different light? It's everyone's guess.

THE SPLATTERING

It was a bit fascinating to see the different Chinese artists' depiction of the person that was Mao Ze Dong as shown in their different paintings. There was one showing him swimming in blood. There was one showing him having a mustache like Stalin's. and there was one showing him with something like a flower growing from his ear. May be this meant that the young girls he used to molest would be making the expected sounds of muted cut flowers.

It would probably show some protest against him' said Fr. Caluag, trying his best not to annotate so that the guests could freely interpret on their own.

The one kn blood is Gao Quiang's banned painting._Robert Besana said but no seemed interested in the Chinese painter. All they see is blood.

Here's one looking at his onlookers with unfocused eyes,_ observed Rodrigo Diaz.

Aberrant eyesight; out of focus,_declared Vince Erispe.

It's probably how the Chinese look at him right now._added Mar Bustamante,_ For he had been out of focus.

But when the Philippine first lady visited him in 1974, as the only diplomat of that caliber, he was on focus, no matter how strange that focus was. He told her that if the Marcoses want to stay in power they should make the Filipino people stay poor._declared Prof. Zaida Tolentino, eliciting dismayed gazes and expressions.

It's individuality at it's best. Could be the reason why Chinese visual art right now is so successful. It's in the recurring theme of Li Likai's paintings of "Lonely Boy". Yang Na's Japanese manga-like eyes are now a kind of expression as well as Han Yauian's enjoyment of the bright side of life being enjoyed now by the Chinese when it experimented on capitalism. But Chen Ke on the other hand belies it with a darker world such as what is seen in cartoonish imagery._It was prof. Besana now who is annotating,_ It's Zheng Fan Shi's March, 1999 and Yue Minjan's series of faces which depict excessive cheerfulness in ads.

The mention of Zheng Fan Shi caused a stir in Ronnel's artistic spirit such that he had to whisper to his wife, Christie Marie's ear which should have been intent in listening,_Did you hear that? They even have a chimpanzee painter in China._Of course, Mrs. Reyes had to pinch him precautionary to more violence.

That reminds me of Gen. Soeharto by Indonesian artist Stefan Buona whose friend me met while doing the “Garuda” stint in Sabah even in Malaysia for she believed we were really Indonesians. The Indonesians are also doing the Mao thing but are more respectful to their leader._recalled Cenrick.

But doesn't Islam forbid pictures. Portraits are also pictures and presumably Indonesians are Muslims?_asked Dennis Atienza.

But I would presume they are Christians or disloyal Muslims for I met them while we disguised ourselves as musicians playing in a bar._came the reply.

But what about art installations?_asked Victor Antonio who is into it.

The scenario obliged, and Prof. Besana was obliged, too.

That would be Yu Bing's “Book from the Sky”and this I think is by Wang Guang Yi which title I can't recall. Some are neorealism like this one, Wang Yi Dong's “Yi River” but this one, I don't know. Fr. Caluag..._The art professor turned to the priest for help.

I'm sorry, my son. I would only know if the Comforter tells me and I was on my cellphone and sending a message while you were annotating but, oh, yes, this one is Xu Being Hong's “Put Down Your Whip”_said Fr. Caluag.

Yes, it is, Fr. Francis. It is a scene from the cultural revolution as engineered by Mao._confirmed Zaida, another art professor.

The cultural revolution was when the continuum of art forms in China was abruptly interrupted, to give way to Maoist propaganda, especially those that have western leanings._said Misty Towers.

It was a crime in china to be an intellectual then, especially if you are a woman,_added Nelson Dalisay.

It was the time when government-induced propaganda suppressed and tainted the pure artistry of the Chinese artist._said Simon Fe Dolor.

Mao Ze Dong didn,t believe in art for art's sake._Rodrigo made a rejoinder,_Art for him emanates from the people, a controlled people. But it is power that controls the people and according to his red book, ,Power comes from the barrel of a gun.' But can art come from the barrel of a gun?

The ones in control then was the ‘Gang of Four’ led by Mao's actress wife._declared Kate Derecho._She was the lead role of the Chinese propaganda opera, “The East is Red”.

Let us perhaps see what happened during the ‘Cultural Revolution’_proposed Jam Derecho excitedly. He is often in China but he doesn't have any idea of what happened during those times.

But one does not impose on the Advocate. He decides on what to reveal on the complete truth. He is a Shepherd not led by his flock and he is sad about what happened to his Church in China. And he is sad for its people.

What He wanted to reveal are not just the accidental ornaments of the people but the essence of their suffering which continues not to be addressed.

What was revealed was not just the agony of the artist manifesting the pathos of his times but what has essentially fallen on the great land of Chin. What was

revealed was millions of people dying; men and women, young and old, and especially the children who suffered, the skin and bone toddlers and infants who do not have the energy anymore to suckle from their non-lactating mothers for the farmlands have turned into wastelands because of some smart ass called the Chairman. He deserved to be called the Chairman not only because he was an armchair general mostly and also because he loves the game of musical chairs where those who do not please him are eliminated artistically from their dignified chairs.

THE SCAMPERING

From 1958 to 1960, Mao Ze Dong instituted the Great Leap Forward program throughout China. The Chairman prohibited people from owning land and forced the peasants to form communes. Each commune had to be independent from each other. People tended fields collectively for 'work points' that could be redeemed for food. But of course, not all collective farms yielded good crops especially when there is no technology available to assuage their natural conditions. Fr. Caluag introduced the rolling scenes of what transpired in China with Mao's great experiment. The results were disastrous. Many officials resorted to fantastic lies to please Mao's stern leadership which cascaded cruelty down to the grassroot levels if the whimsical standards are not met. Results are therefore sanitized but the whitewashed reports did not prevent the famine from spreading such that millions of lives were lost. Mao's Great Leap Forward was an abrupt move towards a cliff where millions will die in their collective leap.

Janis, Rose Ann and Jen Masamoc crossed themselves as almost all the women shed tears. Some of the men were also in tears. They were witnessing how the mass graves were being filled up using heavy government machinery.

The next scene showed Stalin, Mao, Zhou En Lai, Nikita Krushchev and other prominent Russian and Chinese leaders sharing amiable moments at the Red Square in Moscow, Russia.

And next came almost the same group during Joseph Stalin's state funeral. But what emerged next was the one where Nikita Krushchev was verbally castigating Mao Ze Dong.

Fr. Francis annotated: _ Mao Ze Dong had always been beholden to the Russian leaders; always looking up to them for whatever important decisions he would undertake. But with the death of the very stern Joseph Stalin, Mao felt more confident taking Chinese matters into his own hands. He wanted to show a Chinese brand of communism to the whole world except that the Great Leap Forward became a Grave Plunge Backward as it proved to be a blatant failure.

A scene showed peasants hauling their crops in exchange for some meager portions of the grain and were being rebuked and threatened when they asked for more. Then there were some men and women, about six of them who stood pretentiously

on some sturdy and stocky crops which were actually propped up by some bars of iron. Even officials who knew the big lie played their role very well before cameras and nobody scrutinized the scam which may deter the whole program scam.

The propping iron bars symbolized another blunder, continued Fr. Caluag, Anhui, which had always been a lush, green country suffered its worst. Around 30 million people starved. In Feng Yuan county alone, around 90,000 people perished. If only Mao Ze Dong had not tried to live up to Russian expectations, millions could have survived. But although producing crops for their own use was already impossible, if not forbidden; the people of Anhui were ordered to melt metals for the steel needs of Russian construction and technology. (The annotation coincided with Khrushchev belittling Mao's agricultural experiment and the demanding for more steel was also shown, along with the backyard smelting in Anhui.) The steel smelters were only promised food and later, the steel they produced from simple rusty scraps proved substandard for Russian projects, and therefore gave Khrushchev more reasons to rebuke and criticize Mao for incompetent leadership. (The scene showed smelters starving near their kilns.)

My God! exclaimed Janis, Mao Ze Dong should be considered a criminal tyrant!

What would you expect? Mao had no god to teach him morals. When I was in China, we had to hide every time we attended Mass, recalled Miss Towers.

We are fortunate that the Chinese have not yet invaded us! Joyce Alag exclaimed.

There had been an attempt of China for world domination using the People's Liberation Army virus which they developed in Wuhan. As you have seen, if the virus contagion would be spread, say to the whole army of a certain nation targeted, what army is going to defend it given at least two weeks of blitzkrieg, the D.I. declared, But the whole scheme backfired when the virus escaped the laboratory in Wuhan and the Chinese became the very first victims of their own evil creation.

Almost every one was aghast and dumbfounded with the conspiracy theory revelation.

And yet still, they earned money alongside their secret brothers because governments have to buy also their vaccines, masks and other logistical products, added Jeff Utanes.

And yet, they already have so many spies here, Kate Derecho rejoined, Perhaps, it's just a matter of time when they will try again.

Prayers are always vital in stopping all kinds of evil, Fr. Francis Caluag declared and with a slight wave of his hand new scenes of trouble are unraveled.

People identified as intellectuals who dabbled in western thought were being denounced. Their professions in arts and sciences were being declared contrary to the ideals of the People's republic. Mobs, even those organized by very young people called the Red Guards were expounding on the Red Book written by no less than Chairman Mao himself. And using his quotations and chanting them loud, they dragged respectable individuals into the streets to be humiliated and finally punished for their

crimes against the people. It was the Chinese version of the French revolution when a reign of terror was unleashed but this time, it came from the government itself.

In 1966, the Cultural revolution began, explained the ex-Jesuit, All those practicing western philosophy; arts and sciences or those who advocate them such as those who listened to their kind of music or were reading their kind of books were hauled into the streets for denunciation, judgment, punishment or whenever possible, re-education. (After the mob scenes showing intellectuals and their supporters were being punished, a flashback of a meeting in a cramped lane house in Shanghai was shown. Among those present was the young Mao Ze Dong.)

It was July 23, 1921 and the First National Congress of the Communist Party was being held. Among the 13 delegates representing 53 communist groups at that time were the intellectual giant Li Da and his ardent student and forceful activist, Mao Ze Dong. If today, one will visit Shanghai (The scene shows cosmopolitan Shanghai with a mecca of nightclubs, designer stores and a restaurant called Xintiandi- New Heaven and Earth) and peep out from the museum where the first national meeting took place, one would see these establishments of capitalism.

Of the thirteen original delegates, five will betray the communist cause having anticipated its evil fruition and diabolical fulfilment. Seven would die before the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. Some of which were liquidated by their fellow communists themselves. Only three will make it to the highest level in the party hierarchy with one dying prematurely after a campaign to erase clash lines after a decade-long reign of terror similar to that of the French Revolution. Satan's chaotic philosophy would turn against the very people who espoused it. There was no real equality or brotherhood to begin with, only the freedom to liquidate who you suspect are against one's access to power. The brotherhood was in fact, a brotherhood of deception and betrayal. Li Da, who was Mao Ze Dong's mentor died under mysterious circumstances when he was taken to a hospital. His alleged peptic ulcer which only emerged when he was arrested as a radical individual. Being the President of Wichea University, he is known to have his own views of communism which did not harmonize with those of Mao. As an economist, he even included Mao Ze Dong's economic policy in his book. Except perhaps, the fact that he was objective in his analysis and evaluation of his former student's economic applications.

What an ingrate Mao was!_exclaimed Vince Erispe.

What a beast!_said Dennis Atienza

But the cultural revolution was necessary, Continued Fr. Caluag, After the deadly march of his wasted northern army and the economic debacle of which he was so criticized by Krushchev, he needed a unifying factor for the Chinese people. Cognizant of the fact that the learned Chinese can see through his mistakes as Li Da, his, mentor, did; he had to identify an enemy within China. And therefore, oblivious of the fact, that communism is a European progeny as Nazism and Fascism were, he devised a devious plan wherein it will not be him but the people who will purge the nation of western intellectualism which threatens to unravel all his ideological blunders.

Oh, so this was how the “Gang of Four” came to be?_asked Jam directly.

Yes, sir,_replied Fr. Francis,_because at that time, the Bamboo Curtain was certainly being criticized not only by the west as being backward but also by its stalwart allies who are for that matter the ones who were the very ones exploiting China and were ahead in their negative criticism.

And suddenly, “The East is Red”_ Zaida gestured aping a monkey,_Let them have “The Monkey King” so as to produce more macaques.

But how,_asked Jefferson Utanes, an urban micro-economist,_Come that China has transformed into an economic giant like it is now?

The answer is in the people themselves._said Cenrick,_God has given them insights into survival because they were already too oppressed, isn't it, Father?

A truly resilient and adaptable people!_exclaimed Jamery before The priest could answer.

Oh, yes the Chinese have not only survived but they rose like the Sphinx from the ashes,_said Fr. Caluag._And with the wave of his hand, new scenes from the new China emerged. It started with the view of the Shanghai tower and later reviewed the cramped room where communism in China started and down into the very progressive street._This is the Ferrari outlet near the historic room which is now a museum, and here are opulent stores mentioned earlier, and of course the Xintiandi, “Heaven on Earth”.

THE SMOLDERING

Fr. Francis Caluag began his annotation on the new set of visions given him for his guests which focused on the Shanghai families; resilient ones who like Filipinos bend to the storm wind gusts and stand up again like the bamboos.

Hu Jianquo lived with the deception that his forebear, Hu Dusheng will live a new rewarding and comfortable life in Anhui province. Being in the loyal police battalion which protected communism's germination in Shanghai much deserved that and more. Initially, Dusheng was told that it would only be a temporary stint and then the rewards will come and multiply. His expectations were shanghaied. The communist regime deceived Dusheng. First, the temporary stint became a permanent rusting anchor because they decided that it should be a permanent resettlement for his family. Now, Hu Jianquo is a laborer struggling back in the city of Shanghai, trying to escape the memories of poor rural Anhui where scores of millions starved to death. Remember Anhui? That is where the backyard smelting plants took over the dying plants of the commune. His sister is less fortunate. Since she couldn't find any means of residency in Shanghai, she had to live in Shenzhen where she ended up living a life of a desolate prostitute. Unable to cope with her oppressive existence, she doused herself with gasoline and ended her life with a matchstick, smoldering.

That's a hu-hu-hu for the Hus..._whispered Ronnel who earned for him a pinch from Marie and an angry glare from Misty.

The intellectual giant Li Da who despite his being an astute communist, and whose family was very close to that of Mao Ze Dong's family in Shanghai had to be eliminated. He was a threat to the leadership. Upon his mysterious death, Li Da's son and daughter-in-law were sent to the countryside to atone for their sins of being intellectuals, too. The only daughter, Li Dian, although she was a bright student was sent to work in a dangerous chemical factory for child laborers at the age of 15 and never had a chance to attend a university because she might also become an intellectual. Later, she ended up calibrating glasses through a lens machinery for an optometry store because her work unit assigned her there.

I am still more fortunate than her. And to think that I'm just an average person..._said Janis.

Come on, Janis, countered Nelson, Don't be too humble. But they all returned to silence as the ex-Jesuit resumed.

Pen Hao, whose family suffered much during the cultural revolution took advantage of Deng Xiao Ping's grand economic experiment of reintegrating China to the international community. In the same year, 1989, when the Tianamen Square massacre occurred, he abandoned his economic communist ideals and became a real state agent. In the new capitalist city of Shanghai, he became the Marketing Director of Rich Gate, the exclusive housing project to Xiantiandi.

Cheers were heard in the room as well as clapping and whistles. Meanwhile, at Rich Gate's construction site, Yang Guanming, despite his mangled hand which was hit by a machine malfunction in a motorcycle plant continue to work as a laborer. He said he's lucky to be employed but he had to make extra effort to catch up with the other workers. Of course, he would not receive any disability compensation for as you see, he can still work. That is what is good about China, you are not given any reason to be idle, old age or even disability. In the Philippines, Yang would be denied work because of his mangled hand and the employer wouldn't consider the other hand anymore. In the Philippines, perhaps, Guanming will be hopeless, and end up begging. Here in Shanghai, although he can't afford a caramel cream affogatto frappuccino, he had saved enough to buy a small home in Central China and now can afford the school tuition for his 22- year-old son. At least, he has found his place to work in the new Shanghai.

There were more cheers.

The Zhu family used to have spacious quarters in their Shanghai home then. However, they were branded traitors and capitalists by the Red Guards. But after their forced re-education, they were only given back three rooms in their original house. There is hope for the Zhu family's granddaughter who studied and became an architect in Hongkong. But she was advised by the elders to bolt Hongkong the moment that the city is given back by the British to the Chinese. The last time that they heard of her, she was actively participating in the bold demonstrations against the new government for its obvious lapses. They haven't heard from her since.

How sad their stories are except one. said Rose Migalang in tears. She was relatively silent through out.

Jen Masamoc's face was red with rage while Joyce Alag held back something she could have said against the Reds. She later prayed in gratitude that these things have not happened in the Philippines, or was she not just aware.

Zaida Tolentino was in the reflective mode. She thought of the Filipinos under colonial rule. At least, she told herself, the Spaniards and the Americans believed in God.

Maritel and Kate were comforting each other, these were only visions. Thank God, they survived them.

Pen Hao must be representing the big star in the Chinese flag. said de la Rosa, And the four others the prototype of the four smaller stars..

Are you a Freemason, sir? asked Maritel, You seem to know a lot about

symbols.

Oh, no I'm not Madam._Cenrick replied, _ But it would be best if Father would interpret.

I think I know what red means,_Misty said.

But the five stars are just a configuration of the satanic pentacle applied to China,_Came the reply, in conclusion, _the red field if the land bathed in the people's blood.

I thought so,_She told Zaida.

THE SIMMERING

Already a bit weary, Fr. Francis Caluag prayed to the Universal secretary, an Archangel to continue to grant the visions. Hence, a new set of visions presented themselves.

A beggar was singing ruefully:

Rich families sell their mules;
 Poor families sell their daughters and sons.
 Our families have no children to sell,
 We walk the streets and beat our drums.

The Erispes were helpful in translating the beggar's song, but not without some confusion and delay as sometimes they would still deliberate on a word. The Advocate had to help the priest eventually since he doesn't know Chinese.

This is the beggar, Xiaogong in Southwestern Anhui province which was hit by a worst famine. We have seen what transpired in five neighboring families in Shanghai where communism in China was born. This time we will venture to see how China transformed from communism to capitalism.

A scene revealed first some peasants eating their dead in order to survive; those who were too weak to survive, the old and the infant members.

Oh, Father, we do not want to see this!_Misty towers gentler side was revealed. Janis Mendelsohn simply covered her face.

Did this really happen?_Jamery asked straightforwardly.

My, the are cannibals!_Atienza concluded.

So that they would no loner squirm from the direful visions, a new visage was presented. The aggrege priest had to annotate right away. Although, he held back from the preceding sights.

This man, yang Hongchang was inviting his twenty neighbors, only the family heads, specifically, in a scheme for survival for it seemed that the famine had struck their village, the hardest. Now, in this scene, Hongchang was dictating a terse 79-character document which outlined China's first ever capitalistic scheme which however, seem not to counter, at first, with Beijing's directives.

In this document which Hongchang formulated after a short discussion with the 18 heads of families, as two were absent because they were out begging, they have

decided to divide the commune's land into family plots. These families will turn over the production quotas to the village leadership, but could keep the rest for themselves. The village accountant who graduated from middle school was designated scribe and wrote on a coarse page from a student's notebook. In case they fail, they vowed on record that they are prepared to be jailed or be executed; and also that those with children should raise them up until they reach the age of 18. Two work team leaders signed after Yang Hongchang but since two were illiterate, they just pressed on their fingerprints.

The scene changed and the Eripes couldn't follow the fast tirades of argumentation in Mandarin. Deng Xiaoping was courageously engaging the others on how to institute reforms. They couldn't say it directly but they now know how rabid communism couldn't work.

Fr. Caluag annotated: _it's been a couple of years after Mao Ze Dong's death. Deng Xiaoping who inherited his responsibility had to avoid being too rightist to welcome capitalistic innovations. The type of innovation which Hongchang is advocating was in fact, forbidden. Deng Xiaoping walked on the tightrope because an obvious switch to capitalism will enable his rivals to topple his government and place China into another tumultuous period. (As the scene changed, Fr. Caluag continued explaining.)

Yang Hongchang's secret didn't stay covert for so long. In May of 1979, the head of his 10,000- member commune accused Xiaogong Village of "digging a cornerstone for capitalism". Unfazed with this act, Yang told his wife Duan Xongia to tell his children he didn't do anything shameful. Then, he left to meet his county's open-minded secretary, Cheng Tingyuan. In his audience with Cheng, the latter found that the harvest had been favorable because the farmers concerned were more motivated to take care of the crops since they can keep the remnants for themselves. It was simply logical, and promised to support Yang and protect his village for as long as the reforming practice will just be contained within Yang's village. But what happened in Xiaogong spread rapidly. Just in a couple of years, it was found to be like "an irresistible wave" which crests were seen over limits made.

Yang Hongchang's "household contract responsibility system" caught fire. The village's will to value life induced the Holy Spirit to show them mercy even if they were communists. The system gave peasants long term leases and efficiently stopped the famine.

In 1963, Beijing approved "household contracting" and in 1998 when President Jiang Zemin was visiting one village elder was already trying to get credit for what Yang Hongchang has done. In May of 2005, a life size sculpture of the 18 Xiaogong farmers together with a replica of the contract written on a coarse notebook page that was already lost.

And it just took a village to introduce capitalism._declare Simon Dolor.

Indeed, a bold and undaunted move inspired by the goodness of the hearts of men._added Rodrigo Diaz.

But there must be someone in the upper echelons who had dared support

capitalism._said Jamery Derecho.

And he must be a covert democratic leader._Concluded Dennis Atienza.

Then there should be no doubt, it's none other than Deng Xiaoping._Declared Nelson Dalisay.

For once, the Paraclete's audience felt united and comforted wearing their contented smiles, for their hearts were at peace and were gladdened.

THE KILLING

Fr. Francis Caluag gave them his affirmations. It was always nice to witness goodwill in people even when they are in the passive state but their minds and hearts are attuned to goodness.

Yes, yes; you are all correct._he said, _And in fact, he was the one who introduced capitalist policies in the post Mao era. He was the innovator of capitalism as practiced in Communist China.

The scene revealed:

Zhao Ziyang was debating with premier Li Peng over the benefits that China would enjoy once it pursued international trade.

Zhao was looking into the future,_My esteemed comrade does not realize how much progress we can attain by opening ourselves to the world market. Vast as our country is, we can open so many ports which other countries can use as jumping boards. In that alone, our people near these ports will earn and prosper. Our people will enjoy new goods and will forget their deprivations while the world will discover our goods anew and again our people will earn and prosper. This would definitely open new jobs for our people as we import and export our goods.

But Li Peng, the Illuminatus was adamant. _This is a betrayal to the Cause. This is sheer capitalism!

How can it be a betrayal?_asked Ziyang,_ How can it be a betrayal, Chairman Deng, when it is our people who will benefit equally and not just a handful among us who are enjoying opulence right now?

Li Peng was incensed. It was good that they were in the Chairman's private chamber and not in the assembly. He can still forgive this Zhao Ziyang._Are you somehow accusing me of anything?

No, but I'm not the one who held on to my class._Zhao was daunting enough._ And I neither go to Dimen to the za shahmans for some curse nor for some talismans or divining. I declare that being an illuminatus is also a form of religion that presumes and likewise perseveres in the wealthy class but religion is and always be the opium of the people. Besides, if the brotherhood insists on its struggle against God, are we not, in fact, substantiating His very existence? For who are we to fight against if there is no god at all?! How impertinent for you to say that? One can strive to fight a ghost

even if there is no real ghost to ensure nothing evil comes. But Mao Ze Dong did the same thing. He would be sending his representatives to Dimen when he himself can no longer go. Li Peng glared.

Let us respect the memories of our departed Comrade, Deng Xiaoping intervened.

But then, let us make a ruling here before we face the assembly. Before we accuse each other of hypocrisy then, let us ask Comrade and Chairman Deng Xiaoping about his decision. Let us just remember how much our people have suffered already. Zhao Ziyang earnestly proposed.

In the deep silence that followed, Zhao left the room to rejoin the People's Assembly aware that he can now be arrested as a traitor. But Li Peng deliberately stayed. When Peng approached Deng to reproach Zhao, Deng had a ready answer. I saw how Li Da suffered because of the lies, Comrade Li and he is of your bloodline. I don't need any more hypocrisy.

And thus, Deng Xiaoping relented. He initiated the 1978 Free Market changes which eventually became known as the Reform and Opening. He indeed listened to the wisdom of Zhao Ziyang.

Some in the small audience of Fr. Caluag clapped their hands after the last annotation as they understood basic economics. But Mar Bustamante was most jubilant. He knew how it is to walk tightrope money problems and the need for God during such times.

But what happened to Yang? Did he ever get old? Ronnel ventured for some fun but was ignored. Perhaps, many of them were thinking of the small appliances and gadgets made accessible from China when it opened itself to world trade. Even the toys and cosmetics though they were laced with lead.

And then new scenes revealed and the priest aptly narrated:

Then the inevitable was about to happen. On May 17, 1989, less than three weeks before Tianamen, the fateful meeting as Deng Xiaoping was consulting them as Chairman of the Party. He wanted to impose Martial Law because the protest had already enjoyed a phenomenally large following and was challenging law and order, especially in Beijing.

The government has to back off from its harsh treatment of the protesters, declared Zhao Ziyang, the Party General Secretary. Rather, we should look into ways by which we can diffuse the tension.

Li Peng was now ready to pounce on Zhao as he might influence him again. Two top officials of the party rose to accuse as the main reason why the protest has much escalated. They said that they have been too soft on the activists. And now, the Beijing threat is so real. Annotated Fr. Francis, and so the inevitable happened:

I refuse to be the Secretary General who mobilized the military to crack down on the students, declared Zhao Ziyang, sealing his fate, by his own pronouncement.

Oh, Li Peng will jump at this! Robert Besana was quick to analyze, this is insubordination!

But no, Jeff Utanes said, Capitalism is already in place.

But nay, _said Nelson Dalisay, _ Zhao will be thrown out of the party.

But say, Ziyang will be sayang, _Ronnel emphasized on the Tagalog for wasted.

Fr. Francis, with the new scene, resumed: A few days after that fateful meeting and knowing that his political career is more or less finished, Zhao Ziyang went to Tianamen Square carrying a bullhorn. Li Peng anxious to see what he will do, tagged along to witness a state betrayal, of the party, too.

The scene manifested Zhao addressing tens of thousand protesters milling and filling the square and even onto the avenue. The die had been cast and the government was squaring it off with the activists in Tianamen Square. Speaking through the megaphone, Ziyang pleaded:

My dear countrymen; students and fellowmen, thank you for your silence allowing me to be heard. I have come to personally tell you that there is a clear and present danger. I ask each one of you to calm down and immediately leave the premises. You may continue with the silent protest and the hunger strike somewhere else or another day. But listen to me, I beg you. There is already an order for the military to use every means to stop this protest.

From murmurs, to ascending utterances, a howling negation mounted against the message. An angry uproar was heard as the huge crowd closed in on him with deafening protestations. Premier Li Peng was terrified. He fled with his plainclothesmen escorts and thought that Ziyang would end up deboned bloody torn meat.

But the General Secretary was unmoved and unperturbed despite the clawing and the Tearing; and the pushing and the pulling of the crowd. Finally some shouted his identity and a few listened and left but most were simply agitated and wanted to stay in the waves of unrest. Undaunted, he continued his plea, again and again until more heard and learned to listen. Yet mob psychology proved too strong in Tianamen that day. The square was still filled with people despite its size and some were still coming. _ We have come, too late. _ Ziyang told himself, and acknowledging his failure, he left grieving.

Then just two weeks after his appearance, the rolling tanks followed by troopers came to the Avenue of Eternal Peace. Some of the activists when they were already near the square engaged the tanks. Some in the Square bravely put up the Chinese Maiden effigy carrying the papier mache torch of freedom in semblance to the phraxis of the Statue of Liberty. Little did they know that the one in New York harbor Liberty herself, represent a mythical prostitute.

The scene changed even without Fr. Francis' cue. It was the earlier 1986 EDSA revolution made by the Filipino people. People including the religious were praying the rosary. They carry aloft images of the Virgin Mary, who had freely enslaved herself to the Will of God. The soldiers emerged from the tank openings smiling. Rosaries, flowers, bottled waters and candies were being given them. Gen. Tadiar who was in charge of the mobilization was being lambasted by his own father. He therefore, and also deep in his heart, couldn't give the order to roll over the civilians who have linked themselves like beads of the rosary. The tanks stayed in the indecision immobilized before the pulsating crowd which showed effective in preventing them from their

earlier speedy move. But a devil whispered onto one of the loyalist junior officers, why don't they fire at will as an alternative move, then the ranks would disperse in the volley of fire. He spread out the evil plan to the vanguard and they were to override the indecisive command. But just as the vanguard plan was about to be executed, a beautiful lady from amongst the crowd addressed the frontliners. And she said, "I am the Queen of this land. Do not fire at my children".

Fr. Francis Caluag's audience were in tears or in the verge of shedding them. For the first time, there was a "video" of Our Lady of EDSA. But all in awe, even the photographers are not able to get a shot at the 'recorded apparition'. Can they request for a replay, Mar Bustamante proposed but nay, for the Advocate, this is a matter of faith upon which He does not want to impose.

How different they were; two peoples and two avenues; a people of rage and protest and a people of hope and prayer. Two symbols of freedom; a fictional woman and a historical Woman. Maritel managed to utter, but the audio-visual room was full of acclaim for the last revelation.

The Avenue of Eternal Peace sounds like a requiem for souls that will not find any rest, I have seen them in a mass haunting, myself, Cerrick said but nobody was paying attention.

Yet, EDSA when unabbreviated in Spanish means "The Epiphany of the Saints" although it's properly the name of a noted Filipino patriot and scholar. and since it was the ex-Jesuit, the audience were listening again.

Must be the reason why our sister Esmeralda said that the attack helicopters to attack Camp Crame simply landed in peace since from up in the air, Santolan crossroad of EDSA looked like a huge cross which changed the hearts of the ace pilot, said Rose Ann.

Yes, that has to be Hotchkiss, who brought his men to change allegiance. added Christie Marie.

The scene went back again to Tianamen, in 1989. The tanks overwhelmed the mob rolling over them in a gory mess. There was already blood and crushed flesh in the avenue. There would be more in the square. The military had finally squared off with the civilians at Tianamen Square. The troopers simply followed the tanks to finish off the operations by shooting at anyone who was still moving. Tianamen was finally liberated from the people demanding liberty. The effigy of the Chinese woman holding the torch was itself destroyed.

The official government count was 700 dead. Maybe they used a broken abacus or maybe the bodies were too crushed and mashed together by the tanks such that the count was impossible to make. But the purge went on beyond Tianamen and thousands lost their lives. Narrated fr. Caluag, The Tianamen episode was finally over. People were advised never to talk about it or suffer worst consequences.

Everyone in the audience felt awful and dumbfounded. They were crushed.

THE SCATTERING

In his recording of his memoirs regarding the massacre in Tianamen Square, Zhao Ziyang said that when he heard the “pop-pop-pop” of the automatic rifles, he could only wince. “ While in the courtyard with my family, I heard intense gunfire. A tragedy that will shock the world had not been averted and was happening.” June 7, 1989 marks a day of infamy for China as a civilized and modern nation, _ Remarkd Fr. Francis Caluag, annotating the introductory scenario.

Then the scene changed showing how Zhou Ziyang managed to record what had really transpired despite his strictly-guarded house arrest.

Fr. Francis Caluag annotated: _ He recorded them in cassettes of Chinese opera and kids’ music. After a few ywars and many copies, they were successfully passed on to trusted friends and made their way into being publicized in America with the title, “Prisoner of the State”

The Paraclete started a new set of visions on His Own accord.

The Tianamen massacre did not stop anti-government criticism, _said Fr. Caluag explaining the new set of visions. One of the bold critics was Wei Jingshing who was considered very bright by those who knew him for he was already knowledgeable of western philosophy by the age of 12. But he also absorbed so much of the government propaganda and these words made him join the dreaded Red Guards. What changed him was an incident on a train when he was with the group in one of their purges. There was a girl of his age who was begging for food approached them. What he thought initially as clothing covering her was not. She was actually covered with mud and dust. This made him think, and especially when he visited the ancestral home in Anhui, he discovered many abandoned villages, all victims of Mao Ze Dong’s agricultural experiment which no matter how repressive and whimsical was never open to criticisms especially objections. To his shock , he discovered that entire communities died from starvation. The once green and picturesque villages had become wastelands and ghost villages where dirty backyard furnaces for melting steel stand as grim reminders of Mao Ze Dong’s nightmarish Great Leap Forward.

But the final shock came when his own mother was imprisoned. Radical factory workers who envied her good performance forced her to write a confession of her alleged crimes as a “class enemy”. She died of stomach cancer in 1976 tormented till

the end for her crimes against the cause. Wei was weighed down with restrained rage that he couldn't speak for three days after her funeral interment. Mao Ze Dong died the same year and mourned as a hero, as the father of people's republic.

Mar Bustamante couldn't help but scratch his pate while Victor Antonio's crutch felt like an automatic rifle ready to fire.

Fr. Caluag continued with the new scenes: _ Then, Deng Xiaoping realizing the mistakes of his party, declared the Policy of Four Modernizations. New ideas for agriculture, industry, science and defense will be welcomed by the party. There was hope for some freedom along these lines. In November, that same year, a brick wall of a bus depot was filled with the ideals of the people that it had to be known popularly as the Democracy Wall. Here some writings claimed that some criminals have occupied high party positions to spread more crimes against the people. The American Declaration of Independence was even quoted verbatim there. But Wei Jongshing's poster was the most daring of them all. On December 12, the "Fifth Modernization" appeared as he wrote: "We want no more gods and emperors. Democracy, freedom and happiness are the only goals of modernization, the four others are a newfangled lie!"

Deng Xiaoping was offering the Chinese a new deal in real economic and social liberalization, he thought so, sincerely. But Wei's poster called all these a bluff. And so, on March 29, 1979, he was arrested for trying to "overthrow the government of the dictatorship of the proletariat". The New China News Agency reported two hours and a half before his actual trial the judgment given him.

Wow, the Chinese Communist communications system must be equipped with extra-sensory perception!, _ Ronnel Reyes couldn't help butt in.

They must be prophets just like someone here is, _ Simon satirically said but they were hushed by Misty Tower's flying dagger looks such that they have to be crouching tigers.

During the Tianamen massacre, he was already through with his initial imprisonment and was already in the salt mines. Sickly but still spirited during his release in 1994, he remained dauntless against communism.

This one's better than the Burmese matron, _ said Dennis Atienza, _for the Nobel peace prize.

Talk about trash like Jean Paul Sartre, _said Rodrigo Diaz, _ But that one was for literature.

But the "Fifth Modernization" was also written. That's literature on the wall." _ claimed Ronnel but it seemed they walled him in.

There are countless many others who devoted their lives to activism so that reforms can be made in the China we now know. _Continued the priest, _ There are even those who are passively subservient like Xiao Seizhu who once enjoyed the fresh living waters of Xiaojiadian. Now, people wouldn't even want to go near that body of water because the factories around had made the once living waters dead and extremely polluted. Xiao had made a very silent protest as it has given him cancer in the esophagus which was the certified cause of his demise. But he had

made it documented that the vicinity of the Xiaojiadian is already the cancer capital of the world. Like so many other victims who remained loyal to China, even with her insensitive modernization, there is only death to end it all. Till death do them part.

But are the Chinese leaders keen at identifying destruction and pollution of the environment as a real concern? No, Mao Ze Dong has already done it in the past and he is their great exemplar! If there is a problem of great concern for the people, all they have to do is to identify a new enemy of the state for the people to redirect their anger that ought to be expressed. For instance, to pacify the activists who may make noise on his infamous army's march into doom, his mistake was highly sanitized and he was even glorified as a suffering hero and heaped blame and guilt upon the Koumintang. Then he got the people excited about his Great Leap Forward, and when it got to be obviously wrong, he made use of his actress wife and her gang to start the cultural revolution to make everything foreign except Russians to be evil. And so from the great leap down the economic debacle, the people's anger had to be an enemy out of China's cultured people. _narrated Fr. Caluag.

The cultural revolution was a terrible time for both artists and scientists alike. If the Gang of Four or their Red Guards misunderstood any one as an intellectual, one will be labeled as a criminal. _said Zaida.

The Paraclete showed images of the gang of Four and the pries explained, _ The Gang of Four was led by Mao's last wife, the actress Jiang Quing; Zhong Chungquiao, Yao Wenyuan and Wang Honguo. The demons occupied their empty faculties and they in turn filled their cohorts with lies so as to do away with people for perfidious reasons.

Jiang Quing therefore has no rival as the star of the government propaganda opera, "The East is Red",_ said Robert Besana.

But their evil ways were exposed by Deng Xiaoping and they were tried as criminals,_ said Nelson Dalisay.

This is why we, Filipinos should be careful at any attempt at historical revisionism because too many people can suffer just because of a few nuts,_said Christie Marie.

Even when the people can already recognize the fact that the Cultural Revolution was a cult retribution, what else can the people do when they are so poor to fight? And now again the present leaders have identified new enemies; the U.S. , its greatest economic rival which it is even buying out gradually and the old nemesis, Japan to fuel its new patriotism by recalling the Rape of Nanjing and its other atrocities,_ remarked the priest.

Using the Yuan, the Chinese can invest on friendship with greedy nations especially, the Arabs, especially those which used to align with America, _said Jeff Utanes, _ Truly politics make strange friends with the use of money or money as the motive.

And the Chinese will forget the atrocities of their own countrymen with new found enemies?_ Jen Masamoc asked.

Of course,_ Simon Dolor replied,_ That's mob psychology.

Just like us Filipinos, we have recurring epidodes of memory loss._ said Rodrigo

Diaz.

That's right, we have very short memory span,_ said Vince.

With a few bills and we have already forgotten who the real culprits were.,- rejoined Jeff.

The scene returned to Tianamen in 1989, as the Chinese militia start their attack on the restless mob.

You see this man running for his life? This was Liu Xiaobo, most famous Chinese dissident. He was jailed four times for his fight for democratic reforms in China. The first time he was arrested, he was criticizing the Communist one-party system. He also became editor of the *Minzhu Zhongguo* or Democratic China and was also arrested for being a signatory to the Charter 08 Manifesto which was of course, anti-government. In 2009, he was arrested for the crime "inciting to subversion of the state power". He was given the Nobel Peace prize for his struggles but was denied by the state to receive it. Not even his wife, Lu Xia, a visual artist, and /or their friends were allowed to receive it in his behalf because he was serving time in jail. As a visiting scholar at the University of California in Berkeley, he said;

And the Comforter, with the cue of the priest, showed Liu Xiaobo making his speech; "As China transforms rapidly, people are beginning to have more societal concerns. But nationalism is the only channel they can vent their anger, so even people who may not have originally cared for patriotism have joined the movement."

Nice to hear about patriotism as it is, but there is also a danger here,_ said Cenrick de la Rosa,_ When I was in China, the TV stations available were full of government propaganda as to how mighty the armed forces were. And then they have government programs showing that the whole China Sea is theirs treating trhe Philippines as if it is only one of their provinces. If I were a Chinese, I was gonna ask myself, how come I could not freely visit one of our provinces and go out fishing there? How come the foreigners are free to go there?

Correct!_ said Fr. Francis, _But the sad thing was that Liu Xiaobo was diagnosed later with lung cancer and had to died soon afterwards. We're sure there will be many more dissidents after him. Even the Chinese government knows this. As it is, we must be careful with China.

Yes, Father for indeed, our Lady's apparition in Lipa has warned us of China's greedy menace. _ said Maritel,_ It has always have its eyes on the Philippines. And to think that the apparitions there continue to be betrayed by frightened Filipino clerics who are unmindful of Filipino devotion to Our Lady, Mediatrix of All Grace. There are things very hard to change in the Pious Filipino heart, simple as it is, _ Christie Marie said.

But there are things so hard to change as Mao's legacy continues to entice the simple Chinese man's mind. Mao Ze Dong's mantra was to sacrifice one Chinese family to save 10,000 families. But maybe he was willing to sacrifice 10,000 families just to save his own if indeed he had one he values. Anyway, he was credible enough to sacrifice his own son for the war effort. Or he must have been like Mohamed who was willing to have others die just so he could continue his leadership. So, this could

explain the human waves comprising the Chinese offensive which the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (PEFTOK) experienced during the Korean War. Human lives mean nothing for those whose lives were diabolical. Now, just as an afterthought, the Chinese have changed the one-child policy This reawakening may be one of the results of Tianamen Squared. These will be the last set of visions we will have.

His last statement came as a surprise but he just smiled warmly at them.

But Our Lady, the Mediatrix of All Grace, reminded us also about the Chinese, _ Maritel said, _ The Chinese have always set their eyes on these islands.

And yet, her apparitions in Lipa continue to be denied its importance by the Church just because of some frightened Filipino clerics in high places who are insensitive to Filipino expressions of faith. _ Christie Marie added.

It's not an accident that she has appeared by the dreaded Lipay vine. It is an irritant to people who mount high places for their sense of achievement, _ Cenrick declared.

But the simplicity of the Filipino's heart is what makes its devotion extraordinary. _ said Mar Bustamante.

Are we saying again, that there are differences between the hearts of the Chinese and the Filipino? _ asked Camille who is married to someone of Chinese descent.

Perhaps, they are not speaking about the Filipino-Chinese, _ said Fr. Francis, _ there are things too difficult to change, as I have said, about the Red Chinese because it is laced with greed. Using the yuan to earn more yuan they will continue with their plans.

Their aborted world domination plan has backfired at them and other nations given God's discernment can see through this. For instance, when the virus struck Wuhan why did they immediately cancel their domestic flights but allowed the international flights to continue? _ asked Cenrick.

But the ex-Jesuit did not answer and finally they knew that it is really now the end. One by one or sometimes, in pairs they approached him to give him thanks for an extraordinary day spent with him. But when he gesture, everybody stopped especially those who are already by the door. He led them in a closing prayer giving thanks for the great blessing given them by the Holy Spirit.

On the way to their vehicles, Ronnel Reyes said it was great x-rated movie. Christie Marie was very incensed and so he had to explain himself right away.

There were so many X-names in the visions such that I could not remember them. _ he told his ex-girlfriend.