

The Guest Speaker Rev. Fr. Alberto Santiago Rossa was briefly introduced by the Second V.P. Elizabeth Cheng. Rev. Fr. Rossa was born in Argentina (South America) and is a priest for 48 years. He has worked in the Philippines and Macau. At present, his main interest is in the publication of the Bible and religious books in China for distribution to readers in China, with the approval of the Chinese Government.

I. Translation and Publication of the Holy Bible

At present, Rev. Fr. Rossa is working on the correct translation of the Holy Bible from the original language (Hebrew) into simple Chinese (done in Hong Kong and China). On each page, there are simple commentaries for each paragraph in Chinese, with additional materials (lectio divina) recommended for further reading. The Chinese characters are in simple characters (簡體字). The books are printed in China and distributed in China. There is a wide market for this China – the Protestant churches are distributing most of the Holy Bibles in China, in excess of 150,000 copies per year.

II. Working Experience in China

His working experience with “working partners” has been most surprisingly pleasant. They are non-Christians, but the relationship is like that between a member of the family. There is a great need for the Holy Bible and religious books in China with more than 6,000 parishes in China. The Publication Company is the “Pastoral Bible Foundation (PBF or 阡 in China). The logo and translation in Chinese was done by a Chinese scholar for a nominal cost. There are only two persons working in the Pastoral Bible Foundation – Fr. Rossa and his assistant. The ideal situation is that the books are printed in China with official permission for distribution in China.

This interesting and thought-provoking talk was followed by sharing from Serrans.