

2025 Cardinal Kung, A Defender of the Faith Scholarships



To honor Ignatius Cardinal Kung Pin-Mei's heroic fidelity to the Church (1901-2000), The Cardinal Kung Foundation is pleased to offer Cardinal Kung, A Defender of The Faith Scholarships:

Current high school students who plan on a 2025 Fall entry to a college recommended in the *Newman Guide or to a Catholic seminary*:

- **A Scholarship of \$2,000** will be awarded to one (1) high school senior.
- **Additional awards of \$1000 each** may be awarded to outstanding applicants, at the discretion of the Foundation.

Ignatius Cardinal Kung Pin-Mei, Bishop of Shanghai, China was a renowned educator in Shanghai, and a prisoner for Christ for thirty-two years under the current Chinese communist government. Saint Pope John Paul II named him Cardinal *in pectore* in 1979 while he was serving a life sentence in China. In 1991, he was publicly proclaimed Cardinal. Saint Pope John Paul II referred to Cardinal Kung as:

“...a man who has given witness by word and deed, through long suffering and trials, to what constitutes the essence of Life in the Church, participation in the divine life through the apostolic faith and evangelical love.”

Prior to his arrest in 1955, Bishop Kung vigorously engaged in practical activities to prepare himself and the Church in Shanghai for coming persecutions. He visited all parishes to encourage weekly devotions such as adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, public recitation of the rosary, and praying the Passion of the Cross. He strengthened the catechetical training in all parishes to enable the faithful to defend their faith against communism. He trained hundreds of lay Catholics, especially youth, as catechists to pass on the faith to future generations when clergy and nuns would be jailed or martyred.

In honor of Cardinal Kung's commitment to practical activity in the service of Christ and His Church, **the scholarship awards will be made based on the student's demonstrated commitment to actively promoting and defending the Catholic faith.**

Recommended resources

Biography: Ignatius, The Life of Ignatius Cardinal Kung Pin-Mei by Monsignor Stephen M. DiGiovanni (Amazon.com)

A 15-minute summary of the life of Cardinal Kung by +Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., former Director of Cardinal Kung Foundation. <https://soundcloud.com/churchofsaintagnes/cardinalkung?in=churchofsaintagnes/sets/saintagnes-quick-talks>

Homily of Cardinal Burke on the current situation in China given at the Pontifical High Mass in honor of Our Lady of SheShan, 2023. <http://www.cardinalkungfoundation.org/fd/pdf/CardinalBurke-Homily-2023.pdf>

(Please visit the Foundation's website for the complete program.)

APPLICATION

Applicants must show *excellence in living, promoting and defending* the Catholic faith. Excellence can be shown with a consistent record of service to the Church. For example:

Leading efforts to promote the Catholic faith or preparing for this service

Organizing or participating in events on living the Catholic faith in family, school or parish

Teaching the Catholic faith to younger students

Engaging in discussions and debates about faith

Studying the faith diligently for the sake of working with this knowledge in the future.

Scholarship Application Requirements:

Documents must include those listed below and be submitted as PDF file attachments (with **College Scholarship** in the Subject line) to: cardinalkungfdn@gmail.com Document title syntax should be as follows:

- Lastname.firstname.coversheet
 - Lastname.firstname.resume
 - Lastname.firstname.essay
 - Lastname.firstname.reference1
 - Lastname.firstname.reference2
1. A **cover sheet** listing the following: Applicant's full name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, name and address of the high school, graduation date, name of college or university in Fall 2025, and age.
 2. A **resume** of pertinent activities.
 3. A **400-600-word essay**, written by the applicant, that details the applicant's current activities defending the Church, leading efforts to promote the Catholic faith, or by preparing such a service. The essay must explain why the applicant has chosen to devote time to these activities.
 4. At least one **confidential letter of recommendation** from someone, preferable not a family member who is familiar with the applicant's activity as a defender of the faith. The recommendations must be **emailed directly to the Foundation from the writer**, and should attest to the applicant's practicality in serving the Church and his or her commitment in defending the faith.
 5. **Timeline for submissions and announcement of awards:** Submissions will be accepted from **December 1, 2024 until January 12, 2025, 11:59 PM Eastern Time**. Documents emailed after the deadline will not be accepted.
 6. The awards will be **announced on the anniversary of Cardinal Kung's death, March 12, 2025 and will be posted on the Cardinal Kung Foundation's website:** <http://www.cardinalkungfoundation.org>

Scholarship Recipients will contact The Foundation by email (by April 1, 2025) accepting the award and the following terms:

1. A statement to agree to allow The Foundation to publish their names, a brief bio, and the Newman college of their choice to be posted on the Foundation's website.
2. To submit to the Foundation by June 1, 2025, for the Foundation's possible publication, a brief statement (not more than 200 words) that provides some insight into the benefits gained through the award and through reading the Cardinal's biography (Biography will be provided by the Foundation.).

The Scholarship Payments:

Scholarship Payment will be sent in July 2025. Failure to provide proof of enrollment by July 1, 2025 will result in forfeiture of the award.

The **College Scholarships** payments will be sent directly to a Newman college/seminary in which the student enrolls towards their tuition, room and board payment, or for book fees required for college coursework.