



THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

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Easter 2011

Upon the Map of China
Rests the Shrine and
Our Lady of She-Shan
Through Whom We Pray
“There may be one fold
and one shepherd”

Dear Friends:

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord this Paschal season, let us hope that the Light of Christ, which is symbolized by the Paschal candle, will continue to shine brightly and increase its resplendence throughout the world, especially in those countries where the secular authorities seek to extinguish it by persecution.

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* In Memoriam

Persecution Takes More Than One Form

Persecution of the Church needs not always be in the form of a bloody assault, as it was in China since 1949 for over 60 years, but it can also be in the form of infiltration and of *quid pro quo* dialogue. What this amounts to is a policy of compromise where the Church ends up being the loser, taking one step forward and being pushed two steps back. Cardinal Zen, the retired Archbishop of Hong Kong, summed up in his September 8, 2010 article that “...*the final outcome would be that what is done is what the (communist) Party wants...*”.

This seems to be part of the strategy of the Chinese Communist authorities today. First, after 4 or 5 years of seemingly peaceful dialogue, all of a sudden, they ordained a Patriotic Association (PA) supported priest, Father Guo Jincai, bishop without a mandate from the Holy See. Then, they summoned the Eighth National Congress of Catholic Representatives last December, knowing that the convocation was objected to by the Pope. According to plan, the Communist authorities allowed a papally-approved bishop to be “elected” president of the CCPA (Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association), with four illicitly ordained bishops filling other leadership posts in the organization. Pope Benedict XVI referred the CCPA as an entity that is “incompatible with Catholic Doctrine”. Many papally-approved bishops were forced by the Chinese authorities to attend this assembly. This does not mean that the government has abandoned other more violent methods of persecution. Bishops and priests, loyal to the pope, are still harassed, called in routinely for “re-education” sessions, and given prison sentences. The only difference being that the sentences are shorter and no longer life sentences or twenty or thirty years of hard labor, like those handed down in the 1950’s, 1960’s or 1970’s. In spite of this façade of a more humane tolerance, the government continues to withhold any information about the whereabouts of two underground bishops who disappeared more than ten years ago, Bishop Sue Zhiming and Bishop Shi Enxiang.

No Compromise

The abovementioned Bishop Su is the Bishop of Boading, home of 40 of the 120 martyr-saints canonized in 2000 by the late Pope John Paul II. Bishop Su has been in jail since 1997 as the result of his refusal to join the CCPA. It appears that his uncompromising fidelity to the Holy See and his long years of suffering will be conveniently used as a bargaining chip by the diplomats of Beijing and the Vatican. If his personal freedom is more important to Bishop Su than his fidelity to the Pope, Bishop Su would have cooperated with the Beijing government and become one of the leaders of the CCPA more than 10 years ago. Sadly, what the Beijing government failed to succeed in the past by persecution and by coercion may now soon be handed over to them by the Church herself under the glorified titles of “Unity” and “Dialogue”. In a few years, it is, therefore, possible that the underground Catholic Church in China will disappear -- not as the result of the deaths of the underground bishops due to their advanced age, but as the result of the Vatican’s current practice, so far. That practice is not to replace these underground bishops who have died. Such practice will eventually result in a Catholic Church in China being led by bishops who are the results of a successful “negotiation”. They would all belong to the “official” open Church. These bishops will likely continue their current position to lead the Church in China, as they have been doing in the past, to ensure that the Church in China will walk only the path that is acceptable to the Beijing government and that their government approved status will not be affected. Are we certain that the gospel which will be preached in China by these official bishops is the same one given by Christ to His Church, or rather, will it be something less, one that is only approved or “negotiated” by the Beijing government?

The Church can never compromise her doctrine on faith and morals, nor can she compromise her intrinsic liberty, which is hers on account of her Head who is Christ the Lord and Sovereign King of all men and angels. Governments inimical to the spiritual end of the Church have tried, and are trying, more now than ever, to undermine the work of the Church and establish a “new order of things” in opposition to her. But, they can only attack. They can never destroy the Church, which God has established and promised that it will last *forever*.

Even after six decades of persecution and poverty, the underground Church is vibrant and is blessed with plenty of vocations. The total number of faithful in the underground Church far exceeds, approximately three times, that of the “Patriotic Church”. Many of the young religious, male and female, in the underground Church have completed their advanced education, including Ph.D.s, in the Universal Church’s seminaries in Italy, Spain, France and other European countries. They fully understand the condition outside China, and the danger and difficulties facing the underground Church. Yet, filled with the faith and fidelity of the thousands of martyrs in China before them, they return to China after their studies to evangelize. In addition, those religious who are not able to go overseas to be educated, study underground in China in the most difficult environment, being ordained or vested in the religious vows. Many visiting religious scholars even shunned them in China, refusing to teach in the underground seminary, because of the dangerous environment and/or of some other misguided reasons. These locally educated underground religious join in unison with those who returned from overseas to sow and spread the seeds of the Church. We salute them. We love them. We pray that the Vatican diplomats, when negotiating with Beijing, will have faith in Jesus’ foot soldiers in China. We believe that, because of these dedicated underground religious, some young and some very old, the true Catholic Church will triumph and the fullness of faith will be preserved in China.

Easter, therefore, brings with it, every year, new hope, and renewed trust in our God and Savior, who has conquered death and risen from the tomb. Imagine that! The eternal Son of God will have His glorified humanity forever, with the resplendent marks of the five wounds on His poor man’s body.

New Hope

I am firm in my hope that this Easter season will herald the beginning of a new springtime for the Church in China. The reason for my optimism, after so long a time of confusion over the situation of the Church in China, is the recent appointment of the then Father Savio Hon Taifai, SDB, as the Secretary to the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. This is the second highest post within this dicastery. This is also the highest curial post any member of the Chinese religious hierarchy has ever held in the universal Church — and it is a crucial one, especially for China.

Archbishop Savio Hon Taifai, SDB

Father Hon, a Salesian, was consecrated a bishop by Pope Benedict XVI, along with four other priests in Saint Peter’s Basilica on February 5. His fellow Salesian, Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, was delighted with the choice of Father Hon to fill this post. “*Savio Hon Tai-fai is the ‘right man in the right place’ and not because he is a Salesian,*” he said.

The sixty year-old archbishop was born in Hong Kong. He made his religious profession there as a Salesian in 1975. He was afterwards sent to study philosophy in London and theology at the Pontifical Salesian University in Rome, where he earned a doctorate. As a priest, Father Hon taught theology at the seminary in Hong Kong while also doing work for the International Theological Commission. One of his major achievements was the translation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church into Chinese. From the early 1990s until 2003 he was invited, occasionally, to lecture to seminarians on the mainland.

In the consecration ceremony, the Holy Father did not mention China by name, but he did, in a veiled way, express his disappointment over the illicit ordinations occurring in China. The pope stressed also the spiritual *joy* that comes with authentic communion in the unity of the Church and he ended his homily with these inspiring words: “*Live communion, and with your heart live, day by day, in the deepest center of that sacred moment in which the Lord gives Himself in Holy Communion.*”

After the liturgical rite, the newly ordained Bishop Hon said in an interview with UCANews that he actually felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. “*I could feel an air-stream when the pope laid his hands on my head.*”

During one of the many interviews he has given after his elevation to this new post, Archbishop Hon clearly stated that he is a “*hard liner*” when it comes to obedience to the pope. He said he owed much to the inspiration he received from Cardinal Zen. Then, Archbishop Hon said: “*We should respect the underground Catholics who have been loyal to their Faith and understand the value of their existence.*” Just as when the late Pope John Paul II said almost twenty years ago on July 1, 1991: “*With what prayerful longing and love do I follow the life of the loyal Chinese Catholic communities.*”

Archbishop Hon’s mentor, Cardinal Zen, has no illusions about the futility of joining the “open Church.” In fact, he was scathing in his criticism of any policy of compromise, or *quid pro quo*, with the Communist party on the part of the Vatican. In the same letter that I quoted from above (*Asia News* September 8, 2010), and prior to the December meeting of the Eighth National Congress of Catholic Representatives, Zen said:

“We say: ‘What the [communist] Party wants is not what the Pope wants.’ By saying so, we are held guilty of confrontation. But, by a ‘happy chance,’ nowadays what the Party wants seems to coincide easily with what the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples wants. So, Alleluia! Everybody should be happy!....The real prophets, instead, are inconvenient (not only to their enemies) and they are eliminated . . . But they are not afraid. They are ready for that. However, the sad thing is that these our brothers of the underground community, who survived so long in spite of the enemy’s efforts, now have to die by the hand of their brothers.”

Now, as Secretary of that same Congregation, Archbishop Hon will yield tremendous influence, especially in the nomination of those who would be future bishops in China. Let us pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit that whomever Archbishop Hon presents to the Holy Father as the “right men” to lead the Church in China, that they all will be, like him, “hard-liners.”

Bishop Julius Jia Zhiguo and the One Hundred Disabled Orphans

I want now to share another bit of good news. I hope that by the time you receive this newsletter, *and forever afterwards*, this good news will remain so.

On January 11, 2011, the Cardinal Kung Foundation issued a press release, announcing that a twenty year-old underground Catholic handicapped orphanage in Hebei, China, was under imminent threat to be forcibly taken by the Chinese Government. For details, please go to <http://www.cardinalkungfoundation.org/press/110111.htm>. We requested prayers for the hundred disabled orphans under the care of Bishop Julius Jia Zhiguo of Zhengding, Hebei, and for the thirty Catholic sisters who cared for them for the last twenty years. **We are happy to report that the local authorities, so far, have not carried out their threats to take over this orphanage.** Almost half a year has passed since they started threatening Bishop Jia to take over this orphanage. Please continue praying for the plight of the orphans, the sisters, and the good bishop, that they will be left alone to do their labor of love.

Prayer ought not to be divorced from action. So, I urge you to contact the Chinese Embassy in your country and let them know that you, and the world, are keenly interested in this orphanage and these children. Those who live in the United States may write to Ambassador Zhang YeSui, Embassy of The People's Republic of China, 3505 International Place, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20008. Please protect these helpless orphans. Make your appeal to the higher authorities of the Chinese government not to disrupt the care and love of these one hundred disabled orphans.

A Champion Amidst Much Betrayal

There is no doubt in my mind that the reason the local Communists are harassing Bishop Jia is because of his refusal to join the Patriotic Association and/or his refusal to attend the National Congress for Catholic Representatives summoned in defiance of the Pope’s will by the Beijing government in December 2010. Bishop Jia has spent approximately twenty years in prison, having been arrested more than ten times since 2004. The first disabled child (who was the reason for the opening the orphanage), was left at his rectory doorsteps over twenty years ago. The orphans are attached to him as their father and to the dedicated sisters as their mother. To separate the little ones from such care would be heart wrenching for them.

Words are fine! But you must see the children for yourselves, with your own eyes, in order to understand why my heart is so moved for their welfare. If you go to Foundation’s website and click on the Press Release icon after entering, you will then find a red box at the top, that reads, “Prayer for the Church and the Orphans in China.” or visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jV3QTBcngY>. This will open for you a collage of photos succeeding each other one by one with a most beautiful and sweet hymn sung in English by the Poor Clare Sisters of the Colettine Community in Wales, UK, playing in the background. The song is called “Child” (*Haizi* in Mandarin Chinese) and it is dedicated to the Bishop of Zhengding and his dear orphans. The refrain is a prayer to Saint Colette, their holy founder, mother of the community, asking for her intercession for the orphans. The Utube video is only five minutes long, but is such a perfection of beauty. When you see the good bishop and his children, especially the one-eyed blind boy wheeling another who appears to be totally handicapped, your emotions may be carried away (mine were) and cause tears to flow.

Day of Prayer for China

In His letter to China in 2007, Pope Benedict XVI declared each year **May 24** be observed as the Universal Church Day of Prayer to Our Lady of She-Shan for the Catholic Church in China. This shrine is in the Diocese of Shanghai. This reminds me that at the height of the persecution in 1954, Cardinal Kung, together with Father Aloysius Jin, the then Rector of the She-Shan Seminary, led all the seminarians to a pilgrimage to She-Shan. They all made a pledge before the statue of Our Lady of She-Shan, Patron of the Shanghai Diocese, that they would never betray the Church in spite of the persecutions. As the result, scores of seminarians accepted long years of imprisonment and slave toil at labor camps. However, sadly, Father Aloysius Jin, the former Rector of the She-Shan Seminary, later agreed to be consecrated illicitly PA Auxiliary Bishop of Shanghai. He is currently the PA ordinary of Shanghai. Please join with the Holy Father’s intention, together with the Catholics around the world, to storm heaven with prayers so that true religious freedom will come to China. If you wish to receive a free copy of the Holy Card of Our Lady of She-Shan, please let me know.

Death of Three Underground Bishops

In the past eight months, three underground bishops have passed to their eternal reward: Bishop Andrew Hou Jinli, Bishop Augustine Hu Daguo, and Bishop John Yang Shudao.

Security was tightened at the funerals. You read that “security” bit every time there is a funeral for an underground bishop. What are the authorities afraid of? Another strange thing is that the homilist is instructed not to refer to the deceased as “Bishop,” but rather as “shepherd” or, in the case of Bishop Hou, simply as “priest.” That is peculiar, in that the word “bishop” means “shepherd” in Greek, the language of the New Testament’s divine inspiration.

God gave these bishops many years to witness to the true Faith. Andrew Hou Jinli, Bishop of Xiwanzi, Hebei province, was ninety-five when he died on Ash Wednesday, this past March 9, after receiving the last rites. He was ordained in 1943 and served the parish at Gonghui village for fifteen years before he was arrested and sentenced to ten years imprisonment for his Catholic Faith. After this term, he was sentenced again to reform-through-labor and sent back to Gonhui. He was not released until 1981. Four years later, he was secretly consecrated co-adjutor bishop, succeeding Bishop Melchior Zhang Kexing as the ordinary of Xiwanzi in 1988. He was a bishop much beloved by his people. Suffering many years of ill-health and confined to a wheelchair, he was still kept under surveillance until his death.

Bishop John Yang Shudao of Fuzhou had spent at least thirty years in and out of prisons. He died at the age of ninety-one on August 28, 2010. His diocese is one of the largest in China, with 250,000 Catholics and eighty-one underground priests operating in that diocese. He told UCANews in an interview in 2004 that reconciling with the open Church would be “a betrayal of faith.”

Finally, this past February 17, Bishop Augustine Hu Daguo, of the apostolic prefecture of Shiqian, Shihtsien, in the Chinese province of Guizhou, died at the age of 90. Ordained a priest in 1951, he was arrested four years later, and spent a decade in prison and many years after that in forced labor at several state-run factories. After his release, he was constantly under surveillance, and harassed as well, because of his allegiance to the pope. In 1987, he was secretly consecrated bishop by the holy martyr, Bishop Joseph Fan Xueyan, whose martyrdom compares to the saints of the catacombs in utter brutality.

Although we have immense sorrow that these three champions of the Faith are no longer tending their flocks in this vale of tears, nevertheless, their power of intercession is far greater in heaven than it was on earth. For this we can rejoice and consider such deaths precious: “*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints*” (Psalm 115:15).

Each of these bishops could have said with Saint Paul, when he knew that death was near: “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. As to the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of justice, which the Lord the just judge will render to me in that day: and not only to me, but to them also that love his coming*” (2 Tim. 4:7).

Matching Fund

Last Christmas, we appealed for additional funds in order to avoid cutting back our projects. We needed \$100,000 in the General Fund. We announced a matching program whereby an anonymous benefactor pledged that he would match, until March 31, 2011, dollar for dollar up to \$2,000 for each donation to the General Fund. During these three months, the fund that we have received eligible for matching is \$ 45,000. We are short of our goal, but are very grateful for the sacrifice you have made for the underground Church. Thank you so much.

Let us rejoice, therefore, this Easter.

With the appointment of the Chinese Salesian priest, now Archbishop Savio Hon Taifai, let us implore Saint John Bosco, the founder of the Salesians, for the canonization cause of Cardinal Kung. It will be a great help, no doubt, for the cause since the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Cardinal Angelo Amato, is also a Salesian. God works His wonders!

During this holy season of Lent, please continue to remember the underground Church in China as a part of Lenten almsgiving. In the meantime, have a glorious Feast of the Resurrection!

Thank you.

Yours sincerely in Christ



Joseph Kung
President, Cardinal Kung Foundation

Please Remember The Cardinal Kung Foundation In Your Will

Thank You