



THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

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Dear Friends:

Web Page: <http://www.cardinalkungfoundation.org>

Pope Benedict XVI, writing to the Catholic Church which is in China on May 27, 2007, established a special **annual World Day of Prayer**, urging all Catholic to pray for the Catholic Church in China. This special day is **May 24**, and is coming very soon.

The Holy Father wrote: "Dear Pastors and all the faithful, the date 24 May could in the future become an occasion for the Catholics of the whole world to be united in prayer with the Church which is in China. This day is dedicated to the liturgical memorial of Our Lady Help of Christians, who is venerated with great devotion at the Marian Shrine of Sheshan in Shanghai."

I would like that date to be kept by you as a day of prayer for the Church in China. I encourage you to celebrate it by renewing your communion of faith in Jesus our Lord and of faithfulness to the Pope, and by praying that the unity among you may become ever deeper and more visible....."

Later, in May 2008, we are most blessed that Holy Father Benedict XVI composed a [special prayer dedicated to Our Lady of Sheshan](#). This prayer is now printed on the [prayer card](#) enclosed herein. If you need more cards, please let me know.

Our Lady of Sheshan, a national Marian shrine, is located twenty-five miles southwest of Shanghai. Dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians, this Basilica was first built in 1871 on Sheshan ("Shan" is "mountain" in Chinese) in thanksgiving to Our Lady for saving Shanghai from an anti-Christian massacre. The present Basilica was re-built between 1925-1935. It stands some 350 feet above sea level. The statue, specially designed for this Basilica, stands on top of its dome. Looking up at the Basilica from afar, Our Lady and the child Jesus, with His hands stretched out, resemble a cross on the dome. Closer to the Basilica, the pilgrims are lovingly welcomed by the child Jesus with his opened hands.

During the early communist persecution in the 1950's, Bishop Ignatius Kung, the Bishop of Shanghai, together with all the priests in his diocese, took a solemn vow in this Basilica, pledging not to compromise their faith and not to deny the Church. Most priests remained faithful, choosing to spend decades in prison or labor camps instead of seeking protection in the Patriotic church. Many were martyred. Bishop Kung was imprisoned for almost 33 years. He was created a cardinal in pectore in 1979 by the Blessed Pope John Paul II. Cardinal Kung died in March 2000 while in exile in the United States

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"

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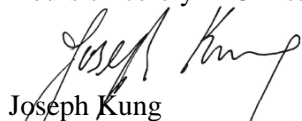
Most Rev. Dominic Tang Y M, S.J. *

* In Memoriam

Speaking at a press interview in the United States, Cardinal Kung said: "The Catholic Church in China will never disappear. I beg you to stay with us with your prayers until the Blessed Mother saves us in her own time." I sincerely hope all of us will heed the above request from His Holiness Benedict XVI, and the pleads of prayers from Cardinal Kung, so that a billion of Catholics world-wide will pray together to Our Lady of Sheshan, not only once a year on May 24, but also frequently through out the year until China returns to the "one fold and one Shepherd".

Please pray one "Hail Mary" daily for the opening of the cause of canonization for Cardinal Kung. Thank you.

Yours sincerely in Christ


Joseph Kung
President, Cardinal Kung Foundation

***Please remember Cardinal Kung Foundation in your will
Thank You***