



THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 8086, Ridgeway Center
Stamford, CT 06905, U.S.A.
Tel 203-329-9712 Fax 203-329-8415
E-Mail JMKUNG@AOL.Com

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

July 2013

Dear Friends:

Year of Faith, Evangelization, and Miracles

APOSTOLIC LETTER: On October 11, 2011, in His Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei*, Pope Benedict XVI declared that a "Year of Faith" would begin on October 11, 2012, and conclude on November 24, 2013.

DEFINITION OF FAITH: Concerning Faith, the *New Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches: "...we believe because of the authority of God himself who reveals them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived (#156)." And, again, "Faith is certain. It is more certain than all human knowledge because it is founded on the very word of God who cannot lie. . . [T]he certainty that the divine light gives is greater than that which the light of natural reason gives. (#157)"

Faith is a *believing*. Jesus said, "Blest are they who have not seen and have believed" (John 20:29). But, for those who have not seen and have not believed, Jesus refused to let their unbelief stand. He said to Thomas: "take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe!" Jesus therefore made Thomas a believer. "You became a believer because you saw me", Jesus said (John 20:29).

Therefore, faith does not have to be limited only to believing without seeing. One can also have faith, by virtue of the example of Thomas' encounter with Jesus, preceded by a *hearing* and a *seeing*. Saint Paul says further that "Faith cometh by *hearing*; and *hearing* by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). It is to preach the gospel by word and deed, so that those who do not believe may *hear* the word of God, may *see* our good deeds, may hopefully start believing, and therefore may be saved. Pope Benedict XVI emphasized that the "greatest work of charity" is the "ministry of the word". (Lenten Message 2013, section 3, quoting from his own encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*) This is *seeing*. With *the believing, the seeing, and the hearing* of the gospel by word and deed, *evangelization* will gradually sprout worldwide, reaching every soul.

Definition Of Evangelization: Pope Paul VI, in *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, asked us to evangelize by "bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to *convert* individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself." The Pope

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"

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

His Eminence

Ignatius Cardinal Kung Pin-Mei *

Honorary Chairman

Most Rev. Walter W. Curtis *

Founding Chairman

Joseph M.C. Kung

President

Mac C.P. Mak, MBA, MA (Pastoral Min)

Treasurer

Paul M. Blake

Rev. Monsignor Nicholas V. Grieco

Harold K. Grune, Esq. *

Agnes Y.H. Kung

Kieran J. McGuire, Ed. D.

HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTOR

Rev. James McCurry, OFM Conv.

General Delegate for Great Britain & Ireland

Sister Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz, OP

Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist

LEGAL COUNSEL

Brian T. O'Connor

ADVISORS

Father Paul Chan *

Father Charles Jan DiMascola

Father Robert J. Fox *

Sister Daniel Marie McCabe, CSI

Eleanor Schlafly

Most Rev. Dominic Tang Yee-Ming, S.J. *

* In Memoriam

explained that the essence of evangelization is "the proclamation of salvation in Jesus Christ and the response of a person in faith, which are both works of the Spirit of God. Evangelization must always be directly connected to the Lord Jesus Christ....There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the Kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, are not proclaimed."

Scope: Since I am a baptized and practicing Roman Catholic, and this article is written primarily for the Catholic population, the Faith we are referring to in this article is obviously the Roman Catholic Faith. The evangelization we are discussing here is, therefore, not merely proclaiming the salvation in Jesus Christ like all other "Christian" churches may be doing, but proclaiming the Faith within the perimeter of the basic dogmas of the Roman Catholic Church. The gospel exhorts us to: "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15).

Notwithstanding the traditional means of evangelization, we will discuss an evangelization action that has the potential to lead non-believers to quickly inquire about the existence of God and to respond to the proclamation of salvation in Jesus Christ; thereby implanting in them a desire to know more about God, Jesus Christ, and about the story of salvation. In doing so, we would hope to attract them to start believing, to start an enquiry to learn more about the Faith and eventually receive catechetical instructions in order to be baptized into the Catholic Church.

"With what prayerful longing and love do I follow the life of the loyal Chinese Catholic communities." Pope John Paul II, July 1, 1991

ON-GOING GOOD NEWS AND DEEDS: SPARK AND SEED: Those non-believers who have enough interest to learn about the Catholic religion are most likely first influenced or affected by some "good news and good deeds," which could be from the dedicated work of Catholic teachers, including nuns and priests, charitable works and preaching from the missionaries, personal examples of their Catholic friends, reading the life stories of some great saints, religious artwork, a piece of beautiful sacred music, bible stories, martyrs' biographies, various miracles, witnesses of confessors of the Faith, both lay and religious, and many other influences. These non-believers could be directly impressed by the aforementioned "good news of the gospel and good deeds of the faithful", which may have been properly implanted and nurtured in their minds. With the gift of the Holy Spirit, these "good news and deeds" become *sparks* or *seeds* that could move the heart and mind of these unbelievers to start seeking instructions and finally be baptized into the Catholic Church.

CONVERSION BY SIMPLE FAITH, SPARKED BY LEARNING ABOUT A MIRACLE: The examples that I described in the previous paragraph could have been covered in a majority of the situations leading to baptism. The effect of these good examples and influences are accumulative and need a long time to nurture, mature, assimilate, and grow. They are seldom spontaneous. When time goes by, the good effect and evangelical potential for those curious non-believers may gradually fade away, if they are not followed up on. Besides, most people who are converted to Catholic Church do not have the good fortune of years of deep learning in Catholic doctrine or theology, but their conversion is based on their *simple faith in basic Catholic doctrine*, which is not likely more than what is described in the Creed and, at the most, comprehension of the questions and answers in the old Baltimore Catechism or its equivalent. This **simple faith** is most likely catalyzed by some easy-to-impress events, one of which could be *miracles*.

Most people, when moved by grace, would very likely embrace the religion attended by undeniable miracles, if miracles are presented, instead of as a fairytale, as events caused by God as a manifestation of His mercy, love, and grace. Because, miracles provide the most convincing and immediate motive of credibility of the grace of God and the merciful love of our Lord.

People have been moved by miracles starting from those recorded in the Old Testament and continuing with the wondrous deeds of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels, such as the transformation of water into wine at Cana (John 2:1-11), the feeding of the five thousand with a few loaves and fishes (Mark 6:34-44), the healing of the deaf and the blind (Mark 7:31-37, 8:22-26), the raising of the widow's son from death (Luke 7:11-17), and many others. Jesus promised to work even greater miracles through His holy members: "Amen, amen I say to you, he that believeth in me, the works that I do, he also shall do; and greater than these shall he do" (John 14:12). In addition to the miracles performed by the Apostles and early martyrs, we have those miracles performed at Catholic shrines throughout the centuries, Marian apparitions, Eucharistic miracles, together with those thousands required for the canonization process of the saints.

If a person is blessed to be told the true happening of some of these aforementioned miracles, convinced that there is indeed such a miracle, this person in effect believes that there is a "Higher Being" behind this miracle. When a person is convinced that this "Higher Being" is, in reality, an omnipotent God, a "seed" could have already been sown and a "spark" could have already been formed in his heart with a strong desire to seek God by becoming His children and responding to the proclamation of salvation in Jesus Christ by becoming His disciple. History has shown that miracles have great power and influence in many parts of the world and they have resulted in significant conversions, e.g. thousands of conversions after the apparition and miracles of Our Lady of Guadalupe, at the holy fountain of Lourdes, at Fatima and at many other places.

SPARK EVANGELIZATION THROUGH CONVEYING MIRACLES: This is the 21st century. We have the technology to spread God's words instantaneously far and wide. We can take advantage of these modern marvels like television, radio, Internet, YouTube, etc., to create frequent scheduled shows and columns on miracles. Rather than the occasional long documentaries, which are infrequently produced and expensive, these miracles must be publicized on a regular basis that is consistent and lasting so that the story could be imprinted in people's mind. They could be told at different intellectual levels to suit the minds of various age groups and education levels. We have enough Catholic media resources: television, newspapers, radio stations, internet, catholic colleges and devotional societies to do the job and do it well. A show that came to my mind, comparable to the show that I hope to achieve as I described above, is the weekly television program by the Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen. Only God knows how many souls that Bishop Sheen had converted to the Catholic Church through his weekly shows for a sustained period.

The Catholic Church has literally tens of thousands of miracles to tell the world about. We should be very proud for every one of these miracles and be proud to be able to relate them to the world. In one year, we should be able to broadcast hundreds, if not thousands, of these miracle stories. We have so many incredible miracles that have occurred throughout history that we can never run out of such material to relate, thus showing God's love and mercy in all different situations.

OBJECTIVES: One should not underestimate the powerful effect of this evangelization approach. All we need is to have **each** of these millions of viewers influenced by **only one** of such thousands of miracles. There are potentially tens of millions of individual viewers. When these millions and millions of viewers, or even only a fraction of them, are **each** impressed and influenced by **only one** such miracle, start reflecting on it, and conclude that this is not science fiction and not a fairytale, but is something that truly happened, was documented and carefully examined by the Church and non-Church authorities, and proven to be true miracles, then there could be potentially hundreds of millions of people worldwide, **each** believing in **just one** of these miracles, who would want to enter the Church established by God Himself who is in fact the Author of these miracles. Needless to say, the only true Church is the one created by God Himself - the Roman Catholic Church.

A picture is worth more than a thousand words. A miracle clearly presented on a television screen in the living rooms could have an instantaneous and enormous effect on people's conception of the Catholic religion. When these effects are multiplied weekly, fifty-two times each year, I would hope, as I described in the above paragraph, at least one of these miracles will be understood and accepted by millions of people. Seeing evidence of an authentic miracle could be more effective in demonstrating God's love and spreading the Faith than thousand of hours of scholastic presentations with Faith doctrines, Church tenets, biblical knowledge, and proper attitude and deeds that are required of the faithful. All he or she needs to believe is that there is a true God performing miracles in our Catholic Church. This is hopefully enough to produce a *spark* for any potential faithful to believe and to start receiving instructions. Once the instruction phase starts, all the articles in the Creed, and moral and doctrinal matter found in numerous prayers as well as various Church laws could be comparatively easier to teach, because these potential faithful have already received the *spark* through understanding the miracles that I described above, which is the *seed* of their faith.

EVANGELIZATION POTENTIAL: I believe that the Catholic Church wants to convert as many people as possible and as quickly as possible in a peaceful environment with genuine religious freedom. We want peace and religious freedom in this world. What would be better than if some people in power in many totalitarian regimes or even in many democratic countries heard a story of a miracle from our weekly show, pondered it, and were thereby moved to think perhaps there really is a God and He really did become man to save us? By their influence, by the blessings and wisdom bestowed from the Holy Spirit, one never knows, perhaps the world will be changed for the better, the words of Christ will be more widespread, and acts of evil will be crushed. The world will once again enjoy the true freedom of religion, and the Catholic Church founded by Christ will flourish, and, more importantly, the year of Faith will not be limited only to 2013, but will be every year henceforth. As the late Cardinal Kung prayed: "Grant mercy, O Lord, to those brothers and sisters who chose to be separated from you, may they return to the one fold and one Shepherd."

POWER OF A MIRACLE - A CHINA EXAMPLE: Father Beda Chang, the principal of the High School that I attended when I was in Shanghai, China, was one of the first martyrs in 1952 in China. He resisted the government effort in forming an Independent Church (Patriotic Association) starting with changes in the Catholic schools. As a principal of a prominent Catholic school and a leader in education in Shanghai, the government targeted him and arrested him. In three short months, this young, robust, noble, and courageous priest died in jail from torture. Cardinal Kung and other clergy of the diocese wore red vestments at his funeral Mass. Following his martyrdom, many faithful prayed for a miracle from him. The Chinese Communist Party was so scared of such a miracle that the police called in a priest representative of the Diocese of Shanghai and told him that if there was any miracle from Father Chang, they would hold Bishop Kung (later Cardinal) responsible. Bishop Kung was the Catholic Bishop of Shanghai, and was also the bishop of Father Beda Chang. The police asked the priest if Bishop Kung was going to canonize Father Beda Chang. The priest told the police that the bishop did not have such power.

So, you can see, even the Chinese Communist Party leaders, who are supposed to be atheists, have serious concerns of and could be affected by a Faith miracle. Could it be because they, in fact, fear the truth and power of miracles, thereby indirectly acknowledging the existence of God? Perhaps, and hopefully, publicizing miracles on a regular basis through the Internet or other effective means is just the right tool to bring China into the one fold under the Pope.

DVD: Oh, yes. What would happen if we could convert all these TV shows and Utube episodes on miracles to DVD, and make a concerted effort to distribute them worldwide? Instead of seeing children playing video games involving violence and sex, I can visualize the day that they will start watching these DVDs on miracles and start asking all kinds of questions, thereby giving *sparks and planting seeds* not only to the children themselves, but also to their parents and guardians.

These are not my dreams. This is not my wishful thinking. They are real possibilities and easy goals. These are the intentions of my prayer that I hope to unite with yours.

SIMPLE FAITH: I believe that a great majority of Catholic converts were moved by a *simple faith* and they keep their faith very simple and childlike. Having a Ph.D. in theology does not guarantee one heaven, but having simple strong faith, simply following God's will and commandments, fearing God's awesome and miraculous power with a deep love for His mercy as demonstrated by His gifts of miracles, is, I believe, an easier way to gain the heavenly life after our earthly journey.

During the persecution in China (which is still continuing), thousands of students and even new Catholics walked into labor camps based on Our Lord's admonitions that, "no one can serve two masters (Matt. 6:24)," and "Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matt. 16:25) and "Whoever acknowledges me before men I will acknowledge before my father in heaven. Whoever disowns me before men I will disown before my Father in heaven" (Luke 12:8). They stayed in the labor camps for ten, twenty, thirty or more years. Many never returned. Most of them never advanced beyond a high school education. They truly had simple faith. On the contrary, some scholarly priests with advanced degrees from renowned seminaries in Europe managed to find sufficient reasons in their hearts and mind to justify denying the Pope and to lead the communist established Patriotic Association sponsored Church.

CONCLUSION: I recognize the fact that many people do receive grace from God and are converted to the Catholic Church by attending scholastic presentations with long periods of reflection. Many of them are doctors of theology with Ph.Ds. or its equivalent. Many of them are now wearing the heavenly crown. There are also many others converted to the Catholic Church through the hard work of missionaries. There are still many others entering the Catholic Church by other various avenues. By elaborating the effect of spreading the words of miracles, this offers yet another means to spread the seeds of the Faith in areas which may not have been touched enough by the traditional ways of evangelization.

Cardinal Kung: Speaking of miracles, **may I ask you to pray one "Hail Mary" daily for the opening of the cause for canonization of Cardinal Kung?** Once the canonization process begins, hopefully not in a distant future, many Chinese faithful can publicly pray to Cardinal Kung for miracles like what they had prayed for from Father Beda Chang. I just could not imagine how fruitful the evangelization of the Chinese people could become if miracles would happen that are broadcasted far and wide as clearly attributed to Cardinal Kung's intercession with the approval of the Vatican.

A Book on Cardinal Kung

A new book, "**Ignatius, The Life of Ignatius Cardinal Kung Pin-Mei**", has just been published on June 4, 2013. The author of this book is Monsignor Stephen DiGiovanni, S.T.D. who is the Pastor of the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist in Stamford, Connecticut. He is also my Pastor. This is an exciting and another important step to all the friends of Cardinal Kung for the request of opening the cause of his canonization. I believe that you will be inspired by Cardinal Kung's life and his episcopal ministry brought forth by Monsignor DiGiovanni through his research and scholarly insight. You may purchase it through **Amazon** by searching "Cardinal Kung" in its book section. It is a paperback with 218 pages, costing only \$8.99 plus shipping for each book. There is no shipping charge if one buys more than \$25 worth of this book. It could be an ideal Christmas present for your loved ones.

This is not a complete biography of Cardinal Kung. Monsignor DiGiovanni wrote in his Preface: "In June, 2005, Bishop William E. Lori, then Bishop of Bridgeport, asked me to begin studying Cardinal Kung's life as well as the canonical documents concerning the process of beatification and canonization. This was in response to numerous requests Bishop Lori had received to begin the process of canonization. This small book is the fruit of my studies, which I offer for two reasons: that the witness and saintly heroism of Cardinal Kung be known, and that those who read this may be moved in charity to pray that the cause for canonization of Ignatius Kung Pin-Mei be opened."

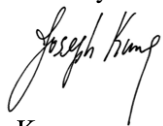
I encourage you, upon completion of reading this book, to write a short reflection on it and submit it to Amazon's book review section under Cardinal Kung's book title.

On-line Donation to the Cardinal Kung Foundation

Just a reminder. Donations to this foundation could be conveniently made through our website. The address is www://cardinalkungfoundation.org. Click "E-Donate" button at the right upper corner of our home page.

Thank you. Have an enjoyable and blessed summer.

Yours sincerely in Christ



Joseph Kung
President, Cardinal Kung Foundation

Please Remember The Cardinal Kung Foundation In Your Will

Thank You