



## THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

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Christmas 2013

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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the sky with the brightness of God. And to whom did God send His choir? To humble shepherds tending their flocks in the countryside outside the town. And one of the angels stood by the shepherds and said: “Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people: For, this day, is born to you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger” (Luke 2:12). And then what happened? “[S]uddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of goodwill” (Luke 2: 9-14). The shepherds, with their pure heart, accepted this most unusual greetings without any doubt, and they immediately went to Bethlehem as the angel instructed them. Arriving at the stable, they saw, they adored, and, they told everyone all about what they had seen and heard. And, as Saint Luke relates, all that heard the words of the shepherds “wondered” (Luke 2:18).

This is the simple Christmas story. We love this story because it is true. **Christmas is a miracle. It is not a fable. It was true 2013 years ago and it is true today.** We must not listen to liberal skeptics who say that the Bethlehem story is a fable. No, do not listen to them, no matter who they are, even if they come in the guise of an “angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14). Let us all meditate on this miracle with the same humility, pure heart, and simple faith of the shepherds, and tell everyone the truth that the salvation of mankind begins with Christmas when the founder of the Catholic Church was born.

Dear Friends:

Continuing with the theme of our last newsletter on the importance of broadcasting the stories of miracles as an additional tool to spread the Catholic faith in the spirit of the New Evangelization, we must say, first of all, the greatest, and the most important miracles are still those associated with the mystery of God becoming Man 2013 years ago.

Christmas, as a miracle, may not be as spectacular as the parting of the Red Sea, but it is infinitely more powerful. When we think of the Birth of Christ, we are drawn to His Immaculate Mother, whose “Yes” to God, “Let it be done unto me according to thy word,” was so powerful (Luke 1:38) that it opened the heavens and brought down the Son of God to a new home in His mother's womb.

In Christianity, God reaches down to Man, not in thunder and lightning as He did with Moses on Mount Sinai, but as a Baby: “For a CHILD IS BORN to us, and a son is given to us” (Isaiah 9:6).

Now look at how Jesus was born! He was born of a Virgin-Mother. That in itself is already truly a miracle. And then what happened? (Let us pretend for a moment that we do not know the story.) Well, then, Jesus' mother could have wrapped Jesus' tiny body in soft, royal, purple-dyed fleece with golden trim and placed Him on a feathery pillow in a princely little bed. Well, is He not a King? Would not a Queen-Mother do that for her Child-King? Yes, but not for this King, who came to us at Christmas as a Victim, to suffer and die for our salvation. No, God arranged it that His Son be born in time *on the road*. There, in Bethlehem, the city of David, His earthly father, Joseph, could not even find a room in an inn. Poor Saint Joseph had to be content to take his very pregnant wife and accept shelter for her from the cold in a cave where domestic animals were docked and fed with hay. And there, in that lonely place, quiet but for the cackling of burning twigs, the mooing of a cow or two, and the braying of a donkey or two, the time of Mary's deliverance came. It was midnight: “And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger” (Luke 2:7).

There was singing just over a distant hill in the middle of that night. Perhaps the Holy Family heard it from the stable. The Baby Jesus certainly did because it was God the Father, who arranged for the heavenly chorus to stir up the night in song and illuminate

About two weeks later, we will have the coming of the Wise Men, the Magi, to adore “Him who is the King of the Jews” (Matthew 2:2). Following the star, which they had seen in the East, it led them to Jerusalem and then reappeared to lead them to Bethlehem. By this time, however, the Holy Family had found lodging in a house. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that the whole city of Jerusalem was “troubled” at the presence and the words of the Magi. For they were kings as well as Wise Men, and they must have come with an impressive retinue. “And [following the star, they entered] into the house, [and] they found the child with Mary, His mother, and falling down they adored Him; and opening their treasures, they offered him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matt. 2: 1 & 11).

This is the *Epiphany* and it is especially a great feast for all of us, for the Wise Men represent the whole world and all races of humanity. Let all the angels of God and all people adore Him. This is the beginning of the tradition of exchanging gifts during the Christmas season. This custom has nothing to do with the Santa Claus.

If people truly believed in the miracle that is Christmas (beginning first with us Catholics), putting away the emphasis from Santa Claus and the reindeer, and celebrating this stupendous Event that split time in two as to what came before (called *Before Christ*, "B.C.") and what comes after it (called *Anno Domini*, "A.D."), then surely there would be “peace on earth” at least to “people of goodwill.” Peace is particularly important at this time when so many parts of the world are at war, ethnic violence, especially to Christians. Therefore, when we prepare our gifts, let us include a donation to these refugees, clergy and nuns working in the war torn areas or those suffering religious persecution. This peace and charity that must have been reigning in the hearts of the faithful for the last 2013 years would be a public manifestation of the miracle of Christmas. Such a testimony will convert the heart of the world.

Our Lord performed countless miracles during His public life, so many that Saint John wrote: “But there are also many other things which Jesus did; which, if they were written every one, the world itself, I think, would not be able to contain the books that should be written” (21:25). In His Passion and on the Cross, however, Jesus performed no miracle. He hid His divinity to such an extent that His human soul could cry out: “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46). By His wounds and His death we are redeemed from sin. So helpless did Jesus surrender Himself on the cross that even the sun vanished from the sight and darkness covered the earth, and the rocks split asunder, and the very elements shuddered at the spectacle. Then, on the third day, He manifested His All-Mightiness in a most wonderful way: He rose from the dead in a glorified body. This was His second equally greatest miracle, His triumph over death, our Hope that we may rise with Him in glory on the last day. In 1954, at the height of the persecution in Shanghai, Cardinal Kung echoed this awesome truth to his clergy, affirming to them the one hope they have in those dark fearful times: “If we renounce our faith, we will disappear and there will not be a resurrection. If we are faithful, we will still disappear, but there will be a resurrection.”

### **Are they also miracles that happened in the midst of disasters?**

#### **Philippines / Typhoon Haiyan**

In the wake of typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, the worst typhoon ever recorded to hit land, a gigantic statue of Jesus stands unscathed amidst the rubble in the coastal town of Tanauan, in the central Philippines. Many are calling it a miracle. We would be hard-pressed to offer a better explanation.

There it is with collapsed houses and buildings all around it and, as you can see in the photo here and on this site (<http://religion.blogs.cnn,2013/11/13/jesus-statue-unscathed-by-typhoon-haiyan/>), there is not a mark on the statue. Certainly this is a sign of hope in the midst of such suffering and destruction.

You may be annoyed with God for sending such destructive storm to the Philippines, but God must have His reasons. All we can do is pray that the thousands who died were taken by their Creator in the state of grace. The Catholic Faith has been very strong in the Philippines. May the victims rest in peace. God have mercy on them all.



#### **Japan - Jesuit and Franciscan Survivors**

Countless such "miracles" have occurred. One of the most impressive I recall is that of the Jesuit survivors of the atomic bombing of **Hiroshima** whose religious presbytery was less than a mile away from ground zero. I was sent an account of this "miracle" in August, 2005, written by Dr. Steven A. Rhinehart and Dr. Richard F. Hubbell, entitled “The Rosary Miracle at Hiroshima,” which I have capsulized in the following rendition:

Fr Hubert Schiffer, a German Jesuit, was one of eight survivors. The Jesuit church of Our Lady of the Assumption was destroyed, but the presbytery remained intact. “A terrific explosion filled the air with one bursting thunder stroke. An

invisible force lifted me from the chair, hurled me through the air, shook me, battered me [and] whirled me round and round...” He raised himself from the ground and looked around, but could see nothing in any direction. Everything for a mile around had been leveled to the ground. Along with his fellow Jesuits, Father Schiffer believed “**that we survived because we were living the message of Fatima. We lived and prayed the rosary daily in that home.**” (*Catholic Herald*, August 5, 2010) The blast occurred just after Father finished offering Mass and as he sat down to breakfast. Father Schiffer gave many talks throughout the world recounting the horrific event. He said that he was subject to about two hundred examinations and interviews by doctors and healthcare professionals who were stymied by the absence of any effects of radiation burning or inflammation due to the poison. Medical experts said that these priests “**ought to be dead.**” Father Schiffer told everyone to whom he related the story that he was certain that **the Blessed Mother encompassed him and the other priests with a protective shield.**

Father Pedro Arrupe, who, in 1965, became the twenty-eighth Superior General of the Jesuits, was one of the eight priest survivors of Hiroshima at the dropping of the atomic bomb. His own vocation to the priesthood was occasioned by personally witnessing a cure at the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. Having had medical training before entering the seminary, Father Arrupe heroically went about Hiroshima tending to as many of the wounded as he could. He recalled: “**The chapel, half destroyed, was overflowing with the wounded, who were lying on the floor very near to one another, suffering terribly, twisted with pain.**” (Eureka Street 8 August 2007 Hiroshima Insider’s Imprint on Jesuit Sensibility)

That is not all! Three days later, when a second A-bomb was dropped on **Nagasaki**, a community of Conventual Franciscans, whose house was established in that city by Saint Maximilian Kolbe, also escaped death at ground zero. Their friary, as well, withstood the force of that explosion and the religious living there were unharmed. They, too, were living under the mantle of the Immaculata, and praying the Rosary in community daily.

**How else can these three events be explained except by a miracle?**

### **Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of Cardinal Kung Foundation Christmas Offering -- a Music CD for "Sacred Music to Remember"**

The Cardinal Kung Foundation is happy to offer our benefactors a free Christmas gift in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of our apostolate and to express our gratitude for your generous financial support and prayers to our brothers and sisters in the underground Catholic Church in China in the last two decades. It is a CD recording of traditional Catholic music sung by the voice of Yvonne Cheng, a gifted soprano soloist who has captivated audiences in numerous performances and solo recitals across the globe including Carnegie Hall in New York and La Scala in Milan, Italy. She has also sung in numerous solemn Masses of Cardinal Kung including his funeral Mass. Her entries for the CD are:

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|---|---|---|
| 1) Domine Deus (Latin), <b>Vivaldi</b>  | 2) Panis Angelicus (Latin), <b>Franck</b>   | 3) Salve Regina (Italian), <b>Puccini</b>   |
| 4) Quia Respexit Humilitatem (from Our Lady’s Magnificat) (Latin), <b>Bach</b>                                      | 5) Pie Jesu (Latin, a requiem), <b>Faure</b>  | 6) Ave Maria (Italian), <b>Mascagni</b>   |
| 7) Agnus Dei (Latin), <b>Bizet</b>  | 8) How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them (English), <b>Handel’s Messiah</b>  | 9) Hear Ye, Israel (English), <b>Mendelsshon</b> , [Elijah]   |
| 10) Ave Maria (Latin), <b>Schubert</b>  | 11) Salve Regina (Latin): <i>Cardinal Kung would sing this prayer after his daily Mass.</i> <b>Simple Tone</b>  | 12) Immaculate Mary (English), <b>Hymn</b>  |
| 13) I Have Loved You (English), <b>Hymn</b>   | 14) The Call (English), <b>William</b>  | 15) Alleluia! Tu Es Petrus ( <i>While still under house arrest, Cardinal Kung was allowed to meet with Cardinal Sin of the Philippines, who was in China on a friendship visit. Unable to meet privately with Cardinal Sin, Cardinal Kung was asked by Cardinal Sin to sing a song while the two of them were seated at opposite ends of a long dining table in the presence of Communist leaders and Patriotic Church bishops. Cardinal Kung sang this song as a sign of his loyalty to the Vicar of Christ.</i> ) (Latin), <b>Gregorian Chant</b> |
| 16) The Great Pope (Composed by a <b>faithful Catholic</b> who subsequently was imprisoned in the 1950s) (Chinese). | 17) Our Lady of Sheshan ( <i>Pope Benedict XVI declared May 24th an annual World Day of Prayer for China. He himself wrote a Prayer to Our Lady of Sheshan. The shrine is at the outskirts of Shanghai in the diocese of Cardinal Kung.</i> ) (Chinese) | 18) Trumpet Call (composed by organist <b>W. Ogden Booker</b> who also accompanied all pieces in the CD)  |

Please let the Foundation know if you would like a copy of this commemorative CD. This CD will only be sent upon your request. You will be delighted with these beautiful and inspiring songs.

### **CKF Update and China News**

1) Through your generosity, the Cardinal Kung Foundation is currently financing over 100 underground priests, nuns, novices and seminarians in advanced education in China and overseas. The Foundation also financed the training in apostolate work in China for those who have no chance of going overseas. We support an underground orphanage as well. We have transferred Mass stipends for approximately 4,000 Masses to the underground priests this year. To many priests, these Mass stipends significantly support their living expenses. Due to the nature of the underground church, the economic boom in China during the past decades did not extend to the underground Church. On the contrary, the significant inflation in China made it very difficult for the underground Church. During this season of charity and hope, please remember the underground Church. Thank you.

## 2) Death of Bishop Peter Liu

Retired Bishop Peter Liu Guandong of Yixian, former acting president of the “underground” Church’s bishops’ conference, died on October 28 at the age of 94. In 1997, with the help of several underground priests, Bishop Liu escaped from house detention and lived in hiding for the last sixteen years of his life. In 1958, Bishop Liu was arrested for the second time and received a life sentence for opposing the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association. When he was eventually released in 1981, he boldly resumed his duties. He had suffered a debilitating stroke in 1994 while under house arrest.

## 3) Death of Bishop Aloysius Jin

Bishop Aloysius Jin Luxian, S. J., the Bishop of Shanghai appointed by the Patriotic Association, died on April 27, 2013 at the age of 96. A highly controversial personality and a former parishioner as well as a member of the diocesan staff of Cardinal Kung, Bishop Jin took over Cardinal Kung's diocese, the diocese of Shanghai, without a mandate from the Pope and without any consultation with Cardinal Kung, while Cardinal Kung was still living and had been released from prison.. He strongly denounced the Pope for elevating Bishop Kung to Cardinal in 1991. However, about a decade ago, he sought recognition from the Vatican and was approved. He continued to serve as the Vice President of the Patriotic Association until about a year before his death. At his request, his cremated remains were buried at sea.

## 4) Bishop Thaddeus Ma

Please continue to pray for Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin of Shanghai who is still confined to the Shanghai Seminary, which is under control of the Patriotic Association. Bishop Ma was arrested in July 2012, immediately after his consecration, when he publicly resigned from the Patriotic Association. Now, he is under house arrest and not allowed to perform his duties as a bishop. Bishop Ma did make a brief public appearance in mid-October to attend a memorial service for a Catholic editor and colleague, Shen Baoyi, who died on Oct 20 at the age of 90. Bishop Ma had not the freedom, however, to make any public statement at that time.

## 5) Cardinal Zen Receives Prestigious Awards

On October 23, the Divinity School of the University of Hong Kong bestowed its **Lifetime Companionship Award** on the retired Joseph Cardinal Zen for his undaunted work in serving the imprisoned. Retired, but hardly so. The Cardinal continues to work with the incarcerated. At the mid-Autumn festival, September 19, the cardinal distributed mooncakes to every prisoner in Hong Kong. This is a symbol of unity in the Chinese family. Pope Francis supported his initiative and donated \$5,200 for the cause. In addition, on the last day of October, Canadian Prime Minister John Baird awarded the **John G. Diefenbaker Award** to Joseph Cardinal Zen for his indefatigable work for human rights and religious liberty.

Cardinal Zen publically condemned the Chinese government for continuing their persecutions on the Roman Catholic Church in China. He further warns, according to *Catholic Register* news release, of an impending schism in the Chinese Catholic Church and blames the Vatican for its policy of "appeasement and compromise" for allowing Communist Party officials to run roughshod over China's bishops.

## 6) More underground priests jailed

Two priests from the underground Church are in prison since early October. They are "guilty" of having organized catechism classes for adults in the town of Qinyuan, near Baoding in Hebei. Four lay faithful, who helped the priests in their pastoral activities have been forced to pay a fine of 4,000 Yuan each (about 400 Euro), accounting to more than two months' salary of a skilled worker in China. According to *AsiaNews* source, there are at least 10 priests in similar conditions, some have even been sentenced to the forced labor camp for "reform through labor".

## 7) Former President of China served an arrest warrant

A Spanish court has issued an international arrest warrant for the former Chinese President Jiang Zemin and four other leaders on charges of having committed genocide against the Tibetan population. The International Campaign for Tibet, an association based in Washington, said that ***"none of the leaders appointed....will run the risk of traveling abroad, because they could be arrested and interrogated....For all of them there is the possibility that their overseas bank accounts will be frozen"***.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely in Christ



Joseph Kung  
President, Cardinal Kung Foundation

***We wish you and your family a holy, blessed and merry Christmas.***

**Please Remember The Cardinal Kung Foundation In Your Will**

**Thank You and Happy New Year**