



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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miraculous Birth in Bethlehem. We also mentioned some miracles that happened in our lifetime, such as the miraculous survival of the Jesuit and Franciscan religious at ground zero of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki because they lived in the spirit of the Rosary.

There are thousands of miracles performed throughout Church history. We asked previously: If the Catholic media worldwide were to popularize these miracles on a regular basis and to produce them as DVD's, to be sold or given free all over the world, would Catholics be better educated and therefore better equipped to promote these miracles for the consideration of non-Catholics? This is not my dream, but is an intention of my prayers to God.

Yes, for the faithful, to believe without seeing is more meritorious, but for those who do not have the gift of faith, "seeing is believing." This "seeing" could be accomplished by repeatedly reminding people of the miracles through media.

How did the Twelve Apostles authenticate the message of the Gospel to the pagans in their mission? By miracles. Jesus promised them, and His saints to come, that they would be given the gift of performing miracles to help them in saving souls and conquering the world's darkness. "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). And indeed they did, by the grace of God and the help of miracles, conquer the world for Christ the King. "[A]nd by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people" (Acts 5:12)

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Easter 2014

Dear Friends:

May you be filled with peace and joy this Easter and throughout the year.

In our two most recent newsletters, we proposed that the New Evangelization should give more emphasis to miracles. There are many ways of evangelizing, but, for people of simple faith, we believe miracles, when publicized and properly explained, could be a tremendous and spontaneous reaction for them to take the first step to believe. It could also be the "spark" that is easier to ignite the hearts of those who have never heard of the Gospel. Having had this "spark", instructions in the Creed and the Catechism could follow.

Doubtlessly, one of the important purposes for God to perform miracles by Himself or through his saints is to sow the seed of faith. Even though God did not have to prove His power, Jesus chose to perform miracles and cited these as His almighty divine power. To John the Baptist's question if He is the one to come, or "shall we look for another", Jesus replied: "...the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." (Matthew 11:5-6)

In our 2013 July newsletter, we recalled how even the Communist atheists in China feared the possibility of miracles being performed by my former teacher, Father Beda Chang, S. J., a holy priest martyred by the Shanghai government in 1952. So, they put guards at the tomb of Father Chang in an attempt to prevent any unexplainable event that might happen that could be attributed to Father Chang's miracle, and in the meantime to keep the faithful away. The government further warned Father Chang's bishop, Ignatius Kung, that if any miracles should happen there, they would hold Bishop Kung responsible. Astounding, but true!

We also made a detailed analysis in that newsletter how and why revealing and emphasizing miracles could "spark" the growth of a seed of faith in our efforts of evangelization.

In our 2013 Christmas newsletter, we highlighted the "miracle of miracles" as spoken by the Blessed Pope John Paul II in his General Audience on January 13, 1988 about the miraculous Incarnation of the Son of God in the womb of the Virgin Mary and His

Inasmuch as Jesus Himself had firstly asked His Apostles to save souls by giving them the gift of performing miracles, and indeed secondly continued to fulfill His promise by the thousands of miracles in the past centuries even into the modern days through the intercession of Holy Mary and the saints, shouldn't we all partner God's efforts by repeatedly reminding Christians and non-Christians of God's love for mankind through these miracles? The answer has to be yes.

When we are in distress, or just in special need of something that is not likely to be achieved in an ordinary way, we tend to pray to Jesus or to pray for the intercession of the Blessed Mother, or to a saint for a miracle. How many times have we prayed for a miracle? How many times have we indeed received an unexpected favorable outcome, which sounds like a miracle in answer, without announcing it publicly, but admitting in our heart, saying to ourselves "oh, my God, that is a miracle!" Inasmuch as we believed and have had so much faith in asking for a miracle to start with, shouldn't we share those miracles that we know of, and perhaps that of our own experience, with other people, especially those non-believers, as a grateful acknowledgment of God's benevolent intervention in our distress and to create that "spark of faith" in others?

If one desires a miracle for the good of his soul or for that of others, one should go to Mary. She is the one who requested, with faith and confidence, that her Son perform His first miracle at Cana. When Mary told the waiters at the marriage feast to "Do whatever he tells you", she was not only asking for a favor to keep the bride and groom from any embarrassment for running out of wine, she was purposely asking her Son to do this miracle for them *publicly*.

Easter: "I am the Resurrection and the Life"

During Eastertide, it has for a long time been customary among eastern-rite Christians to greet each other with the joyful exclamation, "Christ is Risen!" And the response is: "Truly, He is Risen!" During the height of the Communist persecution in 1954, Cardinal Kung reminded the priests of the Shanghai Diocese at the semi-annual retreat of the clergy by proclaiming, "If we renounce our faith, we will disappear and there will not be a resurrection. If we are faithful, we still will disappear, but there will be a resurrection" This is the promise of Easter, and it was this promise that accompanied the thousands of martyrs and "dry martyrs" in China during the past six decades.

Jesus foretold His passion and resurrection five times in the Gospels. The Resurrection verified that all the other miracles He performed were accomplished by His own divine power. Jesus had raised three people from the dead by His own authority in His three years of public life — the most spectacular being that of Lazarus who was four days buried: "Lord, if thou hadst been here," his sister Martha to Jesus, "my brother had not died. But now also I know that whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee," Jesus answered: "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, although he be dead, shall live." (John 11: 21 & 25)

We speak of the Resurrection as one of the two greatest *visible* miracles of Christ. He was seen visibly by many. In fact, there are ten apparitions of the Risen Christ recorded in scripture before His ascension into heaven. Then, there is the first apparition of the Risen Savior which we know by tradition, not from the Bible, and that was, of course, to His Blessed Mother, as affirmed by Saint Ignatius in the fourth week's meditations of his *Spiritual Exercises*.

Eucharist - An Invisible Miracle

We previously hoped and prayed that propagating miracles could create a "spark" to lead people in believing the existence of God; thereby hopefully to baptize them with Faith in His Son. These miracles we wrote about before are *visible* miracles. But, not all of Our Lord's miracles were visible. There is an *invisible* miracle of Christ that He performed at the Last Supper when He transubstantiated Himself, His own Body and precious Blood, in the bread and wine.

This miracle of transubstantiation, which is very difficult to understand, is greater than any others. This is the great "mystery of Faith". It is this great mystery, the "Mystery of Faith," that the liturgy explicitly refers to in the consecration of the Mass. In giving us His glorified, immortal Body and Blood in the Eucharist, Jesus has an incredible union in mind, a union that makes us "partakers in the divine nature." (2 Peter 1:4) This is the ineffable Gift of God to man. He gives this Gift, His very Self, to us in Holy Communion. Because of its invisibility, it needs more help from the Holy Spirit to create the same kind of "spark" to lead the non-believers to believe this "Mystery of Faith." Logically, non-believers may have already been moved by this "spark of faith" from a visible miracle before they could have accepted this invisible "Mystery of Faith."

Propagating the Miracles -- "Be Not Afraid"

Miracles are *public prodigies* that defy the laws of nature and they are abundant in the Catholic Church. Miracles happened, because God wanted them to happen with a purpose. That is to glorify God in order to make people to believe that the Catholic Church is the only Christian Church established by Christ Himself 1981 years ago; therefore, it has to be unequivocally true; as is proclaimed in the Nicene Creed at Mass: "We believe in one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church". "Be not afraid" to tell people this.

China News

1) Bishop Joseph FAN ZhongLiang, S.J., Bishop of Shanghai, has died -- Bishop Joseph FAN ZhongLiang, S.J., the underground Bishop of Shanghai appointed by Blessed Pope John Paul II, died this year on March 16 at 5:58 pm Shanghai local time. He was 96 years old. Born in 1918, he was ordained a priest in 1951, and later was arrested by the communist government. He spent over thirty years in jail and labor camp since the 1950's. He was clandestinely ordained coadjutor Bishop of Shanghai on February 27, 1985, while his predecessor, then Bishop Ignatius Kung, was serving a life sentence in the communist jail. (Bishop Kung was later released from prison after thirty years and then confined to house arrest). Upon the death of Cardinal Kung in March 2000, Bishop Fan was appointed by the pope as Cardinal Kung's legitimate successor. The Chinese government, however, had appointed in 1985 their own man, Bishop Aloysius Jin of the Catholic Patriotic Association, as the Bishop of Shanghai without Papal Mandate. The government never recognized Bishop Fan as the Bishop of Shanghai. He was forbidden by the government to carry out his pastoral duty. The Chinese government then arrested him and for the last two decades until the day he died, he was confined under house arrest. Bishop Fan and many courageous and faithful pastors and shepherds in the underground church served as most effective witnesses of the gospel in jail and outside of jail. They chose to follow the Successor of St. Peter and to preach the fullness of the gospel over their own life and liberty. As this letter goes to press, we learned five thousand Catholics, including representative from the United States, Canadian, Australia, and Switzerland embassies, and seventy priests from both open and underground communities, each wearing a red stole symbolizing martyrdom, gathered at a funeral parlor in Shanghai to celebrate the requiem Mass for Bishop Fan. The funeral parlor is decorated by all red flowers, again symbolizing martyrdom. Bishop Ma Daqin, the Auxiliary Bishop of Shanghai, was absent. He is still under house arrest. The Shanghai government rejected the underground Church's request to offer the Requiem Mass at St. Ignatius Cathedral which is the largest church in Shanghai capable of seating 2,500 worshippers. In the meantime, Bishop Fan is forbidden to be laid out wearing any of his episcopal insignia, such as miter, pectoral cross, etc. As the result of heated complaints from the faithful, Bishop Fan was finally allowed to be clothed with his purple zucchetto. This event is developing. Please pray with the entire Church in China to thank God for Bishop Fan's heroic ministry and for the repose of his soul.

2) Pope Francis' remark on China -- In an interview with Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* on March 5, 2014, Pope Francis said: "I sent a letter to President Xi Jinping when he was elected, three days after me, and he replied to me. There are relations. They are a great people, whom I love."

3) Cardinal Zen on Church in China -- In an interview with the *Asia News*, Cardinal Joseph Zen, the Bishop Emeritus of Hong Kong, said that Beijing was carrying on its "work of destruction" against the local Catholic Church: "With the power position they have acquired in dealing with religions, they are destroying not only the religions, but also the good name of our nation....the only purpose of their work seems to be 'enslaving' our Church (unfortunately with much success) by forcing our bishops and priests to betray their conscience, their faith".

4) Bishop Ma Daqin -- More than a year ago on July 7, 2012, Ma Daqin, with the approval of the Pope and the Chinese government, was ordained the Auxiliary Bishop of Shanghai. During the ordination, he announced publicly that he would give up his positions with the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association in order to "focus on the pastoral work and evangelization". He was promptly arrested and was put in house arrest at Shanghai Sheshan Seminary. In December 2012, the government, through its "Bishops' conference", revoked the appointment of Bishop Ma Daqin as auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Shanghai. "For his steadfast faith in the face of the governmental power which has impeded him from exercising his religious ministry", *Inside The Vatican* magazine elected Bishop Ma for a second year in a row among its "Top Ten" people of 2013. With the death of Bishop Fan, together with the house arrest and revocation of Bishop Ma's appointment as auxiliary bishop of Shanghai, the largest diocese in China is now left without any bishop. We pray that the Chinese Government will release Bishop Ma from his house arrest so that he could minister this important diocese. This is an important opportunity for President Xi of China to show the world the meaning of religious freedom in China under his watch by releasing Bishop Ma from his house arrest.

5) Critical problem in the underground Church. Eighty Percent Vacancy Rate for Bishops -- One reason that the underground Catholic Church in China was able to grow and to maintain its pastoral activities in the past was primarily due to the "special authority" bestowed to the underground bishops by the Holy See a number of decades ago. This "special authority" granted permission to the underground bishops to select and consecrate the new bishops without first notifying or obtaining permission to do so from the Vatican. In other words, the underground bishop was empowered to ordain the new bishops first, then notify the Vatican later. The pope accepts these self-ordinations as legitimate ordinations. Even though this "special authority" is an important authorization from the Roman Pontiff, it is nevertheless, according to Church canon law, not the regular procedure for selecting and consecrating new bishops. However, because the Church in China has been for a long period under an extremely hostile regime, the Pope granted that "special authority" to underground bishops for the survival of the underground Church.

But, Pope Benedict XVI decided to normalize the procedures of selecting and ordaining underground bishops. In his letter to China in 2007, Pope Benedict XVI rescinded this "special authorization" from the underground Church. Henceforth, the underground bishops are no longer allowed to select and ordain their own bishops without a prior authorization from the pope.

Most of the underground bishops are now elderly in their late 80's or 90's. They are dying off rapidly without timely successors. There are fifty dioceses in the 1990's under the control of the underground Church. At least forty of these dioceses are now without functional underground bishops. Having taken away in 2007 this "special authority" from the underground Church, the pope has only authorized five underground bishops in the last seven years to replace approximately forty bishops (ordinaries) who have either gone to their eternal reward in our Father's house, or retired, or are under the government's captivity. This is an eighty percent vacancy rate for the underground bishoprics which, by any standard, is much less than desirable. Many of these vacant underground bishops' diocese have now been taken over by bishops belonging to the Patriotic Association (P.A.). Even though most of these P.A. bishops are now recognized by Holy See, they are not accepted by the underground communities.

Accordingly, without bishops, many underground dioceses are in the danger of withering away. In fact, some have already withered away. Because of this withering, the influence of the underground Church in China is being greatly eroded.

A bishop represents the universal Church before the faithful and clergy of the diocese. Ignatius Cardinal Kung and Archbishop Dominic Tang accepted Holy See's requests to be bishops even after the religious persecution has already started. They completely disregarded their own safety for the sake of continuing the Catholic Church in China. These loyal shepherds did not abandon their faithful and they served as a strong symbol of fortitude against any temporal power that would deny Church of Christ its liberty and catholicity. The loyal Catholics in China modeled themselves after their bishops and clergy, and remained staunchly faithful even unto martyrdom.

The underground Church, which has proved itself in its irreconcilable loyalty, obedience, and faith to Christ with thousands of martyrs and tens of thousands who, like "dry martyrs", suffered in captivity for a very long period by the communist government. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church. However, it seems, this underground church is slowly being choked off by the lack of bishops. These valiant men and women are the champions of the Church in China. They suffered and died because they would not renounce the authority of the pope and the faith in Christ. A number of female religious communities who were founded by underground diocesan bishops are now without a bishop and are forced to exist under Patriotic bishops. We cannot put it any more succinctly than Saint Jerome did when he confronted the schismatics that were dividing the Church in the late fourth century with these words: "He who is for the See of Peter is for me." (Epistle 57)

One thing is certain for the underground Church. The pressure and persecution from the government and from the Catholic Patriotic Association have not abated.

May I, therefore, request your continuing prayers for the survival of the real Roman Catholic Church in China? Thank you.

6) Annual Prayers for Catholics in China -- In his letter to Catholics in China in 2007, Pope Benedict XVI declared that *"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..."*.

We invite you, your family, and your friends to join us, together with millions of others all over the world, *on May 24* to pray for the well-being, evangelization, and growth of our Church in China in order to demonstrate our fraternal solidarity and solicitude for our brothers and sisters in China and to ask God to reward their perseverance in witness. I also invite you to pray for the ending of religious persecution in China that has been going on there for more than sixty years, the renewal of genuine religious freedom in China, and the exoneration of all criminal charges against religious prisoners, including many Roman Catholic bishops, priests, and faithful, and their release from jails and labor camps in China.

If you can offer a Mass for China, please send a stipend directly to your parish or to any other church and request the priest to offer a Holy Mass on *May 24*, or a date close to *May 24* *to pray for the persecuted Church in China*. Please let us know if you have requested this Mass so that we can record them. Thank you.

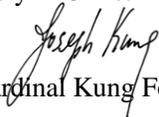
A Music CD, "Sacred Music to Remember"

Lastly, in our 2013 Christmas newsletter, we announced an offer to our benefactors of a free 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 for our brothers and sisters in the underground Catholic Church in China. It is a CD recording of traditional Catholic music sung by Yvonne Cheng, a gifted soprano who has captivated audiences in numerous performances including Carnegie Hall in New York and La Scala in Milan, Italy. We would be happy to send you one free copy of this CD upon your request. For more information, please go to our website <http://www.cardinalkungfoundation.org/fd/FD20anniversary.php> .

Thank you.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Joseph Kung
President, Cardinal Kung Foundation



Please Remember The Cardinal Kung Foundation In Your Will

Thank You