



THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

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Easter 2016

Dear Friends:

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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* In Memoriam

**Because by Your Holy Cross You Have Redeemed the World
May the Blessings of Our Risen Lord Fill You with Grace, Peace, Joy, Love and Hope**

During the height of the Communist persecution in 1954, Cardinal Kung, speaking to the clergy of the Shanghai Diocese at their retreat, solemnly reminded them of Christ promise:

“What are you afraid of . . .

**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”**

Cardinal Kung was referring to the promise of Easter. It was this promise that fortified the thousands of martyrs and "dry martyrs" in China during the past sixty-seven years under the communist rule.

St. Pope John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis said repeatedly that they all love China's people so much that they wanted to visit China. What action would be more demonstrative for their expressed love to China than recognizing those thousands of martyrs' heroic virtues and fidelity, thereby opening their causes for canonization? Yet, the Vatican has not opened causes to canonize even one of these martyrs. I believe, however, that they are already all saints in our hearts.

The Foundation received news from the Underground Church that many parishioners, especially those of the Shanghai Diocese, have already considered Cardinal Kung a saint in their hearts even without an official canonization so far. An Asianews article on April 22, 2011 titled *Church in China: Easter of suffering, but full of baptisms* emphasized “.....Shanghai faithful have long called on the Vatican to open the beatification process of Cardinal Gong [Kung].....a champion of faith and fidelity to the Pope.....”

As bishop, Cardinal Kung foresaw in 1949 that the Communists were about to take over his diocese. His paternal heart was broken knowing that his flocks would suffer horribly for their faith. His repeated messages to his diocese were always the same - pray for the grace to withstand the sufferings and remain faithful. Once, at the end of prayers with the faithful in the Shanghai Cathedral, Bishop Kung prayed, “Holy Mother, we do not ask you to take away our sufferings, but please bless and help us because we are very weak.”

What has this to do with us today? Although the communists are not physically knocking on our doors in the United States, the devil is. He goes about, as Saint Peter spoke in his epistle (1 Peter 5:8), “like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.” The devil roars! Let us all roar back; because, we believe in the resurrection unto glory!

China News

1) Pope's Interview: Pope Francis was interviewed on January 28, 2016 by Hong Kong's *Asia Times* columnist Francesco Sisco on China. Mr. Sisco summarized: “The Pope urged the world not to fear China's fast rise....delivered a message of hope, peace and reconciliation as an alternative to war....sent the Chinese New Year's greetings to President Xi Jinping” The Pope also extended an olive branch to China by emphasizing Chinese culture. Unfortunately, the Pope mischaracterized the present days culture of China under the communists with the value in the Chinese culture of the pre-communist era.

In his interview, the Pope avoided all criticisms for the regime in Beijing, such as the atrocities its communist leaders have perpetrated over the past decades, the ongoing persecution of the Roman Catholic Church, the cross removal campaign, and the contentious issue of bishop ordinations.

The Pope said: “The history of people...at times...makes a mistake...and has to retrace its steps to follow the right way. But when the people move forward, this does not worry me...I believe that the Chinese people are moving forward and this is their greatness...” The Pope did not elaborate on what he perceived as “moving forward” in China.

Pope Francis praised China’s “moving forward” without mentioning China’s imposition of abortion and sterilization. This practice continues in China regardless of the fact that the China’s brutal “one-child policy” has now been replaced with the “two-child policy”. Instead, the Pope referred this painful problem as “not having children” without linking it to forced abortion and sterilization. The Pope further told China that “it shouldn’t be too hard on itself...be at peace with your own path...every people must be reconciled with its...mistakes.” The Pope did not mention whether this “mistake” of “not having children” was by natural cause, or was from killing the unborn by abortion and sterilization.

The Pope’s interview was “just courtesy” to China, said Lina Chan, secretary-general of the Hong Kong Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission. “The [communist] party is using ‘culture’ to consolidate the regime,” she added. Quoting a Catholic in northern China, *Ucanews* said the Pope’s interview appeared to be “appeasing the communists.”

The Pope’s message was well received by some sectors in the Church. *UCAN* reported: “Cardinal John Tong of Hong Kong has defended...Pope Francis...amid strong criticism by many ordinary Catholics who called it [the interview] a whitewash of Beijing’s poor record on religious rights.”

UCAN editorialized, “For a country [China] that often complains of one-sided criticism from the West, the pope’s uncritical appraisal of China past and present will have to come as a refreshing surprise to the Chinese, particularly to atheist Communist Party leaders in Beijing”. No wonder, *Vatican Insider* reported an editorial published by the *Global Times*, the English language online publication considered the semi-official organ of the Chinese Communist party, titled “Under Pope Francis and President Xi, hopes rise for a thaw in ties” printed on a background photo montage that features St. Peter’s dome and the front door of the Forbidden City side by side.

2) China Vatican Negotiations: The Vatican held the third round of negotiations with the Chinese delegation in Rome on January 25 to 26, 2016. The first was held in June 2014 and the second in October, 2015.

According to *UCAN*, the topic of the third negotiation was bishop appointments in China. Italian Daily, *Corriere de Sera*, described the third meeting as a “breakthrough” with Pope giving approval to three bishop candidates, but “observers in China doubt the claim”.

Taiwan’s ambassador to the Vatican, Matthew Lee, told the news outlet that he had been informed there is “no particular advancement” in the Rome-Beijing talks. Ambassador Lee got to know the future Pope Francis while serving as ambassador to Argentina.

Cardinal Zen, Bishop Emeritus of Hong Kong Diocese, wrote in January 2016 *What Will 2016 Bring the Church in China?*: “...They [China-Vatican] did not discuss sensitive issues like Bishop Su Zhimin of Baoding still in detention since 1996, or such as Bishop Ma Daqin of Shanghai to house arrest for more than three years...They focused on the issue of appointing bishops...Later...pressed by some journalists as to whether there was real progress, Cardinal Parolin [Secretary of State of the Vatican] responded: ‘The fact that we speak is already positive.’ It seems that there is no agreement in sight as of yet.”

So what is the formula for the appointment of bishops now under discussion? Bernardo Cervellera, founder of *Asianews*, says: “...It would seem that Beijing’s proposal is limited to 1) complete recognition by the Holy See for all official [Patriotic Association] bishops [even illegitimate and excommunicated bishops], without any mention of the unofficial [underground] bishops and those [faithful] in prison; 2) Vatican’s approval of the government recognized Council of Bishops, which excludes underground bishops; 3) [Vatican’s] approval of the competency of this Council [and not the Pope] in the appointment of new candidates to the episcopacy who will be ‘democratically’ elected [in short according to the suggestions of the Patriotic Association]. The Holy See must approve the Council’s appointment and has a weak veto only in ‘severe’ cases, which must be justified if used. If the Holy See’s justifications are considered ‘insufficient,’ the Council of Bishops may decide to proceed anyway.”

Cardinal Zen commented: “If this information [the above paragraph] is accurate, can the Holy See accept the claims of the Chinese counterpart? Does this approach still respect the true authority of the Pope to appoint bishops? Can the Pope sign such an agreement? Pope Benedict XVI said: ‘the authority of the Pope to appoint bishops is given to the Church by its founder Jesus Christ. It is not the property of the Pope, neither can the Pope give it to others.’ ”

Cardinal Zen asked: “Do our officials in Rome know what an election is in China? Do they know that the so-called Episcopal Conference is not only illegitimate, but simply does not exist? What exists is an organization that is called ‘One Association and One Conference’, namely - the Patriotic Association and the Bishops’ conference always working together as one body - which is always chaired by government officials” Cardinal Zen concluded: “Signing such an agreement means ‘the authority to appoint bishops’ delivering into the hands of an atheist government....It is unthinkable to leave the initial [bishop] proposal in the hands of an atheist government who cannot possibly judge the suitability of a candidate to be a bishop. Obviously, if the Church gives in to pressure from the [Chinese] government, the only result – despite proclamations to the contrary – is that it will have sold our pontifical right to appoint bishops. Can this happen?”

Cardinal Zen wondered whether Beijing’s demand of Holy See recognition of all its bishops, even the illegitimate and excommunicated ones, “only coming from the government....without repentance of those concerned? Will the excommunicated only be released from excommunication or even recognized as bishops? Even without any act of repentance? Has the mercy of God come to this? Will the faithful be obliged to obey these bishops?”

On the subject of those faithful underground, Cardinal Zen has this to say: “The [Chinese] government treated our Underground Catholic community as if it is non-existent. Is the Vatican giving-in to China by raising no questions about the Underground Catholics during the negotiations? Is Vatican abandoning our brothers and sisters in consideration of the “bigger picture”? These Underground Catholics are the vital parts of the Body of Christ. Naturally, the Underground Church has problems of its own. Moreover, the Vatican has not appointed bishops in many of these underground dioceses. The lack of bishops will, sooner or later, cause chaos. Is silencing the underground community for fear of angering Beijing a form of Church’s self-destruction?....

“Speaking of diplomacy, the Underground Church is a trump card for the Vatican. If [the Pope] willingly relinquishes it, what else has the Vatican left to compel [the Chinese] to make any concession? [The Chinese] have already controlled everything in the open. Since the underground communities are already kept at bay by the Holy See, what more would [the Chinese government] need? They only need the Pope to affix his signature [on an agreement] and [want the Pope] to give his blessings to this ‘China Church’. Beijing basically has no intention to negotiate. After such signature, would all the underground faithful have to come above ground to pledge their obedience to those bishops who have been illegitimate for a long time? Some of these bishops may have been even excommunicated. All of them would now be made legitimate, without repentance, by virtue of government [not Vatican’s] authority, and become bishops of all underground communities!

“What makes me uncomfortable is the thought of our Eminent Secretary of State [in the Vatican] still intoxicated by the ‘miracles’ of ‘Ostpolitik’” Cardinal Zen lamented.

Cardinal Zen concluded his article by reflecting: “.....The innocent children were killed. The angel told Joseph to take Mary and the Child to flee to safety. But today’s diplomats of ours would advise Joseph to dialogue with Herod instead.” Cardinal Zen professes loyalty to the Pope and says that if a Sino-Vatican agreement is reached that he cannot share, he will not challenge it, but instead will retire to a monastery “to pray and do penance.”

In his article published by *AMERICA* Magazine, Gerard O’Connell wrote: “[Cardinal Zen] expressed concern that the [eventual China-Vatican] agreement being envisaged may be one he could not share...[Cardinal Zen] wrote the Jan 9 article ‘out of desperation’...He fears the Church will lose out in the negotiation though he admits he does not yet know the terms of the possible accord...In 2006, Benedict XVI made him cardinal...and [Zen] was his close adviser on China matters...Since Francis became Pope, Cardinal Zen has spoken with him in private....and voiced concern that the Holy See....is pursuing a kind of Ostpolitik....Cardinal Zen considers this a path of appeasement and fears the Church could lose out....”

- 3) **A “miracle” at the Holy Door in Zhengding, Hebei, China:** *Asianews* reported: “About 10,000 faithful from Zhengding....had gathered outside the cathedral to celebrate the beginning of the Jubilee and the opening of the Holy Door. The ‘miracle’ is that police....did nothing to prevent the event and did not arrest anyone....An even greater miracle was the fact that the underground bishop [Bishop Jia Zhiguo] led the liturgy, which lasted from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm....Bishop Jia, who is not recognized by the government, has been under house arrest for years for refusing to join the Chinese Patriotic Association and for remaining loyal to the Pope....Bishop Jia hosted....about 100 abandoned children and disabled people, taking care of them along with some nuns and faithful....‘it is amazing’ said a nun, ‘that so many people could gather for so long and no one was arrested....’ ”
- 4) **Cross Toppled:** 1,500 crosses from churches of all denominations in the province of Zhejiang has been toppled since the end of 2013, according to *ucanews.com*. 18 crosses were removed this year.

5) Priest Certification: China's State Administration for Religious Affairs is planning to certify Catholic priests in 2016, notwithstanding the fact that recognition of Catholic priesthood must come from the Church through licit ordination, not from the government. "If the authorities are serious on certifying all the priests this time, it could result in forcing those priests who refused to get an ID card to go underground" *UCAN* reported on January 22, 2016

Letter from Our Underground Friend

On the education and spiritual formation of an underground convent. The following is a synopsis of a letter from a nun about her visit to her convent last summer. She is a PhD student receiving financial assistance from this foundation.

My Mother Superior gathered the novices for a week of spiritual retreat. This is also an important time to share their experiences and to seek solutions for seemingly insurmountable problems. My important role is to be a patient and understanding listener, offering them advice and encouragement. I was greatly inspired by their strong faith in Christ, their tremendous love for other Catholics and their talented accomplishments. Three of them had independently established a clinic; one gained a teaching position in a private school; and another two novices were busy preparing for their medical license examination. A few younger novices were studying theology while some elderly nuns were devoting themselves in prayers for other Sisters' spiritual work. These news are very up-lifting. I am very grateful to the Cardinal Kung Foundation for its support all these years.

All the nuns of my convent are aware that the Cardinal Kung Foundation is their benefactor, helping them overcome some of their most difficult time, providing them living allowances, supporting their education and career/professional training, assisting them in building their accommodations and giving hope and renewed energy to our sick novices.

We will never forget that our heartening achievements are the result of the love, care, assistance and encouragement from the Cardinal Kung Foundation. We will always remember you and all benefactors who had contributed to our life. We have never neglected praying for the Foundation and every one of our benefactors, asking God to return your love with His grace and reward you with His blessings. We are here to transform your love into action, to continue our work in building China a strong Church, faithful to God and to our Pope.

Annual Prayers for Catholics in China – May 24

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...*".

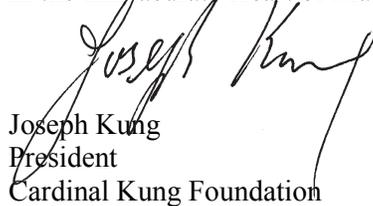
We invite you, your family, and your friends to join us, together with Catholics all over the world, *on May 24* to pray for the well-being, evangelization, and growth of our Church in China. Pray that God will reward their perseverance as witnesses of Christ. Please also pray for the ending of religious persecution in China that has been going on for sixty-seven years under the communist rule, for the renewal of true religious freedom in China, and for the exoneration of all criminal charges against religious prisoners, including many Roman Catholic bishops, priests, and faithful, leading to their unconditional release from jails and labor camps.

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 are successful in requesting this Mass so that we can record them. If you wish to send a prayer card of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's prayer to Our Lady of SheShan to your pastor, please call or email us.

During this critical time of the on-going China-Vatican negotiations, I beg you to pray for the guidance of Holy Spirit to our Pope, because the result of these negotiations will affect generations of Catholics in China.

Thank you.

In the Immaculate Heart of Mary



Joseph Kung
President
Cardinal Kung Foundation

Please Remember The Cardinal Kung Foundation In Your Will
Thank you