



THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

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The Nativity of the Lord, 2017

Dear Friends,

Communist China announced a new Savior In recent months, local government officials visited many Christian-populated villages to implement a Property Alleviation Campaign. They proclaimed a new “savior”: “*Jesus won’t save you - President Xi Jinping will!*” Families who replaced their crosses or the religious images in their homes with the portrait of President Xi were given a quota from the Poverty Relief Fund. The Washington Post reported, “*in Jiangxi province’s Yugan county, villagers ‘willingly’ removed 624 religious posters and images and replaced them with 453 images of Xi. Villagers were told that they cannot count on God to lift them out of poverty, but to rely on the Party.*” This brings nightmares to those who are familiar with the history of China, such as the Cultural Revolution and the Red Guards, watching this building of another ‘cult of personality.’

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and its significance The 19th Congress held October 18 to 24, 2017 in Beijing re-elected **President Xi Jinping** as *President of China, The General Secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission*. His vision and policy will dominate China and the communist party for the next 5 years and beyond. The document, “*Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era*” was officially approved and incorporated into the Constitution of the Communist Party of China. Now, “*Xi Jinping Thought*” has equal status with “*Mao’s Thought*” and “*Deng Xiaoping Theory*”. According to Washington Post, Xi asserted “*the party exercise overall leadership over all areas of endeavor in every part of the country.*”

New Regulations on Religious Practices The Chinese government established the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association (CCPA) in 1957, a catholic church independent from the Pope. Atheism is the antithesis of evangelization. The CCPA was established to replace the Roman Catholic Church in China and to control every level of its organization. Since then, the communist Party has exercised strict control over this independent church and its bishops. At the 19th Congress, President Xi confirmed, “*People are guaranteed the right to practice religion under China’s constitution, but only within the control of the communist party. China will be “a socialism with a Chinese characteristic.” Religious policy must also be “Chinese in orientation” and guided by the party.*” Although many CCPA bishops have declared their love to the Pope and have been recognized by the Pope, the goal of maintaining an independent church has not changed. Thus, to celebrate CCPA’s 60th anniversary of its independence from Rome, the leadership of the CCPA Bishops’ Conference went on a pilgrimage in early 2017 to the tomb of Bishop Dong Guangquin who was the first bishop ordained without papal approval.

AsiaNews reported that the draft of the new regulations on religious activities presented at the 19th Congress is aimed at annihilating underground communities and stifling official communities. It reiterated that only “a top-down control of religious affairs at all levels - national, provincial, county, city or village - renders a religion livable and acceptable.” Many new policies have already been implemented in various parts of the country such as placing surveillance cameras in churches; putting police checks at celebrations; forbidding children to attend religious functions (even accompanied by their parents), listening to sermons and attending church-organized summer camps. One government notice stated that church attendance and religious instruction prevent young persons from developing “a correct worldview and set of values.” There will be exorbitant fines imposed for unauthorized religious activities, sites, and religious overseas travel including to the Vatican, unless with prior approval.

Vatican-China Negotiation Pope Francis once said at an interview that he would go to China “*as soon as tomorrow, China has this aura of mystery about it that is fascinating....in China, the churches are full. You can practice your faith in China.*” For about three years, the Vatican-China negotiations were conducted by a small team headed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State. It was unfortunate that two Chinese Cardinals of Hong Kong, China, who have long experience with China were not included in this team or invited as consultants to the negotiation team. Until recently, the only high ranking Chinese official at the Vatican was Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-fai, the Secretary of Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples since 2010. This Congregation is in charge of the mission countries including China. Although Archbishop Hon has no prior diplomatic training or experience, he was suddenly removed by Pope Francis on September 17, 2017 and assigned to Greece as its Apostolic Nuncio. Archbishop Hon is a close associate of Cardinal Zen, the retired Bishop of Hong Kong and a staunch supporter of the underground Church. A coincidence?

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

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

According to media reports on the negotiation, the Vatican has insisted that bishops be appointed by the Holy See. However, the Beijing government insists that bishops in China be chosen by the government-controlled CCPA Bishops' Conference. This Bishops' Conference is incompatible with the Catholic Church's teaching, according to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. No Roman Catholic bishops are members of this Conference. The proposal is that China will offer the Pope a list of approved candidates for final selection to be ordained Bishops. China claims that it has given the Pope the final authority in appointing the bishops. In reality, it restricts the Pope's ability to appoint other candidates not on the government list. According to Cardinal Zen, there is no bishops' conference in China, only in name. The Patriotic Bishops attend the meetings whenever told to do so. They obey! There is never a true discussion in a communist government meeting. The Bishops' conference would elect candidates indicated by the government. If the Vatican agrees to this disastrous arrangement, it will give away one of the most sacred authorities and duties of the Pope, to appoint bishops to lead the Church.

Cardinal Zen once said that no agreement is better than a bad one. Cardinal Zen called on the Vatican not to disregard the underground church that has been loyal to the successor of St. Peter through 60 years of persecution. Its fidelity has produced thousands of martyrs and "dry" martyrs, such as Bishop Peter Fan of Baoding, Cardinal Kung of Shanghai, Archbishop Dominic Tang, SJ of Canton, and the recent Father Pedro Wei. The Cardinal Kung Foundation reported the death of Father Wei in 2015. He was a young underground priest, a graduate of Spain with a Masters Degree in Canon Law, who spoke a couple of European languages. He returned to the underground church after his graduation. With great zeal and organizational skills, he founded an underground seminary, conducted conferences to share knowledge with hundreds of local priests and nuns, and organized walking pilgrimages within China with youth to promote vocation. He took advantage of a narrow window of opportunity and willingly took high risks. Two years ago, Fr. Wei was found floating in a river during a pastoral trip. The government claimed that he committed suicide, but refused to release its autopsy report.

The new religious regulations in China will govern all five approved religions including Roman Catholicism. Does the Vatican believe that President Xi will make an exception for the Roman Catholic that may jeopardize the government's position with other approved religions? The new religious policies may not have factored into consideration the ongoing Vatican-China negotiations.

Cause of Cardinal Kung We have no news on the opening of the cause of Cardinal Kung. We know that many are praying to the Cardinal. Recently one friend said that he prayed to Cardinal daily for his intercession and for his canonization. Cardinal Kung is his go-to saint and he received many favors in answer to his prayers. However, some mentioned that the favors received did not warrant reporting while some people felt that the favors they received concerned their health that they regarded as personal. You may wish to know that any testimony received for the opening of the cause will be confidential except to the church authority in relation to Cardinal's cause. The church needs to determine if others consider the life of a candidate for sainthood holy and heroic and that others are praying to this candidate. The best way to thank the Cardinal for his intercession is to report any favors or miracles granted. We have 3rd Class Relics available on request. It included a "prayer of intercession for healing".

Mass Stipend Program Pope Francis called the Mass "*the prayer par excellence...the highest, the most sublime and, at the same time, the most 'concrete.'* In fact, it's the encounter of love with God through His Word and the Body and Blood of Jesus. It's an encounter with the Lord." A Mass is the most precious gift for any occasion: birthday, illness, death or conversion. 100% of the stipend offered (\$10 minimum) is given to an underground priest who celebrates the Mass for your intention. Recently, a person called us to say: "I received a Mass card from a friend which said that the Mass would be offered by an underground priest in China. I never knew that there is an *underground* Church in China!" This shows the religious persecution in China is not widely known. Now, this person learned about the persecution of the Roman Catholic in China in addition to receiving the graces of a Mass. The underground church has gained another friend. By requesting a Mass, you directly support the priest and his pastoral works. When you offer a Mass for a friend, I encourage you to send a Mass Card if your friend is not aware of China's religious persecution, this may include some priests and religious in America and Europe. Please request some cards to have on hand (for General intentions or Repose of the soul) so that you can respond to an unexpected need. A Mass card will also come with a small portrait of Cardinal Kung which has an inspiring message to the Pope delivered by Cardinal Kung at his ordination Mass. Help us to promote Cardinal's cause.

In addition to accepting requests for individual Masses, the Foundation accepts requests for **Gregorian Masses** (30 consecutive days of Holy Masses for one deceased) and **Novena Mass** (9 consecutive days of Holy Masses for one intention). As these Masses must be uninterrupted, consecutive days Masses, a priest cannot accept other Mass requests during this long period of 9 or 30 days. To appropriately support these priests and with immediately effect, the minimum stipend is increased from **\$300 to \$320 for Gregorian Masses** and from **\$90 to \$100 for Novena Masses**. The stipend for an **individual Mass remains at \$10** even though many donors frequently offered over this minimum. We cannot promise to offer the Masses on any specific dates. With over 100 underground priests accepting Mass requests, they are typically fulfilled very quickly. If you have difficulties finding an appropriate gift for someone on your Christmas gift list, please consider a Holy Mass. In your charity, please include the persecuted church on your Christmas gift list.

The Board of Directors wishes you and your loved ones a Blessed Advent and a Joyous Christmas.

During Christmas week, two Masses will be offered in the underground church for our donors and our deceased donors.

In addition, the underground church offers over 200 Masses each year for its benefactors.

We beg you to pray for peace, safety and blessings on the underground church. Please remember The Cardinal Kung Foundation in your will.