



THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

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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

Christmas, 2021

Dear Friends,

**May the Prince of Peace
together with His Holy family
fills your heart with Peace, Joy and Hope.**

2021 has been a very difficult year. We have all been affected negatively, some even tragically, irrespective of our age, profession, faith, or nationality. Many clergy, religious and first responders continued their mission heroically knowing that they may fall victims to this covid-19 that we knew very little about. We must remember those families and pray that God will console them and reward them for their love and heroism.

"**Lockdown**" is a frightening word, almost as bad as the name "Covid-19." It could painfully split up our loved ones and had tragically prohibited some of us from holding critically sick or even dying family members and relatives, to pray and comfort them.

Underground church during Covid China without exception also suffered greatly under Covid. But the underground church suffered a double strike. The government found Covid-19 and its lockdown policy an effective punishment for underground Bishops and religious for refusing to change allegiance from Rome to Beijing. When other organizations, schools, business, and Patriotic churches were allowed to reopen, the underground churches or prayer houses frequently had to remain in lockdown. The government would cite reasons, such as violation of building code, etc. An appeal to a totalitarian government frequently brings in heavier punishment. While enforcing an extended lockdown, the underground clergy and nuns could not practice their ministry. The faithful have no Mass or sacraments. Clergy could not visit the sick, or pray with the dying and comfort their families. The lockdown also cut off the support of the faithful to their bishops and clergy, be it financial or simply sharing produce of the villagers.

Impact to the underground church since October 2018 The two year Provisional Vatican-China agreement initially signed on October 2018 was renewed on October 2020. Persecution has intensified. Some dioceses have suffered coordinated raids on seminaries or parishes arresting bishops, clergy and

nuns. Their meager properties including cell phones, books, computers were confiscated. Replacing them would be expensive, and impossible under the watchful eyes of the government and Patriotic Church. Arrests often included significant fines, even for offering a Holy Mass in an unapproved location. All underground locations are deemed unapproved. The fine could be equivalent to US\$2,000 to \$30,000. Recently, one bishop had to tell his priests that he could no longer distribute monthly living allowance to them as a major fine left him destitute. The Patriotic bishops and government hope that what imprisonment and brain washing could not achieve, lockdown and destitution would force some clergy and bishops to join the Patriotic church. With God's grace and your financial and spiritual support, we have not known any underground bishops joining the Patriotic church.

Bishop Jia Zhiguo, Zhengding, Hebei For many years, Vatican has not consecrated new bishops when an underground bishop retired or died. Many dioceses are now managed by Diocesan Administrators. Many bishops are elderly. Even without medical care or proper living conditions, with God's blessings these elderly bishops work in their 80s. Due to frequent arrests, the health of these elderly bishops deteriorated. A few months ago, the government sent away everyone from the residence of Bishop Jia forcing this 86-year-old bishop to live alone. When the villagers complained, Bishop was allowed to keep one young man to help him. To prevent the bishop from visiting the adjoining Cathedral, the government built a wall. No one may visit the Bishop, and the bishop may not visit his church.

New religious policy and persecution Since October 2016, anyone in China under age 18 may not be baptized, enter a church, attend a Mass or receive religious instructions. This policy applies also to the Independent Patriotic Church. This policy effectively deprived a few generations of Chinese from learning their faith.

The Catholic Church worldwide spares no resources and effort in its youth ministry. World Youth Days were attended by the Popes, Cardinals and thousands of clergy to minister to the youth from around the world. And yet, such fatal blows to the salvation of the Chinese youth had not brought forth a word of protest from Vatican or from those Patriotic Bishops who claimed communion with the Universal Church. The implementation of this policy did not affect the start of the partnership between Vatican and Beijing in 2016.

News of persecutions on the underground church has been reported by both Catholic and secular media. Many governments and international human rights organizations have detailed these atrocities. We are shocked and puzzled by the deafening silence from the Vatican. At some interviews, the Secretary of States and his office recognized that there are suffering in the underground church, but they were satisfied with the progress of the dialogue and relationship between Vatican and Beijing. One wonders if this dialogue hinges on a non-interference of the Beijing policies even if the policies is purely religious? In the coming year, let us pray fervently that the *Gift of Mercy* preached frequently and fervently by Pope Francis will also be extending to the underground church which is in its 72 years of continuous persecution.

Bishop Jacob Su Zimin, Bishop of Baoding, Hebei Bishop was born on July 1, 1932 and entered the seminary in 1942. He was arrested numerous times even before he was ordained on April 12, 1981. He was consecrated Bishop of Baoding in 1993.

In 1994, Representative Chris Smith led a Human Rights Delegation to China. Chris Smith and Joseph Kung of the Cardinal Kung Foundation were able to attend an underground Mass at Bishop's small apartment. Bishop Su was arrested after the delegation left China. Through Representative Smith's intervention, Bishop was released.

Bishop Su's last arrest was in October 1997 and he is still in the government's hand. During his long disappearance, he was unexpectedly seen in a hospital in 2004. But almost immediately, he was removed and has not been seen ever since. Now the Chinese government claims that they do not know where he is.

<http://www.cardinalkungfoundation.org/ar/SearchingforBishopSu.php>

With the signing of the Vatican-China Provisional Agreement, Vatican gave recognition to all the Patriotic Bishops, including forgiveness to eight (one deceased) excommunicated Bishops. Vatican even "requested" two legitimately consecrated underground bishops to step aside for two excommunicated bishops. With such extraordinary concessions to the government and the Independent church, Vatican failed to obtain the freedom of one of its own bishop who is 89 years old and had already been jailed for 44 years.

When we celebrate Christmas and pray for peace to the world, please specifically remember Bishop Jacob Su Zimin, Bishop of Baoding, Hebei Province.

Donations & our programs. The underground church is truly blessed that even during these difficult months of pandemic, our benefactors stood by us. The underground religious wrote to us, "*We are very grateful. We have nothing to offer our benefactors except our daily humble prayers.*"

Your financial help and prayers enable the Foundation to continue all our programs to help the underground church. Besides support the priests with stipends, we need donations to support the orphans, the nuns, training the seminarians. The bishops need our help financially to support these dioceses that have no collections. We know that you may also have a set back financially. We are deeply grateful for your continuous support.

Your assistance has born fruits. We have a few graduates with advance degrees this summer. Two have already returned to the underground diocese in spite of the danger, political and medical. Please pray for their safety.

New donor management site If you have donated on the Foundation's website, you can now check your donation history by setting up an account at this address: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/payers> using the **same email address** that you have used to donate. You need to set up a **personal password** as well. In addition to checking on your donation history, you can also update recurring donation, credit card information, email address and password.

Annual donation statement The Foundation will send out the 2021 Donation Statements before the end of January 2022. Some donors inadvertently gave us an incomplete address on the donation website. Each year, we had a number of letters returned due to incomplete address. Both US and foreign addresses must include post office code. If you have used a partial address, or have moved during 2020-2021, please contact us by email cardinalkungfdn@gmail.com or by letter with your *current complete* address to ensure that you will receive your Annual Donation Statement. We appreciate your cooperation.

Our mailbox has changed We have a new mailbox at a different post office. The Post Office that we have used for over 20 years was relocated and became a small post office with minimum staffing. We have taken up a new mail box in a full size post office to improve the letter sorting and distribution. We will maintain both mail boxes for another year to ensure we receive letters from

our donors. We have enclosed new mailing labels for your information. PO Box 17429, Stamford, CT 06907 USA.

Remember the underground church in your will. During the past years, some donors have generously remembered the Foundation in their wills after they have provided for their loved one. That ensured that the underground church, a charity that is so close to your heart continues to benefit by your love. Many of you have stood by the underground church for years. Some started as far back as 1991 when Cardinal Kung requested to start this Foundation with the sole mission to help the underground church. Cardinal pleaded many times in his homily in United States, ***“Please stay with us until Holy Mary saves us at her own time.”*** One day when you are in your eternal home, you will have the joy of meeting those martyrs, brave clergy and faithfuls of the underground church and to see the impact of your charity.

Please consider remembering The Cardinal Kung Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charity, in your will after you have provided for your loved ones.

Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke I have been told that Cardinal Burke prays frequently for the underground church and for Cardinal Kung’s cause. In early August 2021 we read the news that Cardinal was hospitalized with COVID-19 and in a serious condition. We immediately notified the underground church and our donors. Promises of Masses, prayers, rosary poured in from the underground clergy & religious and from our donors. I have informed the Secretary of Cardinal Burke who had kindly acknowledged our letter. After a few months of intensive rehabilitation and therapy, Cardinal was able to offer the first public Mass on December 11, 2021 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine, La Crosse, giving thanks to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Sacred Heart of Jesus for his recovery. According to the news release, Cardinal will not assume his full schedule until his full recovery. Please keep Cardinal Burke’s recovery in your prayers.

The Year of St. Joseph The Year of Saint Joseph as announced by Pope Francis concluded on December 8, 2021. However, to many Chinese Catholics, the year of St. Joseph never ends. At the First Conference of Chinese Bishop in 1924, St. Joseph was declared the Great Patron of All China. St. Joseph is the most popular patron in China. In public worship in China, the prayer to St. Joseph is often included. This traditional Chinese Prayer to St. Joseph has been recited for almost a century. It has now been translated into English. A new prayer card, in both Chinese and English has been enclosed.

Please pray to St. Joseph to protect the underground church as he had protected the Holy Family in many persecutions. If you wish to have another card to share with your family, please send us a **self-addressed envelope**.

**Three Holy Masses will be offered in the underground church
for our benefactors, living and deceased.**

**The Board of Directors join me in wishing you
God’s peace and His choicest blessings in 2022.**

Agnes Kung

Director of Programs