



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 Nativity of Our Lord
2024

Dear Friends of the Catholic Church in China,

*May the Holy Family richly bless you
for your love to the persecuted church in China.*

Christmas is one of the most important and joyous feast day in the Church calendar. However, even for non-Christians, they are often caught up in this spirit, full of love and charity. Until a few years back, China, an atheist country began to decorate in the stores and colleges until the communist government was alarmed and stepped in, discouraged and in some area even forbade the Christmas decorations or get together. Please pray that there will be Holy Masses and Sacraments during Christmas in the underground church.

In December, 3 holy Masses will be offered in the underground church for all benefactors and 3 Holy Masses will be offered for the deceased benefactors.

A miracle - survival of the underground church! This is the 75th year of continued persecution of the underground Roman Catholic Church in China started in 1949. Failing to eliminate the Roman Catholic Church, it established a look-alike organization, the Catholic Chinese Patriotic Association in 1957 using similar vestments, prayer books and hymns. Its first loyalty is to the communist party for all matters even spiritual matters.

Its survival is not humanly possible but for the protection and grace of Jesus Christ for His Church. Also, it survives because of the prayers, generosity and sacrifices of many friends of the underground church in the free world. Unlike most nonprofit organizations, helping the underground church enjoy no popular endorsement for obvious reasons. Yet, our benefactors have faithfully assisted them with daily prayers and rosaries. They even share with the underground church their retirement funds. Some benefactors are second generation donors after their parents had supported the underground church for over 25 years.

Due to China trade, most major charitable Foundations in US avoided the underground church. The political policy of the Holy See made the Patriotic Association his favorite son. Hundreds of thousands of dollars from the religious communities poured into the Patriotic Association, building printing presses, repair churches fund universities and conferences, seminaries and social projects, leaving the underground church destitute.

The faithful in China are doing their parts to support their bishops and religious even though many are quite poor. This became increasingly difficult as many clergy and bishops are under strict supervision and house arrest. Therefore, your financial assistance, daily prayers, Holy Masses and rosaries have become critically needed. The diocese must pay heavy fines for "unauthorized" religious activities. Praying for the sick and dying at home is illegal that included also in the funeral home. Some faithful refused to go to the open churches as they find government priests often speak like a cadet as the government monitors all activities through the cameras in the churches.

Established in 1991 to assist the persecuted Roman Catholic Church in China.

Vocations in the underground church. Vocations are the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the examples of the faithful bishops and the prayers of the faithful. During the past 25 years, there are many vocations, seminarians and novices. Recently the government closed a few seminaries. During the past two decades, many clergy and nuns have completed higher education with graduate degrees including Doctorate Degrees in Canon Law, Theology, family counseling, etc. Armed with years of education, and fully aware of the environment of the underground church, they have returned to service the underground dioceses. There were also recent ordinations to Diaconate and to Holy Priesthood.

Harassment and persecution continue. The modern arrest of the clergy uses a different method to project a gentler image to the free world. Instead of sending the clergy to jail and labor camps or to execute them, they were sent to far away provinces to make them inaccessible to their own diocese. There is no record of these imprisonment, brain washing and interrogation is termed “re-education” to help clergy to learn new theology, government’s religious policies and Sinicization. They were told that their refusal to register with the Independent Patriotic Church is disobedient to the Pope since the Pope has already given the governance of the diocese to the Patriotic Bishop. Some Bishops have been under house arrest over 20 years, they cannot even see their family.

Rome has not consecrated bishops to the underground church for over twenty years while Rome has recognized many Patriotic bishops consecrated without papal mandate. Chinese bishops seldom retired as there were no one to take over their ministries. God bless them long lives even living under very poor conditions. There are few younger bishops in late 60s and early 70s. Recently, Vatican’s successful negotiation resulted in one underground bishop recognized by the government without signing the pledge to join the independent church. He is in mid 90’s and has been in poor health. I wonder why this bishop is chosen.

Some offer the argument that China’s constitution guarantees religious freedom. The reality? The same constitution existed since 1949. Yet, thousands died in jail for religious reasons. Bishop Kung was sentenced to life imprisonment, released after 33 years at age 87 due to poor health. Archbishop Dominic Tang of Canton was in jail for 22 years without a trial. These bishops and thousands of others did not enjoy this protection of China’s constitution.

Accurate news on China. In recent years, it is difficult to find news on the persecution of the underground church. Instead, we read happy news of Patriotic bishops being invited to internationally renowned Catholic conferences as keynote speakers, and pictures of a full church in an open church as evidence of religious freedom in China. These built up the image of the government and the Catholic Patriotic Association. His Holiness and Cardinal Secretary of States repeatedly said that there is religious freedom in China. Events of past religious persecutions and freedom struggles in China have been silenced under the National Security Law. This applies to China including Hong Kong.

For a Chinese national to speak to a foreign government or a reporter on China’s true condition is a serious crime. The West must rely on the reports of the Human Rights Organizations who have more experience in compiling reliable and unbiased reports. Recently an excellent report, “*Ten Persecuted Chinese Catholic Bishops*” authored by Nina Shea of the Hudson Institute. I encourage you to read this on the internet. After reading the report, you will wonder why Pope Francis keeps repeating “*There is religious freedom in China.*” Could he be referring only to the Patriotic Association?

Synod In 2005, the late Pope Benedict XVI invited 4 Chinese bishops to Rome to attend the Synod. Three of the bishops were Independent Patriotic bishops and the fourth one was a Roman Catholic Bishop, Joseph Wei Jingyi of Qiqihar. One of the Patriotic Bishops, Aloysius Jin, S.J. of Shanghai said that it was an honor to be invited. At the end, the Chinese government did not allow any Chinese bishops to attend.

October 2024 Synod Two Patriotic Association bishops were invited, and no Roman Catholic Bishops or priests. Along the thought of Bishop Jin, SJ of Shanghai, Rome honored Patriotic Association Bishops in the October Synod but not the Roman Catholic church in China. There are underground bishops, priests and nuns young enough to travel and with the European language abilities. The reason, one wonders!

Vatican-China Agreement Vatican happily announced the third renewal of the Vatican-China Agreement (October 2024). Even though this agreement affects millions of RC in China spiritually and physically, both parties to the agreement did not release its terms. This is an exception to the spirit of the 2024 Synod which advocates collegial, listening to the Holy Spirit, walking with those marginalized, etc.. The 2024 Synod walked with bishops, non-bishops, lay persons and non-Christians, but not even one clergy from the underground church in China was invited. To stay alive and to stay the course in spite of 75 years of persecution shows the Holy Spirit is truly alive with His Church.

Dialogue and negotiation Rome said that negotiation requires ‘give and take.’ Without the underground church, the fidelity of its bishops, Vatican will have nothing to offer in its negotiation. A communist government

is not interested in faith or doctrine. Moral authority has no value to a communist, only power. Therefore, without the faithful underground bishops, there will be no meaningful dialogue.

Martyrs and canonization. During the past 75 years, there were thousands of martyrs who died in the hands of the Chinese government due to brutality from 3 months to 34 years. A few were instantly executed. Many of those arrested had the chance to leave China but chose to stay to sustain the faithful. Cardinal Kung was offered many times safe passage out of China by foreign corporation and foreign government. He was offered by the government leadership and a comfortable old age if he will lead the Patriotic Association. Cardinal Kung remained faithful to the church established by Christ and not the one formed in 1957. No Cause for canonization has been open for any 'Martyr-Saints'. The 120 martyr-saints that were canonized in year 2000 was approved many years ago. It was shelved for political reason. At an Ad Limina visit of Cardinal Shen, Taiwan, he commented to Sant Pope John Paul II that these Chinese saints were martyred twice, by the government and then by their own Church. Holy Father was moved and requested to reopen and approved the Cause.

We sometimes wonder how these underground bishops, clergy and faithful could stay loyal to Christ in the face of such inhuman suffering. I want to share with you the thoughts of two underground bishops.

The government tried to threaten one bishop to make him join the Patriotic Association. This Bishop said, "I am old and has one foot in my grave. How can I explain to Jesus why I left His Church to join a church tFoundation d 1950 years later."

Another government cadet tried to persuade a Bishop to sign the pledge, "Other bishops have all joined the Government church, you are all alone!" The bishop said, "I will never be alone. Jesus is with me."

Patriotic Association Bishop Conference response to Cardinal Kung's death On the day of Cardinal Kung's Pontifical Funeral Mass in Five Wounds Portuguese National Church in San Jose in March 2000, Bishop Jin, S.J., Patriotic Bishop of Shanghai, President of the Patriotic Bishops Conference together with the Chinese Government released a joint statement, "*Kung Pin Mei is a criminal of China. He split the country and the Church in Shanghai. History will judge him.*"

Saint Pope John Paul II said, Cardinal Kung "*Having shared so deeply in Christ's sufferings he may now receive the unfading crown of glory which the Chief Shepherd reserves for those who have followed Him faithfully to the end...*".

Whether to open the Cause of Cardinal Kung will ultimately depend on which standard Holy See will follow, the judgment of Bishop Jin, SJ, President of the Patriotic Bishop Conference OR the judgement of Saint Pope John Paul II.

A Pontifical Mass for Cardinal Kung, March 15, 2025.

2025 is the 25th year of the death of Cardinal Kung. I am very grateful and pleased to announce that His Excellency, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone will celebrate a Pontifical Mass and His Eminence Raymond L. Cardinal Burke will preside and deliver the Homily. The Mass will be offered in San Francisco very close to Cardinal Kung's resting place. Resting in the same chapel is Archbishop Dominic Tang, SJ who was in jail for 22 years without a trial. I hope many of you will attend. If you need hotel information, please email me. Cardinal Kung once said, "The Roman Catholic Church will never disappear in China. Please stay with us with your prayers until Holy Mary saves us in Her own time."

To honor Cardinal Kung's ministry and death, I propose one gift that any friend can manage: Request a Mass in your Parish on any date next year. The intention is "**For the persecuted Church in China.**" Not only will you offer the most precious gift to the underground church, you also help to spread its flight.

May Cardinal Kung and the Chinese Martyrs intercede for you.

May the Holy Family bless you for your generosity and compassion for the persecuted church.

Agnes Kung, President





*“Neither fire nor sword
can take away my faith in God.”*
Bishop Kung 1952



*The Cardinal Kung Foundation Invites You
To stand with the Persecuted Catholic Church in China.*

**On the 25th Anniversary of the Death of
Ignatius Cardinal Kung Pin-Mei**

龔品梅樞機主教

Bishop of Shanghai
Apostolic Administrator of Souchow and Nanking
Oct 7, 1949 – March 12, 2000

**A Prisoner for Christ, 33 years
In the hands of the current Chinese government.**

Most Reverend Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone

Archbishop of San Francisco
Will celebrate

**A Pontifical Requiem Mass
In the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite.**

His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

Former Prefect of the
Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura
Archbishop Emeritus of St. Louis

Will preside and preach the Homily.

**Please pray for the opening of
The Cause of Canonization of Cardinal Kung.**

Saturday, March 15, 2025, at 10:30 AM

Star of the Sea Church 4420 Geary Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94118, USA

Rev. Joseph Illo, Pastor, Star of the Sea Church
Rev. Vincent W. Woo, J.C.D., Priest-Secretary and Master
of Ceremonies to Archbishop of San Francisco.
Canon Joel Estrada, ICKSP
Priest-Secretary to Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke.
Jennifer Donelson-Nowicka, D.M.A.,
Director of Sacred Music, St. Patrick's Seminary.
Maggie Gallagher, Exc. Dir., Benedict XVI Institute.

General Reception
in the Church Hall after the Mass

This Mass will be livestreamed.

Check our Website in March 2025 for the Link.
<http://www.cardinalkungfoundation.org>

Clergy: To concelebrate, please email
cardinalkungfdn@gmail.com by January 31, 2025