



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"

## THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

Christmas, 1996

P.O. Box 8086, Ridgeway Center  
Stamford, CT 06905, U.S.A.  
203-329-9712 Fax 203-329-8415

Dear Friends,

Joseph Kung, our President, is currently on a two week tour bringing the message and appeals of the underground Church in China to London, Glasgow, Belfast and Dublin. During this visit, Joseph testified before the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the British Parliament's House of Lords. He was a speaker in a human rights interfaith prayer service in Notre Dame Cathedral in London and other conferences, met with some religious communities, was interviewed by BBC and various radio programs and newspapers.

This trip came about on short notice and caught us unprepared with the Christmas letter. I am writing to share with you the good news of this trip and to thank you for your prayers and donations which assisted the Catholic Church in China during a critical year.

During 1996, the Foundation has spoken before many Catholic and human rights organizations, church groups and was interviewed by radio and television programs. We were able to assist the Bishops of the silent Church by releasing its documents and disseminating press releases to the free world on the ongoing atrocities in China against the Catholic Church. A number of human rights organizations, congressmen and journalists rely on the Foundation's information for their advocacy of China.

The hostile and restrictive climate in China makes it dangerous and expensive to take information to the free world. However, it is vital for the persecuted Church that these arrests and abuses to the Roman Catholic Church be known. **Your donations** support this ongoing information and education program. **Your Mass stipends and scholarships for seminarians** assist the basic financial needs of these struggling dioceses.

Please visit our new web page at <http://www.cardinalkungfoundation.org> on the internet. The site includes information and programs of the Foundation, Cardinal Kung's biography, newsletters, press releases, and articles on the underground Church. We encourage you to download this information for your use and for dissemination to your friends, prayer groups, and other organizations.

While you fill this blessed Christmas with Holy Masses, prayers, and music, there will be no Roman Catholic Mass for the faithful in most parts of China. Your prayers and donations will light a candle of hope for the underground church. **Please share your blessings with the persecuted Church. Be as generous as you can. Your support is truly needed.**

You will all be remembered in a Holy Mass offered by His Eminence Ignatius Cardinal Kung during the Christmas Season. Joseph and I join the Foundation's Board of Directors to wish you and your family God's choicest blessings.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

  
Agnes Kung  
Secretary to the Board

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**"I urge all pastors and faithful in China to express with courage, and without fear, the true profession of Catholic faith."  
(Pope John Paul, II -Feast of St. Francis of Xavier, 12/3/1996, Vatican)**

Pope John Paul II celebrated a Holy Mass for the Church in China to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the ordination of the first group of 6 Chinese bishops in Rome on October 28, 1926, and the establishment of the ecclesiastical hierarchy in China. We thank His Holiness for his never ceasing love for the persecuted Church in China. This event is a source of great encouragement at a time when the underground Church is undergoing the worst persecution of this decade.

His Holiness said that from the moment the Church in China was evangelized in the 7th century, she "has always stood out for her catholicity and her exemplary fidelity to the Roman Pontiff. Chinese Catholics, in communion with the Church throughout the world, are marked by their fidelity to Christ, to the Pope....The Church in China is truly the pearl of the Universal Church." Her generations of Bishops and faithful martyred for Christ, were, truly the *salt* and the *light* of the world as mentioned in the Gospel. "Even in difficult times, the faithfulness of the Catholic Church in China was never lacking." Her many Bishops and faithful are both true disciples of Jesus and loyal subjects of the country, always entrusting the truth and the life on the Successor of Peter, the Roman Pontiff and the communion with Bishops of the universal Church.

Our Holy Father said that a bishop must set an example for his flock entrusted to him by Jesus. The discipline of the Church always demands this of its bishops. A bishop must be the witness of faith which he proclaims, even to the extent of shedding his blood. The Pope urged "all pastors and faithful in China to express with courage, and without fear, the true profession of Catholic faith."

The Holy Father urged the government of China "not to be afraid either of God or of His Church. Moreover, I ask them, with a sense of deference that, in respect for a genuine freedom which is a natural right of each man and woman, even believers in Christ be able to contribute more and more - with their energies and talents - to the development of the country. The Chinese nation has an important role to play in the community of nations. Catholics will be able to contribute notably to this; and they will do so with enthusiasm and dedication."

His Holiness reassured the Catholics in China that the "Church of Rome follows your history with sympathy and wishes for the moment of full and total communion visible among all, pastors and faithful, around the Pope to arrive....The entire Church also hopes to see fully expressed the witness of faith of all Chinese Catholics and their contribution to preaching and to the witnessing of the Gospel, on the threshold of the Third Millennium."  
(Quotations are from Vatican Information Service, 12/3/96)

#### **PRAYER SPONSOR PROGRAM**

"Your prayers brought to all of us the grace, peace and strength we need to survive those years in the lonely prisons. There was no Holy Mass, no sacraments and no spiritual books. All are grateful for the privilege to be Christ's witnesses. However, as it was for me, it will be for those still persecuted, most difficult without the support of your prayers. There is no weapon more effective than prayers....." (Ignatius Cardinal Kung at Sacred Heart University 9/91)

A "prayer sponsor" **spiritually supports the underground Church by promising to pray daily for a designated member.** The designated member may be an underground bishop, priest, nun or a faithful. Many are currently in jail. The designated member may also be a Patriotic Association bishop whom we pray for his return to "One fold and One Shepherd." In his homily to China, Holy Father asked all of us "to seek reconciliation with the official church, **on the basis of union with Rome.**" (Reuters 12/3/96)

*Please request your wallet sized sponsor's card which contains the name and information of the designated member, history of Our Lady of Sheshan and Cardinal Kung's prayer for China.*

**MASS ARRESTS IN JIANGXI PROVINCE** "It is your duty to bear the cross daringly and joyfully, and climb up to the mount of Calvary to accept the victory of the Risen Lord." Bishop Su Zhi-min, Bishop of Boading.

On every important feast day, about 20,000 faithful belonging to the Roman Catholic Church (Unofficial church), would congregate on a desolate mountain top called Yujiashan to pray. (Roman Catholics have no church buildings in China. They were confiscated by the government.) On previous years, there were mass arrests and brutalities in order to break up these peaceful prayer meetings. Since November 14, 1996, 80 defenseless Jiangxi villagers, many were elderly, were arrested without warrants, beaten and jailed under the order of the Secretary of the Communist Party of Fuzhou, Officers of the Religious Bureau and the Security Bureau. This event appeared to be a preemptive action by the Chinese government to prevent Roman Catholics from attending the prayer meeting in the coming Christmas season. This action is consistent with a nationwide policy of intensified religious persecution in 1996: the destruction of the Shrine of Our Lady of Dong Lu in April by 5000 soldiers; the arrests of the Bishop and Auxiliary Bishop and pastors of the Diocese of Boading; the physical force used on students in Boading to sign documents denouncing their Catholic faith; and the strict surveillance/astronomical fines imposed to forbid the celebration of private Roman Catholic Masses in Shanghai since March 1996.