



THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

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Feast of All Saints, 2019

Dear Friends,

70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China 70th Anniversary of the persecution of the Roman Catholic Church in China

On October 1, 1949, the world saw the birth of a communist state, the People's Republic of China, founded by Mao Zedong, an uncompromising extremist. Drastic reforms swept over China, targeting landowners, intellectuals, foreigners, religious groups, businesses and families. The communists demanded total loyalty to the Communist Party and the State. Immediately, all religious personnel and institutions were subjected to persecution, particularly the Roman Catholic Church because of its unique belief that Catholics must be in communion with the Holy See. When Cardinal Kung was offered immediate freedom from prison in exchange for denying the Holy Father and to lead the 3-Self Independent Movement, Cardinal's reply was swift and definitive, "I am a Catholic Bishop. If I deny the Holy Father, not only will I not be a bishop, I will not even be a Catholic. You can cut off my head, but never my duty."

Most bishops in China, the Nuncio, foreign missionaries and superiors of religious communities were killed, expelled or incarcerated by the new government. However, even without arms and finance while suffering continuous persecutions, the Roman Catholic Church in China led by newly consecrated, heroic Chinese native bishops has survived 70 years through the protection of its Patrons, Our Lady of China and Saint Joseph. Thousands of faithful, clergy and bishops were jailed or placed in labor camps for 10, 20, or as many as 40 years. Numerous chose martyrdom in order to preserve their communion with the Pope. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. On All Saints Day, I am sure these martyr-saints must have pleaded for the suffering Catholic church in China before the throne of God.

On October 1, 2019, to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China, President Xi stood in Tiananmen Square reviewing the largest military parade in China's history, and announced to China and the world, "No force can stop the Chinese People and the Chinese nation."

On this day, the underground church community quietly offered their prayers of Thanksgiving, that no force could destroy the Roman Catholic faith in China even after 70 years of persecution. On the contrary, it has grown from three million in 1949 to approximately 6 million currently.

The Vatican and the Beijing Government have engaged in about two decades of negotiations. If the faith in the underground Church had been weak during this period, there would have been no reason for the Beijing government to negotiate with the Vatican. An atheist government does not respect moral strength and is not interested in evangelization.

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

We thank God for His love and protection. We thank the Catholic faithful around the world for their prayers and sacrifices. I recall Cardinal Kung's words of gratitude upon arriving in United States after 32 years of jail and house arrest. "If not because of the prayers of Catholics around the world, I would not have survived even one day in the Chinese cell."

Semper Paratus: On Necessary (but not always pleasant) Reading

Recently, I was introduced to an article with a rather unusual title, *Semper Paratus: On Necessary (but not always pleasant) Reading*,” by **Father Joseph W. Koterski, S.J.**, Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University, New York. The article, published in the *Catholic Scholars Quarterly*, detailed the writing of Saul Alinsky, **Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals**. (The organization of the socialism and community organizers) Father Koterski also introduced the books written by **Jesuit Fathers Clifford and Cizek**, and the **life of Ignatius Cardinal Kung**. Father Clifford was a missionary in the Shanghai Diocese when China turned Red. Fathers Clifford and Cizek shared with their readers their long years of brutal treatments, trial, failure, disappointment, and ultimately survival through God’s loving protection.

Saul Alinsky mapped out the tactics for community organizers to successfully “build the grassroots organizations to execute radical changes.” The books by Father John W. Clifford, S.J. “**In the Presence of My Enemies**”, and Father Walter Cizek, S.J. “**With God in Russia**,” and “**He leadeth Me**” brought to life those techniques employed by the communist persecutors to overpower their prisoners. They detailed the long years of inhumane treatments they received, both physical and psychological, in the Russian and Chinese jails. Methods of persecution may change through the years, but the underlining goals for the persecution and brainwashing were the same, to control the mind of the prisoners, rob them of their souls, faith and humanity, so that the prisoners would be totally submissive become tools for the work and ideology of the communist party.

The seven decades of persecution in China is not history. The signing of the Provisional Vatican-China Agreement (2018) failed to bring about religious freedom to the underground church. The Vatican had said that the ultimate goal of this Agreement was to give the underground church freedom of religious worship and also unity between the official (PA) church and the underground Roman Catholic community. Since the Agreement, the government has exerted significant pressure on the underground clergy: to submit to reeducation of its new religious policies, to sign the government Registration Form on which they pledge obedience to the Patriotic Association Bishops, to promote the Independent Patriotic church, to align religion towards the goals of the communist party. Without this Registration ID, a Roman Catholic Clergy may not function as a priest.

Father Koterski finds these books by Fathers Clifford, Cizek and also the experience of Cardinal Kung very pertinent today because of the spreading of socialism and communist ideologies throughout the world. Such knowledge and preparation will make a great difference “to our own faith and spiritual survival, to withstand our tests when the time comes.” He showed us the urgency to “sacrifice and pray, and where we can, to act by charitable gifts to the underground Roman Catholic Church in China.”

I am grateful to Father Koleski for his permission to share this article with our readers and for his prayers for China. The full article is 8 pages and is accessible through this link below. If you do not have access to the Internet, please send me a self-addressed envelope, I will be glad to mail a paper copy to you.

<https://www.catholicsscholars.org/PDFFiles/v41n4Winter2019.pdf>

The Provisional Vatican-China Agreement

Pope Francis referred to this Agreement as “a dialogue started with trust.” He predicted that the underground community would suffer, but gradually, the reconciliation between the official bishops and the underground bishops would give Chinese Catholic unity and a normal religious life. Cardinal Feloni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, one of the prime architects of the Provisional Agreement also said that “for the first time, the Agreement set out stable elements of cooperation between the state authorities and the Apostolic See...” He further hoped that the ‘local situations would not exploit the Agreement to compel the people to join the Patriotic Association.”

To refresh our memory, immediately prior to this Agreement, Pope Francis lifted the excommunication of eight Patriotic Bishops (one posthumously). As a result, all bishops in China, Patriotic Association (PA) Bishops and Roman Catholic (underground) Bishops are recognized by the Pope. It appeared that the Agreement did not require the PA bishops to resign from the Patriotic Association (which is still not recognized by the Holy See.) A few PA bishops continue to sit at the People’s Congress although under the canon law, a clergy may not hold a political position. These Patriotic Bishops continue openly and without objection from the Holy See to promote an independent church. They obey and execute the religious policies of the communist party even when the policy is in direct conflict with Roman Catholic practices, e.g. no religious services or instructions for anyone age 18 or under.

The Holy See said that the ultimate objective of the Agreement was the “unity and reconciliation between the official bishops and the underground bishops, and to offer a normal religious life in the Catholic Church in China.” As Roman Catholic bishops cannot practice religion without registration with the government, and this registration mandates joining and pledging obedience to the Patriotic Association, the unity could only be achieved under the administration of this independent church. Is this the normal religious life promised by the Cardinals who crafted the Agreement?

Since the Chinese government now recognizes the Pope as head of the Catholic Church in China, Roman Catholic bishops in communion with the Pope therefore are no longer a crime. Why did the Agreement overlook the release of Bishop Su Zhimin of Baoding, arrested some twenty years ago for his loyalty to the Successor of Peter?

Life of the Roman Catholics in the Post Agreement China

I would like to offer you a brief summary of major effects in the religious services being offered in the Roman Catholic Church in China keeping in mind that there are variations in the execution of the new religious policies in a very large area. It is important to know that these restrictions are not the results of overzealous local officials as China observers explained in the past, but are due to new religious policies approved by the central government and directly implemented by the United Front Work Department, an agency of the communist party charged to govern all aspects of religions in China.

Prayer Rooms and Sunday Masses Numerous prayer rooms have been confiscated or destroyed. Those dioceses, who are led by “Diocesan Administrators” and has no bishops have lost most of the prayer rooms. Previously, one Mass celebrated in a prayer room would be attended by 50 to 70 people. Now, without prayer rooms, the Mass may be offered at the clergy’s home or a catholic faithful’s home, To avoid the attention of the local officials, they must limit the attendance to a small number. A priest must offer a few Masses on one Sunday in order to meet the needs of all the parishioners. This created a lot of physical hardship for the priest.

Pastoral work Most of the underground dioceses are located in rural areas spread out over a very large district, A diocesan administrator or a clergy must frequently travel to other villages by public transport. An identity card is now required to buy a long distance bus ticket. Once the clergy is recognized as an unregistered clergy, the ticket office will refuse to sell him a ticket. The government policy makes the pastoral work very difficult and expensive.

Youth under age 18 They are forbidden to participate in any religious activities. This is strictly enforced including in the Patriotic churches. Government notices have been posted prominently in all PA Churches with no objection from the Patriotic church or from the Vatican. Youth cannot attend Mass, Bible and religious training, including listening to homilies. Religious summer camps were all cancelled. School children are taught in school that religion is superstitious and is harmful to the society. They are encouraged to report any violation by their neighbors and friend’s family including on their parents. After Easter 2019, Pope Francis was pleased that there were no problems during Easter in China. Churches were full. Did the Vatican notice the absence of youth? Evangelization of the youth receives great priority in the rest of the Roman Catholic Church, except in China and without notice or objection from the Holy See.

Illegal disabled orphanage The benefactors of the Cardinal Kung Foundation have supported the orphanage and the nuns that care for them for 20 years. Currently, the government continues to permit its existence. The government is never short of methods in harassing the good nuns (20) and the bishop taking advantage of their compassion to the orphans who have been brought up as Roman Catholics. Almost daily, they can expect inspection and making various demands. Eighteen months ago, the government required the orphanage to either increase the living space to meet the building requirement or to reduce the number of orphans. The good nuns gave up two floors of their convent and renovated it to be suitable for the disabled orphans with significant loans.

Over half of the orphan populations are now in their teens. A few teens are intellectually capable of attending school although physically disabled. The orphanage sent them to school in the city, and boarding at Catholic families during the school terms. As they are from an illegal orphanage, the orphanage must pay for their education plus a modest allowance for their room and board during school term. The Foundation now needs to help them with these large unexpected expenses.

Underground bishops Underground bishops do not have freedom of movement even within their own diocese. They are under constant surveillance. Leaving their homes, even for medical reasons, will need the government’s permission. There has been no underground bishop appointment for over 15 years even to replace the deceased bishops. During the same period, the Vatican has approved many consecrations of the Patriotic Association (PA) bishops. As a result, there are twice as many PA Bishops as the Roman Catholic Bishops in China. After the signing of the agreement, the Vatican approved two more PA Bishops. We expect that there will be more appointments of PA bishops in the near future.

A common explanation of not consecrating underground bishops was the lack of qualified candidates in the underground church due to its lack of training facilities. That is not true. The underground church has many overseas graduates from major seminaries in Rome, France and Spain. These students went through the same vigorous training as their European and American counterparts. With fluency in the host country’s language, graduating with Masters and Ph.D. in Theology, philosophy, Canon Law, etc., they are qualified and acceptable to European dioceses where there is a serious shortage of priestly vocations. Yet, the Chinese graduates have returned to serve their country and the church. Their faith and fidelity are tested and proven.

In a few years, most of the approximately 30 underground bishops, many are elderly will have died. Then, there will be only PA bishops in China. The names of candidates submitted to Rome for approval have all been thoroughly vetted by the local government, PA Bishop Conference and the United Front Work Department of the communist party. The Pope has the final say in the selection of candidates for PA bishops. . . . but only from a pool of “approved loyal sons” of the communist party.

We thank our benefactors for supporting the training of underground church clergy and nuns through the Foundation’s vocation program. We also thank these 30 plus overseas graduates who have returned during recent years to serve the Roman Catholic Church in China. We thank them for their fidelity, sacrifice and their deep love for the Church and for China.

Bible, religious material and website Only approved facilities may sell Bibles and religious books. All religious website were taken down across the country except a few authorized sites belonging to the Patriotic Church. Importing of religious books or Bibles are illegal, except for one or two copies for personal use.

Reporting Hotline In many parts of China, the government established a reporting hotline for reporting unauthorized religious activity or foreign influence on religion. Government policy stated that Religion must not have any foreign influence. The reward may be as high as US\$1,500, equivalent to 12 -18 months of local wages. Property owners supporting unauthorized religious activities may be fined an enormous sum. Property may be confiscated. Many underground clergy felt that they should not expose the faithful to such a great risk. As a result, some Masses were held discreetly in rented commercial places. The underground church incurred greater expenses to support their ministry.

Review published materials Government is putting significant resources, money and manpower in reviewing all published materials including text books, history books, the Bible and religious books to make sure all books reflect a desired image in line with the goals of the communist party and China’s religious policy. According to a senior official in charge of Sinicization, the government will achieve ‘a Catholic Church of China,’ not ‘a Catholic Church in China.’

Diligence in inspecting religious sites The local officials must diligently inspect and monitor (authorized) churches (Christian and Catholic PA churches). Cameras (many with facial recognition technology) are installed inside and outside the churches, at street corners, buses and train stations. President Xi’s portrait and the national flag is prominently displayed in all churches. They also pay attention to other displays in the church and homilies given.

It was reported that during an inspection in a Christian church, the inspector noticed a Ten Commandments tablet displaced in the sanctuary. The inspector asked to remove the first commandment. The pastor objected as the Ten Commandments came from Mosses thousands of years ago. The official explained that the First Commandment is an insult to President Xi. No one may be placed before the President. Not changing this would indicate a lack of loyalty to the President and the communist party resulting in severe penalties.

Summary The condition of the Roman Catholic Church in China continues to deteriorate. Previously, the communist government wished to project a better image in the international community and gave a little flexibility periodically in certain areas. Now that the Vatican-China Agreement has been signed, although no one knows its terms, the government feels free to imposed greater pressure on the underground church to achieve the “unity” so dear to the Vatican and Beijing. Many regulations which have been on the books and have not been enforced are now strictly implemented. Underground bishops and their clergy must register with the government or all religious services will be deemed illegal. Prayer rooms have been confiscated or destroyed including those previously approved by the local government. The PA Bishops with full support of Beijing, now also approved by Pope Francis, claimed their rights to manage some underground dioceses that have only Administrators and no bishops which made up of about 50% of the underground church. Many faithful who knew these PA bishops well refused to follow these PA bishops or their clergy. The faithful are sad and confused.

With God’s graces, the underground church suffered for 70 years, but survived and flourished. It took the Vatican’s carefully crafted, unpublished agreement to handover the underground church to the communist government, whatever may be the Vatican’s good intentions. As Cardinal Zen advised the underground bishops and clergy, follow your conscience and your faith. Better days will come. In one of Cardinal Kung’s homily in United States, he said, “The Roman Catholic Church in China will never disappear. Please pray and stay with us until Holy Mother deliver us in Her own time.”

Foreign visitors attending Sunday Mass in the underground church. I frequently received inquiries on the possibility of attending Mass in the underground church during this post Agreement period. Many visitors were in China on business, employment as teachers or exchange students in China. Holy Father has remarked joyfully earlier this year that there is religious freedom in China. The churches were full and there were no problem in celebrating Easter this year. Of course, Pope Francis was referring to the Official churches. If you are not interested in attending the Patriotic Church, to lend your presence in a Patriotic Church as evidence of religious freedom in China, a foreign visitors will most likely not being able to attend Mass in an underground church. His presence in an underground church will be detrimental to the clergy and the underground community.

Vatican's Pastoral Orientations for Bishops and Priests in the People's Republic of China

Civil Registration Cardinal Feloni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples has said that membership in the PA is not required for the underground bishops as freedom to practice religion is protected under China's Constitution. However, underground clergy and bishops have been pressured or 'invited' to attend re-education meetings on the new religious policies. At the end of the meetings, they would be 'invited' to register with the Patriotic Association. The government claimed that all PA bishops are now recognized by Pope Francis and all PA bishops are registered with the government. Without this registration card, all religious activities will be deemed illegal and must ceased immediately.

Registration form The title is Voluntary Request to Transfer to The Patriotic Association Diocese. The terms on the printed Form included 1) obedience to the Patriotic Association and its PA bishops, 2) to promote an independent church, 3) to promote Sinicization, 4) Agrees that religion must not have foreign influence, and 5) Religion is to promote the objectives of the communist party and the country.

Registration Incentive Besides threat and harassment, some Patriotic Bishops offer underground clergy significant enrollment awards up to US\$30,000 to encourage enrollment in the Patriotic Association.

The Vatican's guideline on registration On June 28, 2019, Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Vatican issued (**unsigned** with no name or department) a **pastoral guideline** to the underground church on registration with the Government. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2019-06/china-catholic-clergy-state-register-respect-conscience.html> This guideline affects about 6 million underground clergy, bishops and faithful. Yet, this guideline is unsigned. The guideline stated that it is acceptable for a Roman Catholic clergy to register with the government. The Vatican says that it respects the individual's conscience. If there are words and statements that the clergy feels unacceptable, it suggested that the clergy may delete or change the form before signing it. The clergy may also sign the form before a witness indicating his disagreement on certain parts of the form. The guideline further stated that "In each case, it is appropriate that the applicant then certify to his proper Ordinary with what intention he has made the registration."

Anyone knows that there is no negotiation with a totalitarian government. Changing the form will be taken as a serious insult to the government and one bears the consequence. This unsigned guideline is causing more confusion and pain in the underground church.

The Bible said, "*For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*" Luke 6:45. "*No one can serve two masters...*" Matthew 6:24. It is base on these and similar teachings on fidelity that , Cardinal Kung and thousands of other heroic clergy and faithful took up their cross to follow Christ. This unsigned guideline offered a new teaching that made the heroic lives of these martyrs irrelevant.

Cardinal Zen said, "This document has radically turned upside what is normal and what is abnormal, what is rightful and what is pitiable...." <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/cdl-zen-tells-pope-francis-that-vaticans-new-pastoral-doc-to-china-justifies-apostasy>

The loyal suffering church in China needs your prayers and financial help

My Friends, **the underground church community relies on your help through the support of the Foundation's programs:**

- Educate the seminarians/nuns both in China and in Europe,
- Support the clergy and their pastoral work through our Mass Stipend Program,
- Support and educate the disabled orphans (now numbering 80),

We continue to be surprised by the Chinese government's new restrictive policies, and by the Vatican's response or often complete silence. We must let the underground community know that they are not being abandoned. There are many worthy charitable causes. The Foundation has committed to just this only ONE mission for the past 27 years, to assist the Roman Catholic Church in China through prayers and financial support. We need your help to accompany the underground community in this treacherous journey "until Holy Mother saves China in Her own time."

Other ways to donate without extra cost to you

Smile.Amazon.com Amazon donates 0.5% of your sale to a charity of your choice. Once you have selected Cardinal Kung Foundation as your charity, no selection will be needed for future purchases. To qualify for the donation, sign onto smile.amazon.com to start your purchase. **All items and prices are the same in both sites: Amazon.com and smile.amazon.com.** If you have an account at Amazon.com, you can find your information and sales history at smile.amazon.com as well.

Charitymobile.com This is a pro-life cell phone company donates 5% of your monthly bill to your appointed charity. The Cardinal Kung Foundation is a listed charity.

Employers matching donation program. Most major employers offer matching donations to your charity. Please check with your Human Resources Department. Cardinal Kung Foundation is listed on charitynavigator.org and guidestar.org.

Qualified Charitable Distributions A retiree, at least age 70 1/2 may request the IRA plan administrator to distribute your donation **directly** to a 501 c 3 charity. This donation meets the annual required distribution of an IRA. This distribution may also be excluded from the income tax. Please check with your financial advisor and your IRA plan administrator. Cardinal Kung Foundation is a 501 c 3 charity. The Foundation tax ID is EIN: 06-1334853.

Hong Kong fighting for democracy

Mac C. P. Mak, D.Min. Board of Director and the Treasurer of The Cardinal Kung Foundation visited Hong Kong recently. He shares with us his observations as follows:

Hong Kong, a former British colony was returned to China in 1997, is currently in the sixth month of its social protest against the Chinese government. The peaceful protest that drew millions of people to rally on the street was first caused by an extradition bill that the Hong Kong government wants to impose onto the Hong Kong people. This would allow China to name anyone a criminal by charging them crimes such as disturbing the peace and stability of the State, speaking against the government or the communist party, a spy, corruption, etc.

Leading up to this incident, Hong Kong people watched with great alarm on the gradual erosion of the democracy and autonomy promised by the Beijing government in 1997: One country, two systems with significant democracy, judicial independence and religious freedom for 50 years. The Catholic Church in Hong Kong is the Roman Catholic Church and not the PA Church. In recent years, various incidents included the disappearance of five owners/publishers of a bookstore known for being critical of Beijing, and the proposed reforms to the Hong Kong electoral systems showed that the erosion of democracy started 28 years earlier than what Beijing has promised.

After the initial peaceful protest by approximately two million people (Hong Kong has 7.5 million population), instead of withdrawing the extradition bill, the government employed a police violence tactic to quell the protest. Thousands of protesters were arrested and hundreds were injured. Since then, the protests have expanded. At various times one can find other professional groups joined the students and youth: teachers, lawyers, social workers, etc. The public outcry has evolved into a demand of the Chinese government to honor its promise of democracy and universal suffrage as stipulated in the Sino-British Joint Declaration Agreement in 1997 (Basic Law).

The 87 year old **Cardinal Joseph Zen**, retired Cardinal of Hong Kong, has been very active in recent years accompanying Hong Kong people's fight for democracy. He led prayers during the rally including his participation in some peaceful protest. Many churches at their own decision, have offered protesters water and a place to rest. Also, many Catholics in Hong Kong have signed a petition to the Pontifical Administrator of Hong Kong, Cardinal John Tong to request the Church to come upfront to support the movement and make a strong voice to demand the Hong Kong government to stop the police violence against the protesters.

On October 19, 2019, Cardinal Tong called on the government to listen to the people, and for Hong Kong people to imitate Gandhi and Mandela who carried out peaceful protests against tyranny. Please pray for Hong Kong as they fight for freedom and justice.

20th Anniversary of the Death of Ignatius Cardinal Kung Pin-Mei

Bishop of Shanghai, Apostolic Administrator of Soochow & Nanjing

Twenty years ago, over 100 clergy and hundreds of friends completely packed the Basilica of Saint John where James Cardinal Stafford, Personal Envoy of Saint Pope John Paul II offered the funeral Mass for Cardinal Kung. On March 7, 2020 at noon, we will welcome clergy, and friends of Cardinal Kung to join us again in the Basilica to remember Cardinal Kung at a Pontifical Requiem Mass to be offered by His Eminence Cardinal Burke. Please check the enclosed notice for details.

*The Board of Directors wishes you and your family a happy Thanksgiving.
We look forward to welcoming you next March at the Basilica of St. John.*

Agnes Kung, Director of Programs