



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

Feast of the Ascension of our Lord, 2020

Dear Friends,

COVID-19 Pandemic

I hope you and your family are keeping well. We pray that this situation will continue to improve and allow the churches to reopen soon. One friend told me in mid-March. "Today, my pastor told us that there will be no Mass in the church until you receive notice that the church is reopened. You can follow online Masses." Knowing that I will not be able to return to this church for a long time, I feel very sad. I realize how one must feel in the underground church not knowing when the next Mass will be."

I am relieved that among the large number of the underground clergy, nuns, seminarians & the orphanage that we assist, no one has had COVID-19 infection. This is miraculous considering that their living condition is very basic and usually in crowded quarters. The merciful Lord has protected them. They cheerfully bore pressure from both the government and the coronavirus. They talked about one significant hardship; they cannot visit and take care of their parishioners. They can only pray for everyone at home. I also found out that the food prices have skyrocketed since the pandemic. Many of them could only afford rice and pickled vegetable, as fresh vegetable, egg and meat are not affordable. They did not ask for help, as they knew from the newsletter that many people in the west have lost their jobs. The pandemic must have affected our donations and our ability to help them.

We are most grateful for the continue generosity of our donors. If you are blessed with financial security during this period, please consider increasing the level of your donation, as many donors are not able to continue during this period. Your sacrificial generosity will help the underground church during this very difficult time.

Religious Policy of Communist China

An atheist government has no interest in religion or its evangelization. Since founding the schismatic Catholic Patriotic Church in 1957 the communist government policy has been to gain absolute control of all religions, independence from foreign influence, and to use religion to promote the policy of the communist party.

1950-55 Cardinal Kung and thousands of clergy and faithful were arrested for refusing to denounce the Successor of St. Peter by joining the 3-self Patriotic Movement.

1957 When the Patriotic Association was established, it officially informed Vatican of its independence and left the Holy See, not the other way around.

1991 When Cardinal Kung was elevated to a Cardinal, China charged Vatican for violating the independence of the Catholic Church in China.

2000 When Cardinal Kung died, China once again condemned "Kung" as a criminal of China who split the church in Shanghai. Cardinal Kung continued to refuse to denounce the Pope during his 32 years of imprisonment.

"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

Post Provisional Vatican-China Agreement (October 2018)

Post Agreement Conference Soon after the Agreement was signed, the Chinese government & Patriotic Bishop Conference summoned bishops and priests, Patriotic and underground, to education meetings. The presentation in the meetings referred to this new Vatican-China Agreement as “another proof of Vatican’s interference with the independence of the Catholic Church in China.”

Clergy ID Since 2018, the government has been demanding the underground clergy to sign a transfer form titled, “**Voluntary Transfer to Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association**,” to pledge their complete obedience to the Patriotic Bishops, to promote an independent church and to use religion to support the policy of the communist party. Without this pledge, the government will not issue an ID to the priest to practice his ministry.

New religious policies have been announced and gradually enforced across China. They are major departures from Catholic doctrines and practices, including sacraments.

- 1) **Youth** - No one under 18 may be baptized, instructed in Catholic doctrines, or attend religious services.
- 2) **Removal of Crosses** Government destroyed thousands of Crosses in Christian/Catholic churches. Holy images and Ten Commandments were removed and replaced by the writing and portrait of President Xi.
- 3) **Monitoring Churches** Video cameras are installed inside and outside of the churches to closely monitor church activities primarily affecting Patriotic Churches, as Underground Church typically has no churches.
- 4) **New Religious Governance** This was announced in February 2020. Each religion **would be headed by a state-appointed Conference that would be the supreme decision-making body**. Effectively, the highest administrative body of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association would not be the Patriotic Bishop Conference, but a government appointed Conference, which could include lay persons, atheistic government officials and clergy. This is against the Canon Law and tradition of the Catholic Church.
- 5) **Religious Activities Sites** A new policy restricting all religious activities to approved religious sites only. Clergy may not offer prayers, anoint the sick at parishioners’ homes, or attend funeral services. Only family members limited to 20 may pray at a funeral.

Reactions from the Holy See

On Youth Shortly before the Synod of Bishops 2018 on Young People, Faith and Vocation Discernment was to take place in Vatican, China announced its new religious policy banning youth under 18 from all activities of the church. Two formerly excommunicated Patriotic bishops, now pardoned, were invited to attend the Bishop Synod even though the Chinese Patriotic Bishops Conference is not recognized by Vatican. This new policy excluded an entire generation of Chinese from the teaching of the Catholic faith. They in turn will not be able to provide strong Catholic family education to their children. The future of the Chinese Catholic church will be seriously weakened. China has 20% of the world population. Yet, such serious change in China was not discussed in the Synod.

Clergy ID The Holy See proudly acknowledged that they have established a good dialogue with the Chinese government. Sadly, the Roman Catholic bishops and priests in China still could not rely on Pope Francis as head of the Catholic Church in China to give them permission to practice their ministry. About a year ago, Holy See issued a **Pastoral Guideline** encouraging underground priests to sign the “transfer form” to obtain the government ID. It stated that Holy See respects their conscience. If a clergy finds it’s terms objectionable, it suggested to the clergy to delete that term. If the Holy See’s powerful Cardinals could not negotiate for the Roman Catholic priests the right to practice their ministry, is it reasonable to expect an underground clergy to negotiate with a totalitarian government without serious consequence? **Can Unity be achieved without offering the Roman Catholic Church in China to the Independent Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association?**

Fidelity to the Pope, Still a Crime? Some Roman Catholic bishops are still in jail for their fidelity to the Pope. “Fidelity” should no longer be an issue since China has accepted the Pope as head of the Church in China. Is Beijing violating the terms of the “Agreement?” Has Vatican demanded their release or is this an oversight?

Fidelity During the initial 25 years of persecutions, the Popes and the Holy See acknowledged the **fidelity** of these martyrs & dry martyrs through their letters to China. In recent decades, Vatican changed its tune. It starting to refer to the Patriotic and the underground church as “**One Catholic Church with two communities**.” Vatican ignores the fact that ONE church was established over 2000 years earlier by Christ, and the Patriotic church was established in 1957 by the Chinese communist government. The Holy See explained these “two communities” as

“One group works with the government” and “One group would not work with the government.” Let us reflect on Cardinal Kung’s words to his chief prosecutor’s on the eve before his trial. He had already been in jail for 5 years and that was his last chance for freedom. Cardinal Kung could not have taken the prospect of a life sentence in a Chinese dungeon lightly. Yet, Cardinal Kung said, “if I leave the Holy Father, not only would I not be a bishop, I would not even be a Catholic.” Cardinal Kung and other martyrs did not refuse to work with the government; they refused to denounce the Supreme Pontiff by supporting an independent church. To this day, the Patriotic Church continues openly their support of an independent church. **Fidelity has been given a different interpretation.**

Independent Church Pope Francis has recognized all eight schismatic bishops. Sadly, the Pope’s generous acceptance of these bishops is not enough a reason for these bishops to disobey the Chinese government’s command: that all religion must be independent of foreign influence and to support the communist party’s agenda. In spite of the Patriotic bishops’ open support of an independence church, Cardinal Re, Dean of the Cardinals, in his February 26 2020 letter to all cardinals said, “the expression “**independent Church**” can no longer be interpreted in an absolute manner as “separation” from the Pope, as was the case in the past.” Since Patriotic Bishops would not give up supporting an “independent church,” so “**independent church**” has been given a different interpretation.

Hong Kong

Democracy Protest since 2019 For about one year, Hong Kong citizens have conducted democracy protests to retain their rights and protection under the Basic Law signed between Beijing and England in 1997 to provide for “**one country and two systems**” for 50 years. In less than half of that period, Beijing has attempted to limit Hong Kong’s freedom. Hong Kong has a Roman Catholic Church, not a Chinese Patriotic Association. The continued religious persecution in China must have motivated active support of the pro-democracy movement from all walks of life: priests and leaders of other religions, Catholic leaders, professionals. Many protests started with prayers. Catholic youth have delivered a letter to Pope Francis begging him to speak for Hong Kong.

Mass Arrests of Pro-Democracy Leaders During the pandemic period, the protest has temporarily stopped. In spite of this, the Hong Kong government made a **mass arrest last month** based on participations in protests months earlier. This included fifteen prominent leaders of the Democratic Party: Founder of the party, former lawmaker of the opposition, owner of a prominent newspaper, etc. During the past year, there were almost 7000 arrests. This brought back painful memory of the mass arrest of Cardinal Kung and Catholic leaders in Shanghai on September 8, 1955. If convicted, these Democratic Party leaders will not be able to run for election this September.

The Catholic Church in Hong Kong has always been faithful children of the Holy See supporting the Church spiritually and financially. England, America and many countries have spoken condemning this Mass arrest. We hope Vatican will comment soon on this event or on other democracy protests during the past year. **Please pray for Hong Kong and Macau. This is the only remaining parts of China that Roman Catholic can freely practice their faith.**

20th Anniversary of the Death of Cardinal Kung

The Pontifical Requiem Mass commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the death of Cardinal Kung in the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist, Stamford, Connecticut was attended by about 1000 people. This was the same Basilica where the funeral Mass of Cardinal Kung was held in 2000. We were very honored that **His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke** travelled from Rome to offer this Mass and delivered an inspiring and powerful homily. You can share our joy by watching the video on the highlight of the Mass through this link or from the Foundation’s website. <https://vimeo.com/415002216/295ab484e6> **A copy of the homily is also attached.**

Underground Clergy Joined Cardinal Burke Spiritually The Foundation was able to inform the underground church of this commemorative Mass and His Eminence’s visit. They were all very excited and grateful for Cardinal Burke’s support to the suffering church. The **underground priests joined Cardinal Burke spiritually at the altar** that day. The nuns and seminarians all promised their rosary and prayers, and Mass (if available) and for Cardinal Kung, Cardinal Burke and for China.

At the Pontifical Requiem Mass, His Eminence was assisted by **Monsignor Stephen DiGiovanni**, Pastor of the Basilica, **Father Cyprian La Pastina**, Pastor of St. Mary Church, Greenwich, CT **Canon Andrew Todd**, Pastor of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Oratory, Bridgeport CT and Master of Ceremonies; **Canon Joel Estrada**, Pastor of St. Patrick Church, Waterbury CT as Deacon, **Rev. Jon Tveit**, St. James the Apostle Church, Carmel NY as Sub-deacon. Please pray daily a *Hail Mary* for the cause of Cardinal Kung. Opening the cause will be a strong affirmation of the fidelity and heroic lives of the underground church whose suffering continues into its 70th year.

Six Commemoration Masses in CA were offered through the efforts of **Rita Ng of San Lorenzo, CA** and **Joseph Ngo of Tustin, CA**. We are most grateful to these clergy for Standing With The Underground Church.

- March 6, 2020** Traditional High Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, Castro Valley, CA.
Celebrant Rev. Paul Fazio, OFM conv.
- March 7, 2020** Melkite Divine Liturgy in Jesuit chapel, Berkeley, CA.
Celebrant Fr. Christopher Hadley, S.J.
- March 12, 2020** Solemn Requiem Mass at SS Peter & Paul Church, Wilmington, CA.
Celebrant Fr. Jacob Hsieh, O. Praem, Deacon - Fr. Hildebrand Garceau, O. Praem,
Subdeacon - Dominic Nixon, Acolyle Dominck Ortiz.
- March 12, 2020.** Missa Cantata at Mater Dolorosa Church in South San Francisco, CA.
Celebrant Father Joseph Homick, COSJ
- March 12, 2020** Traditional Latin Mass at St. Edward Church, Newark, CA.
Celebrant Canon Ueda
- March 14, 2020** Ruthenian Byzantine Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's Church, Walnut Creek, CA.
Celebrant - Rev. Anthony Hernandez

Please say a prayer to thank all the churches and clergy (some names have not been included above) that offered the commemoration Masses for Cardinal Kung, participated at these Masses, helped to prepare the churches for this solemn liturgy, Choir Masters and musicians, sacristans and many volunteers to make this occasion a great encouragement to the underground church community, and blessings to all of us.

World Day of Prayers For China (May 24)

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI established May 24 to be the annual special day for Catholic in the whole world to join in prayers for China. Quoting Cardinal Kung,

"If it were not for the prayers of the universal Church, I would not have survived even one day in the Chinese dungeon."

By the grace of God, and prayers of the universal church, Cardinal Kung survived almost 12,000 days without visits, sacraments, Holy Mass, rosary or even secular reading material. He also spent many long periods in isolation. Please pray that the underground clergy and faithful have the wisdom and courage to live the fullness of their faith. I attach the Prayer to Our Lady of SheShan authored by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

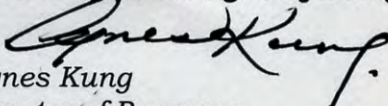
A New Board Member

The Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that Father Joseph W. Koterski, S.J., a professor from Fordham University has recently joined the Board of Directors. Father said that he feels a special closeness to the underground church in China that reflects the heroic spirit and lives of many Jesuit missionaries and martyrs, e.g. Fr. Walter Ciszek, S.J. and Fr. John W. Clifford S.J., dry martyrs in Russia and Shanghai, China respectively. Please welcome Father Koterski. I attach Father Koterski's information to this email.

Donation Matching Program

Many major employers have Donation Matching Programs. Please check with your Human Resource Department. 50% match or even 100% match on your donations will be significant benefits to the underground church. Cardinal Kung Foundation is a 501c 3 charity. Matching donations have been approved by UnitedHealth, Verizon, etc. The underground church will be very grateful for your special effort

From the Board of Directors: During Easter, a Novena of Masses was offered in the underground church for your intentions. The Foundation offers over 200 Masses each year for our benefactors. During this pandemic, the underground clergy, nuns and seminarians wish to let you know that they pray for your physical & financial health. The Board of Directors wishes you and your family a blessed Feast Day of the Ascension of Our Lord.


Agnes Kung
Director of Programs

New Director

Rev. Joseph W. Koterski, S.J.



Father Joseph W. Koterski, S.J., is a member of the Philosophy Department at Fordham University, where he has taught since his ordination as a Catholic priest in 1992.

At Fordham he also serves as the Editor-in-Chief of *International Philosophical Quarterly*, as the Editor of the *Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Quarterly*, and as Master of Queen's Court Residential College for Freshmen. He regularly

teaches courses on natural law ethics and on medieval philosophy.

He has produced videotaped lecture-courses on *Aristotle's Ethics*, on *Natural Law and Human Nature*, and on *Biblical Wisdom Literature* for The Teaching Company, and most recently one on *St John Paul II's Veritatis Splendor* for the International Catholic University.

In addition to publishing various articles and book chapters, he has authored a monograph entitled *An Introduction to Medieval Philosophy: Basic Concepts* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009). This past year, he co-edited with Graham Oppy a volume entitled *Theism and Atheism: Opposing Viewpoints in Philosophy* (Gale Cengage, 2019).

We are honored to have Father Koterski join our Board of Directors. Father is very enthusiastic and loves sharing his knowledge with as many people as possible through his teaching assignments, his presentations at numerous academic and professional conferences, and in various popular venues. In addition to his position at Fordham University, he has also been teaching at St. Joseph Seminary (Archdiocese of New York), St. John Fisher Seminary (Diocese of Bridgeport) and Cardinal Kung Academy (a classical High School in Stamford Connecticut).

As someone concerned about religious persecution in many parts of the world, Father wrote an insightful article on this topic in 2019. He strongly recommended that we become better prepared spiritually and psychologically to defend our faith. This preparation must include prayers, sacrifice, and reading the writings of missionaries who have suffered persecution. Father has acknowledged the influence of many heroic Jesuit martyrs in China, Russia, and other communist countries.

The Directors look forward to working with Father Koterski to spread the message of the persecuted church in China, and to assist them directly through the Foundation's programs.