



Autumn 1994.

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"

Dear Friends;

- 1) Contributions to the Patriotic Association - On March 17, 1994, a donor of the Cardinal Kung Foundation forwarded to us an Information sheet on the Catholic Church in China issued by AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN). She indicated to us her deep concern that ACN might be assisting the Chinese Patriotic Association with donations meant for the Roman Catholic Church. Alarmed, we sought clarification from Father Dom Bernard Willem DeSmet, OSM, the President of ACN. From the correspondence we exchanged with ACN, together with other published articles, we concluded that ACN had, in fact, been assisting the Patriotic Association.

The newly released ACN 1993 annual report stated:

"...Our help for China rose from 347,368 dollars in 1992 to 866,088 last year. After long negotiations the Church was permitted to print 300,000 New Testaments and 4,000 Breviaries. It was a great joy for us to be able to support this project with 320,000 dollars. Our thanks to all who contributed to this!..."

The "Church" that ACN refers to is not the Roman Catholic Church in China. Rather, it refers to a church which was created in the 1950's by the Religious Bureau of the Chinese Communist Government and is continued to be controlled by them. It rejects the Pope's authority. It appoints its own bishops and ordains them without the permission from the Holy Father. This so called "Church" mentioned in ACN's annual report is not even recognized by our Holy Father. This is the Chinese Communist Government's "Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association".

ACN is a renowned Roman Catholic charitable organization. The readers and donors of ACN have the right to expect that the donation would go to the Roman Catholic Churches unless otherwise qualified.

In the case of China, we have the right to believe that the donation goes to the loyal Roman Catholic Church, commonly known as the underground Church, when in fact ACN is aiding a schismatic Patriotic Association without the slightest qualification. This is not merely misleading. It is deceiving.

Moreover, these bibles printed by the Patriotic Association with ACN's grant have their contents altered with at least two omissions on explaining the Papal Supremacy.

Sadly, ACN is not the only institution aiding the Patriotic Association. There are a number of other well known Roman Catholic institutions and religious communities participating in the programs of the Patriotic Association. They are, as reported by "30 DAYS"

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(page 36, no.5, 1994), Italian PIME, Jesuits, Franciscans, Missio, Misereor, the French Missions de Paris, the Belgians of Scheut and many others. This list, of course, will not be complete without mentioning Maryknoll.

In all, according to 30 DAYS, US \$ 4.7 million have been contributed to the Patriotic Association by the Universal Church's institutions. In the meantime, the loyal underground Roman Catholic church, who has demonstrated its allegiance to the Holy Father heroically for the last four decades, were "left with nothing" as headlined in the 30 DAYS!

In addition to cash, there are free services given to the Patriotic Association. Scores of religious personnel worked in China for Patriotic Association as teachers and social workers. Dozens of Patriotic association seminarians and nuns are studying free with full tuition, room and board scholarships in the United States Catholic seminaries and elsewhere in the West. These could add up to another few millions of dollars!

No doubt, the Patriotic Association is being supported indirectly by your generous donations to your dioceses and to these religious communities.

Because of these aforementioned supports, it is logical for the Patriotic Association Bishops and the Chinese Government to believe that the position they have taken (independence from the Pope), their agenda, policy (continuous persecution of the loyal Church) and programs must have been accepted by the Universal Church; otherwise, why would these Patriotic Association projects receive such overwhelming support with millions of dollars in donation from the Universal Church?



Some of the underground Roman Catholic congregation of 450 who attended Sunday Mass in an open field and knelt on the frozen ground in sub-zero weather.

Top: Praying. Bottom: Receiving Holy Communion.

This is a wrong message! Because of this erroneous and misguided message, the loyal underground Roman Catholic Church suffers greatly.

The 1988 advisory from the Holy See said that any contact with the Patriotic Association should be marked by "doctrinal clarity and fraternal charity".

Charity should start at home with the Roman Catholic Bishops in China, not with the Patriotic Association which is controlled by the atheistic communist government! These donations and free services to the Patriotic Association at the expense of the underground Church certainly far exceeded the spirit of "Fraternal Charity".

Many church leaders of the free world appeared to have been convinced that kindness and friendship to the communist government sanctioned Patriotic Association would bring about unity between the loyal Church and the Patriotic Association and eventually the freedom of worship in China. Unfortunately, over ten years of active, open support to the Patriotic Bishops from the universal Church failed to achieve this "unity". It only misguidedly gave the Patriotic Bishops and the Communist government an impression that if they wait long enough, the Universal Church leaders would accept them under any terms, WITH OR WITHOUT THE PRINCIPLE OF PAPAL SUPREMACY. As "30 DAYS" recently remarked (last paragraph, page 36, no. 5 - 1994):



Peripheral site of the open frozen-air Mass shown on the next page. A garbage dump. Note people worshipping at the top left corner.

"...financial relief from abroad ultimately widens the gap between them (Patriotic Association and loyal clandestine Church). The clandestines receive only under-the-counter grants. And the works built with regime-authorized funds are boycotted by the faithful. The buildings then remain useless white elephants in the hands of a few "patriotic" officials paid by the State."

We pray that our Bishops, when they are aware of the truth of the Patriotic Association and of the

heroic fidelity of the persecuted loyal Roman Catholic Church, would not ignore the 8 million suffering brothers and sisters of the loyal Church, even though they are thousands of miles away. Better public awareness will hopefully change the hearts of the world Bishops. The Foundation needs you to speak out and let your Bishops know of your support to the underground Church in China.

In his homily televised nationally on 6/29/1994, the feast day of Saints Peter & Paul, HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL KUNG said:

"...Many Catholic Church leaders in the Free world extended hospitality and donated large sums of money to bishops of the Communist's Patriotic Association. The Chinese government regards these friendships and cooperation with the Patriotic Association as an endorsement of its current policy on religion. With this license, they continue their persecution of the loyal Roman Catholic Church without any fear of reprisal. Unfortunately, these misguided friendships and acts of charity on behalf of the Patriotic Association have only prolonged the

sufferings of the loyal church ... This is a disservice to the Chinese. This is a ridicule to the continued sacrifices and sufferings of the loyal underground Roman Catholic communities. It is a mockery to the blood of the thousands of Chinese martyrs."

2) Accepting the Patriotic Association religious -

To convince their overseas benefactors of their fidelity to the Church; thereby receiving millions of donations, the Patriotic Association bishops Zong Huaide, Jin Luxian, Fu Teshan, Cai Tiyan and others never failed to proclaim their "loyalty" to the Pope "IN THEIR HEARTS" and to recall their "INTIMATE UNION" with the Apostolic See. What the benefactors were not made aware of is that these bishops are officers of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and its Bishop's conference. They are also the presidents of their local chapters of the Patriotic Association. They have the fundamental duty to



Cardinal Kung and Archbishop Martino (front), Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, in the Mass procession at St. John's Baptist Church in New York City on May 14, 1994 for human rights and the persecuted Roman Catholic Church in China.

defend the current constitution of both the Patriotic Association and its Bishop's conference. The most important tenet of these two constitutions is the separation of their church from the Pope!

Actions speak louder than words. Bishop Jin of Shanghai, the Patriotic Bishops Conference, and other patriotic bishops all strongly protested and publicly accused the Holy Father that He had interfered with the internal affairs of China and had split the Catholic Church in China, when His Holiness announced the elevation of Bishop Kung, the Bishop of Shanghai, to the College of Cardinals in May 1991. They further accused Cardinal Kung that he was sinning against the country and the Church. Such belligerence exemplifies the true face of these bishops and the patriotic Association. If the Patriotic Bishops were as loyal as they claimed to be, they could not have made such strong public statements against His Holiness.

In the West, loyalty to the Pope includes obedience. However, the Patriotic Association Bishops, priests and seminarians have been actively advocating "independence and separation from the Pope" inside China, while they simultaneously proclaim their "loyalty" to the Pope in front of their overseas benefactors. One could easily see that the definition of "loyalty" according to the Patriotic Association has an entirely different connotation from what we understand in the free world, and could at best be described as "love without obedience". Yet the Patriotic Association religious gain entrance and acceptance in the West by pledging their version of "loyalty" to the Pope. Would this version of loyalty - without obedience - be accepted in the Roman Catholic Church in the United States and elsewhere in the free world? We should think not!

When the Church leaders in the free world accept a distorted "loyalty" (love without obedience) to the Holy Father, they are not only sending a wrong message to the

Chinese Roman Catholic faithful, but also to the free world - that is; true loyalty with obedience to His Holiness could be dispensed when it is politically or economically feasible. This is contrary to the basic doctrine in Catholicism. Loyalty and obedience to the Pope is not a matter of discipline. It is a matter of faith. This is nonnegotiable.

In recent years, the underground Roman Catholic Church (illegal in the eyes of the Chinese Communist Government) has been very active, open and accessible. Many of them are known to the government and to the Catholic faithful. Therefore, most of the faithful have two options:

- 1) to be loyal and obedient to the Pope (there are 8 millions of them in China),
- 2) to be loyal and obedient to the Patriotic Association, and be rewarded with the related economic benefits and power from the Government.

If anyone of the Patriotic Association Bishops, priests and seminarians are truly loyal to the Pope, they should be able to prove themselves by not merely pledging their "loyalty (love without obedience)" to the Pope, but also by:

1. Proclaiming his obedience to the Pope.
2. Disassociating himself from the Patriotic Association which often means forgoing the related economic benefits.
3. Pledging, if he is a priest, his allegiance and obedience to the Roman Catholic (underground) Bishop appointed by the Holy See in his Diocese.
4. Proclaiming the profession of faith.

One should question the Patriotic Association religious who merely pledge "loyalty" to the Pope without the above four steps, and are still reporting and working for a patriotic bishop who advocates separation from the Pope, one can not help but wonder not only how valid is this pledge, but also rightly judge that it is prolonging the persecution of the loyal Church.

Patriotic bishops, priests, and seminarians travel every year to the United States and elsewhere in the West. If they are sincere about their "loyalty and obedience to the Pope", they have plenty of opportunities to start anew and dissociate themselves from the communist controlled Patriotic Association and the self-appointed Patriotic Bishops. They should certainly be most welcome to their mother Church. But they can not have a piece of cake and eat it twice by declaring their "loyalty" to the Holy Father, and in the meantime still either stay with the Patriotic Association or work for a patriotic Bishop.

3) Rumors and False Documents - Many fabricated rumors and documents, contrary to the traditional guidelines, appear to have been an overall plot by the Chinese government and the Patriotic Government to:

- A. Erode the respect, confidence, obedience and loyalty of the underground church to the Holy Father to such an extent that the issue of authority of the Pope on the Catholic Church in China would become irrelevant.
- B. To give the Roman Catholic institutions around the world a serious misconception that the Vatican is now supporting the government sponsored Patriotic Association rather than the loyal underground Church.
- C. To reassure the Patriotic Association members that it is doctrinally sound to join the Patriotic Association. Members of the Patriotic Association are often skeptical about their own bishops, priests and teachings.

A few events happened that, frightfully, confirm the above scenario.

In 1988, the Vatican issued an advisory to the world bishops on their relationships with the Patriotic Association. Such directives included forbidding Roman Catholic priests to concelebrate with Patriotic association's clergy. This advisory has not

been changed.

- A. False Eight Directives Allegedly From The Vatican - Recently, someone issued "Eight Directives" in Chinese giving a new interpretation contradicting the aforementioned 1988 advisory. In this false document, claim was made that it was issued from The Vatican through the Papal representative in Hong Kong. The Papal Representative in Hong Kong has categorically denied that he had ever issued it.

This false document, in essence, said that joining the Patriotic Association, accepting their priests and Bishops, and using their facilities are permitted under the current situation. The document said that since the Vatican did not openly condemn the Patriotic Association, it has, in essence, approved it.

Shanghai Catholics reported that Bishop Jin, the Patriotic Association's Bishop of Shanghai, has printed an extraordinary large number of copies of this false document. They have been distributed throughout China. A number of Patriotic bishops are organizing classes to teach these false directives.

- B. Concelebration - According to "Our Sunday Visitor 6/12/94", Archbishop Roger Vangheluwe, Archbishop of Bruges, Belgium, openly concelebrated a Holy Mass with fifteen visiting Patriotic Association priests. This concelebration is clearly contrary to the 1988 Vatican advisory. The Visitors further commented that "the Archbishop of Bruges would not have allowed the priests to concelebrate with him if he did not have approval from Rome".

Could this "approval" be true? His Eminence Cardinal Kung has not received any notice from Vatican on the change of its policy on concelebration.

The frequent visits to the West of the Patriotic Bishops, the enthusiastic reception they received from the Universal Church's hierarchy, the millions given to the Patriotic Church, the vehement rumors and false documents have, very unfortunately, given the public the perception that the Holy See is supporting the Patriotic Association and is ready to abandon the 8 million loyal Catholics in China.

The Communist government did not succeed in eliminating the three million loyal underground Catholics by coercion and persecution. This three million in the 1950's has since grown to eight million, but not without great price and countless martyrdom.

Now, the communist government is hoping to defeat the Roman Catholic Church by more subtle deceit and confusion.

Speaking in April 1994 at St. John's Church in New York, His Eminence Cardinal Kung said:

"The Catholic Church will never vanish in China. I beg you to have the patience to stay with us with your prayers and open support until our Holy Mother Mary saves China in her own time."

4) Other News:

- A. Arrests and Fines - The underground church has very few churches. Almost all Masses are offered in the private homes or in the open fields. There have been intensive crackdowns on these "illegal religious activities" in private homes. Many underground priests were arrested while saying these secret Masses in private homes. Since last Winter, the Foundation has reported to the media the arrest of four bishops, twelve priests and two lay persons. There must be many more unreported. In one district, due to the arrest of its only two priests, there has been no Holy Mass for many months.



Top: Accompanied by Joseph Kung, President of the Cardinal Kung Foundation, the Human Rights Conference delegation of Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) attended a Mass celebrated by underground Bishop Su of Baoding, China. Bishop Su was later jailed for 9 days because he met with the Congressman. Below: From left - Joseph Kung, Bishop Su, and Congressman Smith.

Moreover, the communist government has started to impose heavy fines in certain districts of JMP 3000 (Chinese currency) equivalent to 6-8 months salary from the hosts of the private Mass. These arrests and fines have significantly reduced the chances of secret Mass in private homes.

B. Sales of Roman Catholic Church Properties - News media has reported that Bishop Aloysius Jin, the Patriotic Association Bishop of Shanghai, has organized a real estate company to systematically sell or commercially redevelop the properties belonging to the Roman Catholic diocese of Shanghai or other religious orders. Those prime properties consisting of 2 million square feet are priceless, due to the vibrant real estate boom in Shanghai. The profits will be shared equally by the developer and the Patriotic Association!

5) Recent Trend of the Underground Church - In spite of great personal risks, the underground Church attempts to worship openly. They formed the Roman Catholic Bishops Conference in China, built churches (at least one was torn down by the Government), and met with the U. S. congressman. They

offer Masses, organize devotions and pilgrimages, and many other activities disregarding government restrictions. The underground church deserves the active support from the Universal Church and world bishops.

6) Projects:

a. INFORMATION PROGRAM - Through our newsletter, direct mail, radio, TV, print advertisement, press release and meetings, we aim to inform the public of:

1. The continuous persecution of the loyal Roman Catholic Church in China.
2. The main principle of the schismatic "Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association" which maintains its autonomy from the Holy See and is not recognized by the Pope.
3. The activities and urgent needs of the persecuted yet vibrant loyal Church.

We aim to convince the Chinese Communist government that the world opinion is against its oppressive religious policy and human rights record. At the same time we want to promote prayers and the much needed financial support from the Universal Church to the loyal Bishops in China.

You can actively participate in this INFORMATION PROGRAM for China through the followings:

1. Send us name and address list of your friends, parishioners, alumni and member of Catholic organizations. We will use these names for the Cardinal Kung Foundation only and will not sell or rent our name list.
2. If you are in the business of selling name lists, please consider renting the lists to us at cost.
3. Recommend us to the media for news release and interviews.
4. Make a donation towards this Information Program. We want to send 30,000 letters in the next 3 month. This will cost \$ 21,000. In the last fiscal year, we were only able to send out 15,000 letters because of inadequate funding.

b. THEOLOGY AND ADVANCE EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES - This will improve the training of the loyal Roman Catholic priests in China. Most underground priests were ordained under the "emergency power" after they have been given long but often incomplete academic training due to inadequate facilities.

We now have three underground priests in the United States under the sponsorship of the Cardinal Kung Foundation. One just entered St. Joseph Seminary in Dunwoodie, Yonkers, New York after seven months of intensive English language study. The other two priests will continue another year of language study before taking theology in the seminary.

Even with tuition scholarships, the cost of maintaining EACH priest in the last seven months is approximately \$7,000 which includes air fare, clothing, books, insurance, transportation, and basic living expenses.

We have dozens of underground seminarians to come to the United States to study, but we have no funds to support them. We need religious orders and/or Ordinaries to actively support this program. We urgently need \$ 30,000 immediately just to continue this project. We appeal to you to donate generously to provide for the future leadership in the Roman Catholic Church in China.

c. SPONSOR A SEMINARIAN IN CHINA - The underground Church is blessed with many seminarians. One diocese alone has over one hundred. It costs only U.S.\$ 50 per month or \$ 600 per year to keep and educate each seminarian in China. This is a direct way for you to participate in the apostolic work in China at a very affordable cost. PLEASE SPONSOR A SEMINARIAN IN CHINA!

d. PRAYER PROGRAM: MASS A MONTH/ROSARY A MONTH PROGRAM - Russia was overcome by the Rosary and by Holy Mother's intercession. Cardinal Kung Foundation strongly

believes that through Holy Mass and the Rosary, religious freedom will be restored to China and to all the persecuted throughout the world, so that Jesus Christ may be worshipped as KING of all nations. Will you join us in prayers? Please pledge to:

1. Attend a mass once a month (offer a Mass if you are a priest) for the persecuted Church in China, and throughout the world.
2. Recite rosaries especially for religious freedom in China and everywhere.

Our prayer program is also for bringing back those brothers and sisters who chose to be separated from the Church to return to the one true fold and one Shepherd. You might also request your pastor to include such a prayer in the general intercessions of each parish Mass for religious freedom and our separated brothers and sisters.

Each week, there is one mass offered by a Foundation Board member for China and for the intentions of the benefactors of the Cardinal Kung Foundation.

E. MASS STIPENDS - We accept requests for Holy Mass to be said by the underground priests in China. For obvious reasons, we cannot accept request for a Mass to be said on a specific date. The suggested stipend for each mass is U.S. \$ 5.00 minimum. The foundation has sent many Masses to China.

F. CHURCH BUILDING - As stated earlier, most of the Masses are offered in open field regardless of the weather condition. To Build a church without seats or kneelers for 400 people in a Chinese village costs only \$ 60,000. They ask not for luxury, but for the dignity of the Blessed Sacrament. Please be generous! If you wish to make a significant donation as a memorial or Thanksgiving, please contact us.

G. RETIREMENT HOME - The Patriotic Association has homes for the elderly religious sisters. However, many loyal elderly sisters have declined to enter these homes. Declining the security of room and board from Patriotic Association often leaves these elderly nuns without means of basic living. An elderly sister said, "After going through all these years of persecution, I want to live my twilight years in a Roman Catholic community and to die as a Roman Catholic nun." One diocese has 60 such loyal elderly nuns. The Foundation has been assisting this Bishop to build very simple basic shelters for the sisters. One such shelter has just been completed and is housing 21 elderly sisters. The joy and consolation of living a convent life as Roman Catholic nuns more than compensate for the inadequate basic comfort. The work and sacrifice of these religious sisters have brought much grace to China and to the universal Church.

We need \$30,000 now to build a second home for another ten nuns. They desperately need this basic shelter. Please don't keep them waiting for such basic needs which we all take for granted.

7) DONATION TO CHINESE CATHOLIC CHURCH - From time to time, you may receive requests from organizations for donations to the "Chinese Catholic Church".

Please find out the name of the agency which will distribute the funds, and the exact nature of the programs which you are supporting:

- a. Is the institution nonprofit and approved by the United States Internal Revenue?
- b. Is the project only for the benefit of the loyal Roman Catholic Church in China, and the funds go directly to its bishops?
- c. Is the project wholly or partially under the control of the Communist government, often in partnership with the Patriotic Association?

- d. Are the funds to be used for other missionary work in Chinese communities outside of the People's Republic of China?
- e. Is the program a personal for profit investment project in China of a religious firm overseas independent from the local loyal bishops, giving the appearance of a charitable organization?

If you truly want your money to help the underground Church, the above answers should be important to you.



Cardinal Kung at his daily Mass.

The mission and projects of the Cardinal Kung Foundation are exclusively dedicated to assist the loyal Roman Catholic Church in China and work directly with and for the underground Bishops. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us.

- 6) Conclusion - Helping missionary work is surely a financial sacrifice, but also an honor. CONSIDERING THEIR FIDELITY TO HIS HOLINESS, THEIR FAITH, THEIR STEADFASTNESS IN SPITE OF LONG YEARS OF PERSECUTION, AND THEIR DESPERATE FINANCIAL NEEDS, THE UNDERGROUND

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CHINA DESERVES YOUR GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND A SPECIAL PLACE IN YOUR HEART. The success of these programs are critical to the persecuted Church in China during this period of intensive crackdown. These loyal Bishops are appealing directly to you. Can you give us your support today? Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Kung
Joseph Kung
President



Five underground bishops concelebrating Mass on the 390th anniversary of Rev. Matteo Ricci's arrival in China. Left to right: Hebei Bishops Han Dingxiang, Xiao Liren, Su Zhiming, Shi Enxiang, An Shuxin.

THE MONTH OF MAY IN DONG LU

(This is a paraphrase of an assortment of essays received from the underground Roman Catholic faithful on the celebration of the Month of Mary in Dong Lu, Hubei.)

There are two famous Marian shrines in China. One is the national shrine dedicated to our Lady of Sheshan in Shanghai. The other is dedicated to our Lady of Dong Lu in Hubei. The Shrine at Sheshan is under the control of the Patriotic Association while Dong Lu remains with the loyal underground Roman Catholic Church.

The devotion to the Holy Mother in the village of Dong Lu began in the early 1900's. Every year, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims came to pray before Our Lady of Dong Lu.

During the month of May this year, not only all roads leading to Dong Lu were cut off by the Government, but also tickets for all modes of transportation to Dong Lu and its neighboring towns were selectively sold only to those whom the authority identified as non-Catholics. Yet people came from all over the country. They walked or biked days and nights covering hundreds of miles. Cars and trucks drove on little known paths to avoid the Government troops. They all came to the "Hill of the Blessed Mother" to pray. On the sides of the statue, there is a couplet this year. On one side, it said: "The serpent's head is crushed. Under whose feet was it defeated?" On the other side: "My child, what are you afraid of? Mother is at your side."

On another wall, there was a huge notice announcing the accident injury of the Pope and requesting prayers and sacrifice for his recovery.

Twenty-four hours a day for thirty-one days in May, tens of thousands of people knelt before the statue with both hands folded in front of their chests. After such a long suppression under the Communist government, they could no longer control their emotions and their love for Mary. Many cried openly without any restraint, because they had finally come home and knelt at the feet of their Mother Mary. They simply poured their hearts out to Mary who in turn looked at them with the most understanding smile and motherly love. There was so much to tell their Mother. After 40 years of persecution, how desperately they were in need of Mary. "Mother of the Church and queen of China, have pity on your children! You have always been keeping the suffering Church in China in your heart, showing solicitude for our sufferings, our weaknesses, and understanding for our needs. Do not leave us. Only under your protection and direction, we have not fallen into the trap of the devil. Grant us the courage to continue our fight. Dear Mother, we beg you to look after the Church in China and to save us."



Our Lady of China.

Many faithful carefully touched Mary with their rosaries and holy pictures for a brief moment, and these rosaries and holy pictures became a priceless possession to them. There were young, old, disabled, sick, and strong. One could see a sea of humanity stretching over the field, all kneeling and praying with their hands folded. Not one person could be found distracted or talking casually. One lady and her child knelt in front of Mary. While embracing her child, tears covered the woman's face. Next to her was a middle aged man. He too was weeping and praying. Both of them were engaged in a deep conversation with Mary. There were literally tens of thousands like them - weeping, praying and talking to Mary. No doubt, they were all getting the consolation from Mary after such harsh persecution with no end in sight. No doubt, they were offering all their sufferings to Mary not only for the future of the Roman Catholic Church in China, but also for their Holy Father and the Universal Church. No doubt, they were all happy to have arrived in this Hill of the Blessed Mary against great personal risks and financial sacrifice.



Procession of over 120 underground priests and 100 seminarians on their way to Mass on 5/24/94.

May the 24th is the most important feast day of Mary in China. The sky was overcast. It began to drizzle. The underground Church has no church in Dong Lu. The Mass was celebrated in the open

field. About eight o'clock in the morning, the procession for the Holy Mass was about to start. Four bishops and about 120 priests arriving from underground dioceses all over China concelebrated the Mass with the main celebrant His Excellency Bishop Su Chi-Min, the auxiliary bishop of Baoding. The procession also included over 100 seminarians, 200 nuns, many deacons and minor seminarians. Just at this time, the drizzle became steady pouring rain and the rain became heavier. The procession continued. Nothing could stop their devotion to their Most Holy Mother.

Imagine the scene. There were over fifty thousand pilgrims. Few had umbrellas. Most have only a piece of vinyl sheet. When they saw the priests, seminarians, and nuns proceeding in the rain without any covers, they pushed forward trying to offer whatever protection their umbrellas and vinyl could bring. In an instant, all were wet and soaked. But their spirit was at the highest, marching and singing in the rain. They were soaked in the love of Mary and in the grace of God. It cleansed their hearts and souls. With renewed vigor and determination, together with the entire loyal underground Church, they marched fearlessly against the storm of persecution. No storm could stop their march. No persecution could crush them. With their heads held high, the suffering Church marched on, proud to show their faith and to share the cross of our Redeemer. The crucified Christ will be the risen Christ. The storm will make way for the sunny days.

The Mass started. Every one knelt down in the mud. From more than fifty thousand faithful, the sound of hymns and prayers waffled through the fields rising directly to heaven. The experience was very inspirational. The history of the Church came into my mind. From the persecution of the Church in the Qing dynasty to the current communist

regime, the schismatic Patriotic Association, the imprisonment and torture of bishops, priests, nuns, and faithful, the thousands of martyrs, the destruction and confiscation of the Church properties, the ban on religious activities - all testifying vividly that the Roman Catholic Church is moaning under the persecution of the communist government, praying for the mighty God's mercy to save them. Regardless of all the hardships, the Mass of May 24, 1944 in Dong Tu must be, we dare to say, the dawn of the recovery of the Roman Catholic Church in China.

"My eyes are getting blurry. Tears and rain drops are mixed together, cascading down my body, penetrating my heart.

Mass is still in process... and will never end. The history of the struggle of the Church in China is like a Mass itself which, having been offered to the Lady of China, is accepted by our merciful Lord. After the storm of the persecution, with the seeds of martyrdom, the Church in China will grow with new vitality."

Our Lady of China, Our Lady of She Shan, Our Lady of Dong Lu, pray for us.



5/24/94 Top: Procession of over 200 nuns on their way to attend Mass. Bottom: Part of over 50,000 pilgrims waiting for the Mass to start in the heavy rain.

1994 marks His Eminence Ignatius Cardinal Kung's

**15th Anniversary of His Elevation To the College Of Cardinals,
45th Anniversary of His Episcopal Ordination, and
65th Anniversary of His Ordination To The Priesthood.**

Please Join Him In Prayers On October 7, 1994 When Cardinal Observes His Anniversaries.

An Exaltation of the Cross

(The following account was written by a Little Sister of St. Ann's Novitiate following a visit by Cardinal Ignatius Kung to Queen of Peace Residence on August 30, 1993, feast of Blessed Jeanne Jugan - Foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor.)

This was the day the Mother Foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor died (in religion, Sister Mary of the Cross). This was the day the Sunday readings called us to take up our cross and follow Christ. This was the day Cardinal Kung came to Queens Village.

It all began with an article in the NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER relating the heroism of Cardinal Ignatius Kung, who had valiantly shouldered the cross of imprisonment and suffering in China to remain faithful to the Roman Catholic Church. The newspaper told of the release of the bishop of Shanghai at the age of eighty-eight and his retirement in Connecticut. We started to make some connections: "That

is the bishop who gave wise counsels to our Little Sisters in China years ago...who was a true spiritual father for them. Mother General went to meet him in Paris when he was able to come there with his nephew." As the connections were made, the excitement grew. "Here he is", we thought, "a martyr for the faith to whom the universal Church in general and we Little Sisters in particular have such a debt of gratitude - so close by, in Stamford, Connecticut! He is 92 years old now. We should make a contact to express our gratitude before it is too late..."

No sooner had we formulated these ideas than an invitation arrived to attend a golden jubilee celebration for Father Charles Repole, OFM, in Stamford. What was more, it turned out that Cardinal Kung was a friend of Father Charles and would be at the jubilee too! The deep joy of meeting this venerable prelate on that occasion was surpassed only by the joy of having him accept our invitation to come to Queens.

The novices began studying about our Chinese foundations in their history of the Congregation classes. They learned of the role that the bishop of Shanghai (Cardinal Kung) had played in guiding our little Sisters. The Residents took up a collection for the Church in China. The family of the Cardinal made arrangements for his transportation and his celebration of Mass for us. Father Charles drove to Brooklyn to bring Father Xavier Tsai, SJ, to concelebrate with the Cardinal. Everything was falling into place.

On August 30, His Eminence was warmly welcomed by the elderly Residents of Queen of Peace, the novices and the Little Sisters, who were awed by his serenity and amazed at his agility at 92, after having endured 30 years of forced labor and psychic pressure.



A group of Little Sisters of the Poor sharing a moment with Cardinal Kung.

Mass followed immediately: a most impressive reenactment of the mystery of the cross and resurrection of the Lord by his very close followers. Cardinal Ignatius Kung was the principal celebrant. The texts were in Latin. Reverence reigned. Frances and Henry, faithful volunteers at Queen of Peace and Jeanne Jugan Residence in the Bronx, provided the music as the older generations sang the Latin responses with relish and the novices, with effort.

Father Xavier Tsai, SJ, who was among the five concelebrants, had been a prisoner for Christ for 35 years. He was released in 1988 and is now 89 and working in Brooklyn to preach the Gospel message of love and forgiveness.

Also present was Philomena, a former employee of our Home in the Bronx. She too had born the cross of imprisonment in China. Her crime had been membership in the Legion of Mary.

The Liturgy took on added meaning when shared with these modern martyrs. The cross of Christ was exalted by their peaceful presence. The hymn, "Faith of our Fathers," was sung with more emotion than ever.

After Mass, Msgr. Horgan, an elderly priest who resides at Our Lady of the Clergy Retirement House with Cardinal Kung, and who serves as his English-French interpreter, read an address that had been carefully prepared by the Cardinal to express his joy at being once again with the Little Sisters and their Residents.

During the recessional, the Cardinal passed through the congregation, blessing us all in a fatherly way. Father Charles was just beaming to see the enthusiasm on everyone's face. Many of the Residents followed the venerable prelate out of the chapel to kiss his ring or just "to touch such a holy man."

Having fasted from midnight, the Cardinal seemed to enjoy the breakfast that was served after Mass in the auditorium. He was evidently pleased to be in the company of the Little Sisters, his family, and his fellow prisoners of conscience.

During this little reception, we were spellbound as the Cardinal's 16-year old grandniece masterfully executed a piano piece from memory. We were amused when Msgr. Horgan gave an animated rendition of the "Marseillaise." We were compelled to join in as Father Charles sang, "Make Me A Channel of Your Peace." But we were touched most of all when the Cardinal sang from the depths of his heart the Chinese anthem to Our Lady of She-Shan (the national Marian shrine in China that is located in his diocese and is now occupied by the Patriotic Church). Father Tsai sang the refrains with the Cardinal. The Cardinal stood up to present Mother Cecilia Mary, superior at Queen of Peace, with a picture of Our Lady of She-Shan as a souvenir of this day and a reminder to pray for China.

This reception, which was like a family reunion, brought to a close the visit of Cardinal Kung. As we accompanied him to the car, he bade us farewell saying, "Rendez-vous au ciel" ["See you in heaven"]. So we sang a French hymn about heaven while we walked. When we reached the curb, the Cardinal's niece whispered to him: "Let's leave with a Salve Regina" - so His Eminence intoned the well-known melody and we all joined in. He sang with his eyes cast down in recollection until the last line when he raised his head and one hand, as if to hail his heavenly Queen: "O clemens, O dulcis Virgo Maria!" His eyes gazed heavenward and many of our eyes filled with tears.

With that, he waved warmly to us all, leaving a lasting impression of a man of God, a martyr for the faith, a follower of Christ whose cross bearing had marked him with peaceful serenity. This anniversary day of the death of our foundress, Sister Mary of the Cross, was indeed an exaltation of the cross.