



## THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

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Christmas 2022

*May the Holy Infant bless you and your family richly  
for your love to the persecuted Church in China*

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 of the Roman Catholic (RC) Church in China,

As I kneel before the infant Christ, rejoicing in the birth of Our Savior, I am filled with gratitude to the Holy Family for their blessings and protection during the past year. We thank them for giving to the Foundation loyal and generous friends who supported us amid many financial, social, and political issues in the free world. In the underground church today, the heroic bishops, clergy, and religious continue their ministry however their circumstances permit. They risk freedom and poverty in order to continue to offer the faithful Holy Mass and Sacraments. They set a great example for us living in the free world on how to deal with our daily struggles and discomfort including COVID-19, high prices, and new social norms.

You must be surprised that I greeted you as "Friends of the Roman Catholic Church in China". This seems to be stating the obvious. As I'm facing the humble cold stable that God has chosen for his beloved son's first abode on earth, I am mindful of the many Chinese Catholics who considered their membership in the "Roman Catholic Church" as everything. As Cardinal Kung said, it is "more than life". Sharing this conviction were:

- Archbishop Dominic Tang, SJ (24 years in jail)
- Father Xavier Cai, SJ (34 years in jail)
- Bishop Ford, MM, martyred
- Bishop Walsh, MM, the co-consecrator of Bishop Kung (10 years in jail)
- Margaret & her husband, Ignatius, my in-laws (24 years in jail)
- Many other loyal Chinese and foreign priests who worked in China

They paid the price for their membership in the Roman Catholic Church and refused to join the independent Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association (CCPA) established in 1957 by the same Chinese government of today. The CCPA Bishop wrote Vatican in 1957 to declare their independence.

In 2018 after the signing of the first Provisional Vatican-China Agreement, Pope Francis announced that he is now head of the Catholic Church in China. We were happy that after 65 years, the Patriotic church bishops and clergy have chosen to come home to Rome, under the Supreme Pontiff.

However, we were disappointed that the RC clergy must apply for permits to perform their ministry. The permit application clearly states:

- To pledge obedience to the Patriotic Bishops and Bishop Conference,
- To pledge to support an Independent Church
- To use religion to promote the agenda of CCP (Chinese Communist Party), and President Xi's policy and goals.

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

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Under the agreement, China gives Pope Francis the chance to choose a Bishop from a few vetted candidates submitted by the Patriotic Bishop Conference (PRC). The PRC is controlled by the CCP (Chinese Communist Party). This Conference is NOT recognized by the Vatican as its membership is made up of government officials even non Catholic, CCPA faithful, and CCPA nuns. The Pope may ONLY choose from the PRC's choice or reject the recommendations. The Pope may not suggest his own candidate. By this agreement, the Vatican is placing the responsibility of evangelizing China into the hands of the CCP, an atheist organization.

In spite the Pope's claim that he is head of the church in China, the declaration of all new Patriotic Bishops include supporting an independent church free from all foreign authorities.

This Provisional Vatican-China Agreement was renewed twice, most recently in October 2022. In the most recent consecration of a Patriotic Bishop, Rome was not notified. No Roman Catholic bishops from China, Hong Kong, or Vatican were invited. This new Bishop's declaration did not mention the Vatican, Rome, or the Pope. In addition, all the required pledges to follow and support the Independent church, CCP, were included.

As the terms of this agreement have not been published, we are not sure if Pope Francis, the head of the Roman Catholic Church, is now also the head of the Independent Church in China. Official independent bishops have not announced giving up their principles of independence. When Pope Francis announced that he is head of all bishops in China, was the Pope looking ahead to the day when all the RC Bishops disappeared and he is head of all the Patriotic bishops in China? Will the unity of the Catholic Church be under the Patriotic church banner?

Since the agreement, it has been reported worldwide that the Chinese government has significantly increased coercion to force RC clergy to join the independent church or risk arrest and be re-educated in the new religious policy. The secrecy of the agreement gives the government the chance to claim that these new religious policies and joining the Patriotic Church is the desire of Pope Francis. In fact, they are telling the underground church they are disobeying Pope Francis by refusing to join the Patriotic church. The Pope, by recognizing all CCPA Bishops, are handing over the fate of the underground clergy to the communist government with the advice to "do according to your conscience." It is difficult to understand how Pope Francis has renewed this agreement twice, despite 73 years of RC persecution. Other cultures and religious groups in China were also persecuted during this time. I recall in 2017 in his morning homily, Pope Francis warned, "Don't dialogue with devils."

Some bishops and clergy after 10 or 20 years of imprisonment have fallen victim to this deceit and coercion. After years of imprisonment, they join the CCPA due to their government re-education. We cannot judge them harshly because if they weren't faithful, they would have joined the Independent church right away and avoided 10 to 15 years of imprisonment. We were taught that the Lord is just but kind. I believe He will determine who is truly the guilty party in the persecution in China.

**Current Status of the Underground Church & Our Programs** It is true that there are some clergy and a couple of bishops who joined the Patriotic Church, that is hardly the whole picture as China and the Independent church like to claim. Many clergy have been arrested, released after a few weeks/months, only to be arrested again. They have been subject to re-education on the new religious policy in China and the new theology. Many clergy and nuns are under house arrest, or sent back to their home. Many faithful also refused to go to the patriotic church and distrust the propaganda in the homily. The clergy continue to do their best to offer Mass and Sacrament to the faithful.

While reading the news, our supporters were concerned if the Foundation can continue to support them. The Cardinal Kung Foundation continues to support these loyal and heroic clergy and nuns. From our communication, we continue to evaluate the various programs and are flexible to meet their changing circumstances. The Foundation is fortunate that because of the relationship and name of Cardinal Kung and also having worked with the underground church for 30 years, we have their trust. Frankly, we are one of the very few organizations to continue to help, financially support, and promote prayers for the underground church. In spite of these reports from China and Vatican on their success, and in spite of the financial and



social difficulties in the free world, friends of the Foundation and China have been kind and generous. We pray you will stand with the underground church in the coming years.

**Mass Stipend** The Foundation receives Mass Stipend ranging from \$10 to \$25 per Mass Intention. 100% of the Mass Stipend is given to the priest that offer that Mass. No part of this stipend is used for Administrative or for other programs. Our current standard stipend at \$10 per Mass were suggested over 20 years ago. In the past, the \$10 plus some help from the faithful (e.g., food contributions) can meet the very basic needs of a priest. For the past 2 years, clergy were cut off from the faithful due to close surveillance and house arrest. Diocesan bishops were not able to help as many are near or bankrupted by heavy fines from the government. The Foundation has increased the Mass Stipend to \$12. Your generosity beyond this amount will help the underground priest. If you send your request by check, please note this change. We understand it is also difficult in United States and in Europe, but we have government support and other means - not in China and not in the underground church. Thank you for your love.

**General Donation** This remain the most practical means of helping the underground church at present as the foundation is able to switch its help between different programs: Bishops, nuns training and pastoral work, seminarians in China and in Europe, orphanage.

We continue to earmark any donations that are targeted to a particular program. Feel free to contribute to a particular cause.

### **Founding of Cardinal Kung Foundation – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

This is a very special year for the Foundation. It was in 1991, Cardinal Kung returned to Stamford with the worldwide media waiting. Also waiting were greetings from the underground bishops who were so grateful to the Lord for one of their own to be so honored. They also hope that Cardinal Kung will be able to bring the situation of the underground church to the free world, in addition to bringing much needed financial help. Cardinal Kung wished that a Foundation would be started to assist the underground church. His nephew and the retired bishop of the Bridgeport Diocese jointly spearheaded this project. Joseph, being the nephew has both the professional expertise and the confidence of Cardinal Kung, the Chinese bishops in the free world in addition to the bishops of the underground church. After one year, in 1992, the foundation was established as a 501(c)3 organization.

**Generous supporters to our programs.** Many supporters have been with us while Cardinal Kung was in Stamford. Some **prayer sponsors** have seen their prayer partners went home to God, and now can intercede for them from heaven. The Foundation has helped to nurture over few hundred **clergy and nuns graduates** with Masters & Ph.D. from renowned European seminaries and universities and are now serving in the underground dioceses. Some of the baby **orphans** are now in their twenties - these are Catholics brought up by the nuns. We directly assisted many **Bishops** in various projects.

Without your generosity and loyalty to the underground church, The Cardinal Kung Foundation would have had no ability to carry on these programs. Everyday, the underground nuns and clergy know their help came from those from the free world whom they have not met. They pray daily for the Lord to repay these generousities. It is truly a miracle that the underground church can survive 73 years – in part due to your prayers and sacrifice.

**Mass of Thanksgiving** A few weeks ago, the Board of Directors and a few long time volunteers gathered for a Mass of Thanksgiving at the altar of Cardinal Kung, to pray for the underground church and for all our benefactors. Father James McCurry, OFM, Conv, our Director, was the main Celebrant. His homily is attached to this email.

**Joseph Kung, President** At that time, the Board of Directors thank the contribution of Joseph Kung who served 30 years as President of the Foundation. He firmly established the Foundation as a credible organization to help the underground church. He testified numerous times before the human rights congressional commissions, worked closed with US Congressman and Senators to support their work.



Joseph was a speaker in conferences in the US, Canada and England. As expert witness before the court in US, Australia and Canada, he was instrumental in gaining asylum for over 30 underground Catholics who were very active in the underground church assisting the Bishops and subsequently was persecuted.

Today, we are most pleased that there are many **human rights advocates and organizations** to internationally speak, write and research to increase the awareness on the persecution in China. Many religious organizations also focus on the Patriotic Church in China. The Cardinal Kung Foundation remains one of the very few who focus on the underground church and offers consistent and concrete financial support and programs to educate and promote prayers for RC Church in China, made possible by individuals like yourself. I know many of you have personally worked with Joseph through the years and offered Joseph valuable support and encouragement. Thank you for your support.

**Retirement of Joseph Kung** Having recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, Joseph is retired as President of the Foundation. The Board of Directors is most appreciative of Joseph's service to the Foundation and nominated Joseph as the President Emeritus, Founder. Please offer a prayer for Joseph's continued health and thank him for his service to the underground church.

The Board of Directors have also made the following appointments:

- Agnes Kung as President, who has worked alongside Joseph for the past 30 years.
- Mac Mak, CPA, D. Min as Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Mak was one of the founding Director.

The Board also welcomes Dr. Margaret Hughes, St. Thomas Aquinas College as Advisor.

**Past Directors and Advisors** The Board of Directors is grateful to the advice and guidance of many Directors, Honorary Director and Advisors who supported Cardinal Kung Foundation for many years and are now with the Lord. We know they will continue to help and intercede for us. Archbishop Tang of Canton spent many hours reading carefully the programs of the Foundation and advised us on the underground church. Cardinal Shan of Taiwan urged the Foundation to start the Archive for Cardinal Kung, explained the cause and approved the Prayer of Intercession for the cause of Cardinal Kung. Miss Eleanor Schlafly traveled to Stamford to meet with Cardinal Kung and Joseph Kung sharing with them her experience in the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation. Monsignor John Horgan-Kung, the Confessor of Cardinal Kung continued to work on the legacy of Cardinal Kung including legally adopted the name, Kung to honor the Cardinal. These are just a few guardian angels of the Foundation during the past 30 years.

**The Biography of Cardinal Kung** authored by Monsignor Stephen DiGiovanni was published in 2013. Last month, the **Italian edition (IGNAZIO - La vita del Cardinal Ignazio Kung Pin-Mei)** was released with a powerful **Forward by Raymond L. Cardinal Burke**. This is available on Amazon.com and Amazon.it or Amazon.co.uk. It is a very informative and attractive book. If you or your friends read Italian, you will find the biography inspiring and informative as background to the current persecution.

*The Board of Directors joins me in praying for Blessings and Protection  
of the Holy Family on you in the New Year and beyond.*

In Our Lady of She Shan,  
Agnes Kung, President