



July 1993

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Dear Friend:

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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HONG KONG Most Rev. Dominic Tang, S.J. Do you know that the Roman Catholic Church loyal to the Pope is illegal in Communist China and has been forced to exist underground for forty years?

In the U.S., we can go to any Church, at any time, and kneel down to worship without the slightest fear. In China, such worships have to be camouflaged if you belong to the Roman Catholic (R.C.) Church.

ROMAN CATHOLICS IN CHINA DESPERATELY NEED YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL HELP. Miss E. Schlafly of the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation agrees. She suggested that we appeal to you because of your deep belief in religious freedom. We thank Eleanor for her support and pray that our Lord will reward her and the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation richly.

In the 1950's, the Chinese Communist Government established the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association (CCPA) which was meant to replace the Roman Catholic Church. This Association rejects the Pope's authority as the head of the R.C. Church. It also appoints and ordains its own Bishops without the Pope's authorization. THIS PATRIOTIC ASSOCIATION IS NOT IN UNION WITH THE UNIVERSAL R.C. CHURCH AND IS NOT RECOGNIZED BY THE POPE.

Contrary to common belief, the recent economic freedom in China did not lead to greater religious freedom. Thousands of Roman Catholics have died in prison, in labor camps or were executed as witnesses of Christ during the past forty years. This persecution is not history. It is ongoing. For instance, AT LEAST THREE BISHOPS HAVE DIED IN JAIL SINCE 1991.

PUEBLE INSTITUTE, a Catholic Human rights group, recently confirmed that "China is turning to Administrative Detention in cases of religious prisoners...(There are) no charges, no trial, no appeals, no sentence and no public records...(It) holds the attraction of allowing China to deny that these persecuted Christians are even prisoners, since by definition they bypass the court system..." They can be detained incommunicado indefinitely. Many recent "released" religious prisoners were merely shifted from prisons to Administrative Detentions to deceive the West.

THE ASIA WATCH, another U.S. based human rights organization, described the underground Church as facing the "TOUCHEST CRACKDOWN IN DECADES".

Unfortunately, this continued persecution has not been widely reported. As a result, a majority of Catholics in the West, including many clergy, are not aware of the true situation in China. Most do not even know of the CCPA. Many erroneously thought that the CCPA and the Roman Catholic Church are one and the same. Foreign visitors attended the CCPA Churches often wrongly thought that they were in the Roman Catholic Churches and that the Roman Catholics can now worship freely in China. So misinformed is the general public, including some Catholic Church leaders, that they have enthusiastically opened their hearts and wallets to this communist sanctioned Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association.

Americans have been very dear friends of the Chinese for many decades. Many American missionaries stood by us and accepted persecution by going to jail together with their Chinese brothers and sisters. We have the obligation to tell them the true situation of the Roman Catholic Church in China.

This is why the Cardinal Kung Foundation was established, to aid and to promote the Roman Catholic Church in China. We must take our message to every Catholic in the free world - in whatever way possible. Even one day of persecution is too long. The loyal Roman Catholics in China have faithfully waited for four decades for help. WOULDN'T YOU HELP TODAY?

When the Chinese government declared the R.C. Church illegal in the 1950's, the Government also confiscated all properties of the R.C. Church. Recently, many of these were given to the State run Patriotic Association (CCPA), leaving the underground R.C. Church in poverty. One underground bishop urgently needs to provide living arrangements for more than 60 aged religious who have no support from the Government because they refused to join the CCPA. This project needs \$ 50,000 to start. THEIR COURAGE AND FIDELITY DESERVE YOUR SUPPORT!

THE CONTINUITY OF THE PRIESTHOOD IN CHINA is another vital concern. Most of the loyal priests were ordained before the mid 1950's. Their average age is over 75! Due to the lack of funds and facilities, only a small number of young underground seminarians have been ordained under "emergency power" without receiving a complete seminary curriculum.

Some underground Bishops in China have requested the Foundation for help to finance the training of these seminarians overseas. We have three seminarians in process. The Foundation is grateful to receive two full tuition scholarships. Each seminarian will need \$10,000 each year to cover living expenses, books, passage, and insurance. We need \$42,000 to take care of these three seminarians for the coming year. They are ready to start training in the U.S. in September 1993 if we have the funds. PLEASE HELP IMMEDIATELY.

WE MUST PROMOTE PRAYER FOR CHINA. We plan to distribute the CARDINAL KUNG'S PRAYER CARD to as many persons as we can afford. On one side is the prayer. On the other side is a portrait of His Eminence, Ignatius Cardinal Kung, Bishop of Shanghai, and our Honorary Chairman. The Foundation is named in his honor, and dedicated to his faith and fidelity. He was imprisoned for 30 years for his allegiance to the R.C. Church and the Pope and for the refusal to give his leadership to the State controlled Patriotic Association.

OUR INFORMATION PROCRAM may convince the Chinese Communist Government that the West knows of its persecution to the R.C. Church and that the world opinion is against them. This may influence the Chinese Government to take religious freedom and human rights more seriously.

<u>OUR SUPPORT PROCRAM</u> for priests will give them the living expenses while they carry out the apostolate. The aged religious will live their twilight years with basic human dignity.

OUR SEMINARIAN PROGRAM will improve the number and training of the R.C. priests in China.

OUR PRAYER PROGRAM is for the intercession of our Lord and our Lady of Fatima to bring back those brothers and sisters who chose to be separated from the Church to return to the one fold and one Shepherd. When this occurs, freedom of religion will return to China and the R.C. Church will once again be able to do God's work in the open without fear of reprisal.

OUR OTHER PROCRAMS will help the cost of maintaining the Underground Roman Catholic Church.

Helping China could mean a financial sacrifice on your part. Unfortunately, there is never an easy time for sacrifice and never a better time for charity. For your love of China, we pray that God will be most generous to you. May He bless you and your family abundantly.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Kung, President