



THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

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January, 1995

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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Dear friends:

- 1) A NOTE OF THANKS - There is no better way to begin a new year than to recall with deep appreciation the immense spiritual and moral support you have given us. We are also most grateful for the sacrifices you made to support financially the programs of the Cardinal Kung Foundation. May the Holy Family always bless you and your family.
- 2) SUBSTANTIATION STATEMENT OF YOUR DONATION - For those who had contributed to us during the 1994 calendar year, please find herewith an itemized statement for your total donation to us during the same period. This statement is sent to you in compliance with the new IRS tax deductibility rules requiring written substantiations for those donations, effective January 1, 1994, to qualified charities over the amount of \$ 250 in one year. We decided to send written substantiations to all our donors for their convenience regardless of the amounts they have contributed.
- 3) ACN'S ARTICLE - We recently received many calls and letters asking us to comment on the article "A visit to the Catholic Church in China" in the December 1994 newsletter of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Since the topics are of general interest to our readers and the confusion on the subject matter is widespread, we believe that our following observations on the article should be made available to all instead of those inquirers only.
 - 3(a) The title "Catholic Church" was used in the article for both the loyal Roman Catholic Church and the Patriotic Association's Church. God created only one church on earth to represent HIM. That is the Roman Catholic Church.
 - 3(b) The article offered a number of statistics which almost all referred to the Patriotic Association.
 - 3(c) The loyal Roman Catholic Church in China continues to be illegal under the Chinese laws rather than simply being "unofficial" as ACN points out. The resulting continued arrests, harassment, intimidation and the heroic actions of the "unofficial" church were reported in our many news releases. The release dated 11/30/94 describing mass arrests of Roman Catholics in Yu Jiang of Jiangxi province was sent to you shortly before Christmas.

The "official" church is synonymous with the Patriotic Association. One of the main functions of the China Catholic Bishops College comprising of all the "official" Patriotic Association's bishops is "to work in keeping with the autonomy and self-management as befitting the situation in China". In short, the "official" church is the church officially sanctioned by the Chinese Government.

3(d) "It is neither possible to speak of a genuinely underground Church nor to say that the official Church collaborates with the communist regime." (2nd col, 2nd para, 8th line).

3(d)i The first half "it is neither possible to speak of a genuinely underground Church" is true.

In many parts of China, the Roman Catholic Church is no longer underground. This fact does not reflect the consent of the communist regime, nor easing of its oppressive religious policy. Anticipating the risks involved, the underground bishops nevertheless decided to come to the open by forming the Chinese National Conference of the Roman Catholic Bishops in 1989 in order to be more effective in carrying out their apostolic work. They were willing to pay the price for their fidelity. As expected, all bishops and priests who participated in the conference were arrested in different parts of China when they were returning home after the conference. Four Bishops eventually died in captivity. Since then, many loyal bishops have carried out their apostolate openly, while others remain very much underground. In fact, the word underground has become generic to the loyal Roman Catholic Church.

3(d)ii The second half "nor to say that the official church collaborates with the communist regime" is NOT correct. It appears that there is a lack of understanding by ACN on the platform, agenda, organization, and political reality of the official church (Patriotic Association).

All religious organizations including the official Catholic church must be accountable to three political entities, all of which ultimately report to the Chinese Communist party. They are the Bureau of Religious Affairs (under the state council), the United Front (under the Communist Party), and Chinese People Political Consultative Conference (connected with the People's Congress).

Regardless of its elaborate structure, the official church must take very seriously the advice of the above three organizations, especially that of the Religious Bureau which oversees all religious activities and has enormous influence (although conspicuously an advisory body) to the official church.

One should realize that "advice" from a communist agency is never discretionary. The nonacceptance of those advice carries serious consequences for anyone, including the official church. It was created by the communist government and will continue to exist only by the grace of the communist regime.

In view of the above, how could the official church not collaborate with the communist regime as ACN claimed?

- 3(e) "In many dioceses, both churches work very well together" (2nd col, 2nd para, 16th line). This is simply NOT true from our information. There are a few isolated cases whereby the local religious bureau officials or the local Patriotic bishops are more tolerant of the loyal Roman Catholic Church activities; thereby giving an appearance that both churches are working together.
- 3(f) "Many official (patriotic) bishops commit themselves with great love on behalf of their unofficial (underground) brother bishops" (2nd col, 2nd para, 5th line from bottom). There is little or no evidence for this. Such commitment of "Great Love" should motivate these Official (Patriotic) Bishops to stand by the loyal bishops and work together toward the one, true Catholic Church. They have not done so. However, as committed in His Eminence Cardinal Kung's motto, "one flock and One Shepherd", the loyal bishops continuously show true love by always being ready to welcome any Patriotic members to return to the Roman Catholic Church.
- 3(g) ACN also reported that "...in many official seminaries there are unofficial seminarians studying." We believe that ACN has been misinformed. This is hardly the case today. It could be possible that there were a few isolated cases many years ago. Today, there are a number of regional underground seminaries training a large number of underground priests.
- There were also many cases of official church's seminarians who, having spent many years there, felt reluctant to be ordained as its priests. By the grace of God, they gave up the financial and political security of being the Patriotic Association priests, returned to pledge their loyalty to the underground Bishops and eventually were ordained as underground priests.
- 3(h) In the 7th paragraph, the loyal bishop whom ACN delegation by chance met is a true shepherd of the loyal Church. He is in great need of assistance. Among those items he needs is a simple church so that he can worship with his flock in dignity. Without a single church, his diocese worships in open field.
- 3(i) Before our Autumn 1994 newsletter, we have consulted with many underground bishops whether they had ever received any financial support from ACN. None had. We are now pleased to report that we have received words from one major underground diocese that ACN's representatives had just met with them for the first time. Perhaps your prayers and appeals to ACN are being answered. However, the position of ACN, as indicated in its article, is apparent to continue its help to the "official" Patriotic church. Please keep praying for this major Roman Catholic organization, ACN, that it will change its policy to support the underground Roman Catholic Church entirely.
- 3(j) In its newsletter, ACN has requested those interested in helping China should mark their donations "China". This is not a sufficient instruction, because in receiving this instruction, ACN could continue to donate to the Patriotic Church with your

funds. If you are currently supporting ACN and are interested in helping the loyal Roman Catholic Church in China, please mark precisely that your donation is for the "underground Roman Catholic Church (Unofficial Church) in China only".

3(k) In our Christmas greetings to ACN, we offered to them full cooperation should they decide to divert all their China funding to aid the Roman Catholic Church. ACN is in a unique position to influence other organizations to aid the loyal Roman Catholic Church in China. Their large funding for China, \$ 866,088 in 1993 (most probably higher in 1994), could make a significant difference to the underground Church, if ACN can support the loyal Church totally. Your vigilant prayers and your earnest appeal to ACN will one day challenge them to be the champion of the causes of the loyal Church. I believe ACN will eventually do so, because the truth is on our side.

4) The misunderstanding of ACN regarding the Patriotic Association is certainly not an isolated case. With our deepest regret and sorrow, many leading Roman Catholic institutions, as we reported in our Autumn 1994 issue of newsletter, continue to help the Patriotic Association. A very large majority of the Catholic public simply does not know the difference between the Patriotic Association and the loyal Roman Catholic Church in China.

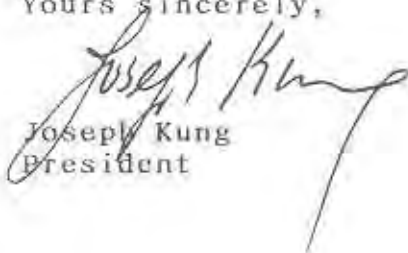
We urgently need to expand our information program to reach a wider audience. If each one of you gives us the name of one person whom you have reasonable confidence in joining our causes, our audience will be doubled. Could you do that for us immediately? If you do, please indicate if we may use your name. An envelope is enclosed herewith for your convenience.

5) We have received many letters of encouragement, news clippings on important issues, and suggestion from friends like you. Many have personally written to other organizations to promote the causes of the underground Church. Even though we have limited funding, together, we were able to make steady significant progress in promoting the awareness among many religious communities and leading organizations of the importance of aiding the Roman Catholic Church in China. For that, we thank you.

6) In the third paragraph of section 3d, we reported that in 1989 the loyal Roman Catholic Church in China established with great risk and sacrifice the Chinese National Conference of the Roman Catholic Bishops. It now has been 5 years since the establishment. Because of the political turmoil in China, the importance of this Conference is clear. Would you be kind enough to say a rosary specially for the continuous vitality of this Conference? We will forward your spiritual bouquet to the loyal Bishops Conference immediately.

7) Please also keep praying for His Holiness.

Yours sincerely,


Joseph Kung
President