



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"

THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

Spring 1995

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Dear friends:

1) Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association is deemed to be Non-Catholic.

The Pope has spoken. The loyal Bishops of China have articulated it. They referred to the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association as a non-catholic Church.

Twice within the last six months, His Holiness Pope John Paul II in almost identical words reaffirmed that:

- a) "The principle of communion with the Successor of Peter...cannot be renounced by a Catholic who desires to remain such and to be recognized as such." (To "all the Catholic sons and daughters of the great and illustrious Chinese family" - September, 1994)
- b) "A Catholic who wishes to remain such and to be recognized as such cannot reject the principle of communion with the successor of Peter." (Speech in Manila to China - January 14, 1995).

On both occasions, His Holiness was undoubtedly referring to the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association. As long as its members deny the supreme authority of the Pope, they are not Catholics.

Six years ago in 1988, the Vatican issued an advisory to the world's bishops regarding the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association. Among other things, it said that (paraphrased):

- a) (Item 1) Those who spurn the Pope are non-Catholics.
- b) (Item 5) Religious of the Patriotic Association are not permitted to have sacramental communion in the Roman Catholic Church. Members of the Roman Catholic Clergy are not allowed to concelebrate Holy Mass with the members of the clergy of the Patriotic Association.

This advisory, drawn up by members of the Vatican's Secretariat of State and the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, has no termination date, nor has it been publicly rescinded or amended. Therefore, the advisory is still valid.

In December last year, the loyal Chinese Bishops' Conference, in its pastoral letter, declared that the Patriotic Association is a "new church...not the same as the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church...No member of the clergy of the Universal Church is permitted to be in sacramental communion with them".

In the meantime, both the Pope and the loyal Chinese Bishops urge prayers and charity towards the Patriotic Association.

The Pope said: "Love among yourselves...but love also for all your Chinese brothers and sisters: a love which consists of understanding, respect, forbearance, forgiveness and reconciliation within the Christian community..."

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The loyal Chinese Bishops said: "We must pray often for those separated brothers and sisters so that the merciful lord will grant them the grace to repent. We must persuade them with love and encourage them with faith, so that they too will be filled with the Holy Spirit, and be courageous witnesses of Christ. May they sail smoothly on the bark of mother Church with St. Peter at its helm, and return home to the Universal Church ruled by our sovereign Pontiff."

We urge our friends to continue praying for China so that one day, through the intercession of the Blessed Mother of God, there will be One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church in China. We would like to observe, however, that while charity requires us all to love the sinner, charity does not require approval of the evil acts of the sinner.

- 2) Patriotic Association priests have been given faculties to offer Holy Mass and to administer sacraments publicly in the Roman Catholic Church in the U. S.

CATHOLIC NEW YORK, a newspaper representing the Archdiocese of New York, has reported that four Patriotic Association priests are currently studying at St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie and that they have been given faculties to serve and to administer sacraments in the Church of the Transfiguration in Chinatown, New York. These four priests report directly to their self-appointed Patriotic Association's bishops who had publicly declared many times their autonomy from the Roman Pontiff. Upon completion of their studies in the United States, these Patriotic priests, as many of them have done previously, will, according to February 1995 issue of MARYKNOLL Magazine, return to China to serve the bishops of the Patriotic Association.

We were informed that each priest has been asked merely to recite once in private the Profession of Faith as proof of his allegiance to the Roman Pontiff. Thus, it would seem, they would qualify as priests in good standing. This private instruction was given in December, 1994 by a Cardinal of the Vatican and on its face it contradicts the previous advisory given in 1988 and referred to above. Based on the current private instruction, the archdiocese of New York has granted the aforementioned faculties to these priests of the Patriotic Association.

It has been the practice in China for priests of the Patriotic Association to recite the same Profession of Faith and at the same time to deny the authority of the Holy Father over them and of the church in China. As a result of their refusal to recognize the supreme authority of the Pope, these priests are not in union with the Holy Father, and the same Holy Father has not acknowledged them to be in union with him. It is fair to ask the question: How, then, would the mere recitation of the same Profession of Faith in private in America qualify them to be considered as loyal and obedient to the Holy Father?

In his address to the Church of China in Manila on February 14, 1995, the Holy Father spoke about the "unity (which) springs from conversion of the heart and from sincere acceptance of the unchanging principles laid down by Christ for His church."

Reciting the Profession of Faith once in private without explicitly acknowledging the supreme authority of the Roman Pontiff and in the meantime still reporting to the bishops of the Patriotic Association can hardly be construed as the "unity" which our Holy Father has defined.

While reciting the Profession of Faith in China, the priests of the Patriotic Association are on public record of recognizing the Pope only as "spiritual leader" of the church. However, they do not recognize that the Pope has supreme legislative, executive, and judicial power over the whole Catholic Church, including China, and that this includes the power to appoint and govern bishops of the entire Church. The bishops of the Patriotic Association have not been chosen by the Pope, and any bishop who receives episcopal ordination without a papal mandate is ipso facto excommunicated according to the Code of Canon Law of 1917 and the revised code of 1983.

The Holy Father has insisted that in order to be allowed to concelebrate the Holy Mass with him, the priests of the Patriotic Association must recite the Profession of Faith and take the Oath of Fidelity in front of a witness. The Profession of Faith includes the Nicene Creed and a pledge to adhere to church teaching. A person taking the Oath of Fidelity promises to teach, support and follow the Church's teachings and discipline.

One correspondent of the Asianews reported that two out of the five Patriotic priests concelebrated the Holy Mass with the Pope in Manila. However, two witnesses, a bishop and a priest working directly for the Chinese apostolate, confirmed to us that NONE of the Patriotic priests concelebrated the Jan 15 concluding Mass with the Pope. The Patriotic priests were near the main altar, but did not concelebrate. This might have caused misperception by the Asianews correspondent.

It is a fair comment to say that the Patriotic Association is as schismatic as the Russian and Greek Orthodox Churches. How would the faithful react if a priest of one of these Orthodox Churches were to be given faculties to give sacraments in a Roman Catholic Church? How would you react if such a Patriotic priest were to come to your parish, when there is no secret about his schismatic status?

There is no doubt that Patriotic priests functioning in a Roman Catholic church in the U. S. at present will cause much confusion in the universal Church and cause grave pain to those Catholics in China who have made so many sacrifices to be loyal to the Roman Catholic Church. This present practice will also give a false signal to the communist government of China and to the Patriotic Association. In such a case, the Patriotic Association will be categorized as acceptable to the universal Church while continuing to promote their agenda of proclaiming independence from the Pope. The record of persecuting Catholics loyal to the Pope is well established as well as their record of supporting the evil acts of the totalitarian communist regime in China which requires compulsory abortion of children in the case of parents who have already only one child.

We can only hope and pray that the Catholic bishops of the world will follow the example of the Pope who has refused to permit priests of the Patriotic Association to concelebrate Mass with Him unless they recited the Profession of Faith and took the Oath of Fidelity before a witness. Unity with the successor of Peter means more than hypocritical lip service. "By their fruits you shall know them." (Matt. 7:16)

There are some forty-five Patriotic Association's priests, seminarians, and nuns now studying in the United States. Their tuition, room and board are being involuntarily and unknowingly subsidized by contributions of the Catholic faithful.

- 3) Public demonstrations not advised - While it is extremely important to make our views heard, understood, and accepted by the hierarchy, we do not advocate nor condone any kind of public demonstration on behalf of the loyal Catholic church in China. Such public protests might be detrimental to the dignity of the Roman Catholic Church and to the reputation of the Cardinal Kung Foundation. Letters to the hierarchy, showing our firm commitment regarding these grave issues, articles discussing our positions, constructive discussion with concerned parties and prayers will be far more productive in showing our sincerity and communicating our concerns to church authorities.
- 4) An Appeal from Hebei Province. Birth Control Through Torture. Summarized.

Hong Kong (Asianews): Feng Jia Zhuang and Long Tian Gou are two mountain villages located in Zheng Ding Diocese (Liang Shou County, Hebei Province). These two villages are designated as key locales for China's birth control program. Ninety-nine percent of the two thousand population of this area are devout Catholics. Their faith compels them to observe the teachings of the Church. For that reason, they do not dare to violate God's law. However, as citizens, they are pressured to observe the national policy of the limitation of one child per family.

Operating under the slogan: "Better to have more graves than to have more than one child", government officials often inflict brutal torture on the villagers and drive them into the wilderness to escape further persecution. The followings are some of the methods of oppression used. Special courts and prisons have been established. Some prisons are hanged upside down; others have their tongues burned with electric wires. Some who have been arrested have been wounded. Regardless of their state of consciousness, their hands remained cuffed and their feet chained. Unwarranted arrests and illegal torture are the order of the day.

The world speaks of justice and the preservation of human dignity. We should ask how are international laws and standards being applied in this instance? These victims cry out for our support and prayers.

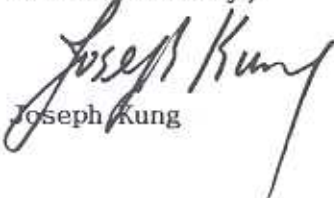
- 5) Training Roman Catholic Seminarians in China. - We wish to thank those who have supported our mission financially and spiritually, including those who specifically sponsored the training of Chinese seminarians in China. We are very grateful that we have as of this date received sponsors for fifteen seminarians in China. These sponsors are supporting these candidates for the priesthood at the cost of US \$ 600 per year or \$ 50 per month as we have mentioned on page 8 of our Autumn 1994 newsletter. On behalf of the loyal bishops of China, we express our heartfelt gratitude to you all. This program continues. May we set our initial target for fifty such sponsors?
- 6) Pastoral Letter - On January 31, we released to the media a pastoral letter from the loyal Bishops' Conference of China. This contains important information regarding the Church in China. We enclose a copy herewith for your information.
- 7) Anniversary Celebration for His Eminence Cardinal Kung - His Eminence will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday May 27, 1995 to observe his 65th anniversary as a priest, his 45th anniversary of his Episcopal ordination and his 15th year of his elevation to the College of Cardinals in pectore. This Mass will be offered in Latin beginning at 5:15 pm at St. Mary's Church, 566 Elm Street, Stamford, Connecticut. Dinner will follow immediately in the church hall. This is a private, invitation only event. All donors of the Cardinal Kung Foundation are invited.

Dinner tickets are \$ 30 per person. This will cover the cost of the dinner and will not be regarded as a donation. Checks should be made payable to "The Celebration Committee". Dinner for the invited religious (seminarians excluded) will be complimentary. As the capacity of the church hall is limited, we ask that you would send in your reservations as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Those who need hotel accommodations may contact Ramada Plaza Hotel at 700 Main Street, Stamford, Connecticut. Telephone is 203-358-8400. Ask for the special group rate of \$ 55 plus tax per night for a double room for arrivals on May 26 and 27. Please mention "The Cardinal Kung Foundation" for this special rate. Those who need travel arrangements may contact Assunta Lee, Greenwalds Travel Service at UPO Box 3780, Kingston, NY 12401. Telephone is 914-331-0816. Fax is 914-331-0589.

This is not a fund raising event, but a joyous celebration to share a significant event with an outstanding shepherd of the Roman Catholic Church. His Eminence has inspired China and the universal Church for almost half a century. Any additional donation you may wish to make in the Cardinal's honor to continue our assistance to the loyal Church in China will be gratefully received. For those who cannot attend, please join us in the spirit of prayer on that day.

Yours sincerely,


Joseph Kung