Easter 2004

Dear friends,

During this hope-filled Easter season, the words of Saint Paul are unmistakably timely: "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his Body, that is, the Church." (Colossians 1:24) As part of the Body of Christ, the underground Church rejoices because, through their suffering, Jesus continues to redeem the world. Let us pray for them with gratitude and celebrate with them a blessed Easter.

I want to apologize to all our readers for this newsletter’s lateness, caused by my own recent illness as well as the passing of my mother-in-law, Anna Young. I request your prayers for the repose of her soul. Also, please pray for the repose of the souls of Brother Paul Ambrose Fontaine, FMS and Archbishop Stanislaus Lo-Kuang.

In Memoriam

Brother Paul Ambrose Fontaine was the founder of Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY and a founding-director of the Cardinal Kung Foundation, died in Florida on Dec. 27, 2003, at the age of 90. He spent more than 75 years of his life as a Marist Brother, and led Marist College’s effort to receive its charter as a bachelor’s degree-granting institution. He was also among the first to greet the late Eminence Ignatius Cardinal Kung upon his arrival in the United States in 1988 and volunteered his service for approximately eight years to the Cardinal Kung Foundation before he retired in 2000.

In 1943 at the age of 29, Brother Paul was called by his provincial to become the new master of scholastics at the Marist Brothers’ Normal Training School. Three years later, he successfully petitioned the New York State Education Department to grant a charter, transforming the Training School into a four-year institution then called Marian College. Brother Paul remained at the college an additional 13 years to build the campus, the faculty and the academic program. In 1960, the charter was amended to change the name from Marian to Marist College. In 1989, while serving in Liberia, Brother Paul contracted malaria. Marist College President Dennis Murray asked him to return to Marist College to recuperate and make the Kieran Gate House his retirement home. Brother Paul returned to the college but never retired. He continued to be a strong presence on campus and around the world until moving to Florida in 2001. He once told a reporter, “My philosophy is, ‘You rest, you rust.’ Look at a plow. If it’s being used every day, it’s nice and shiny. If it sits idle for any length of time, it gathers rust. People are the same way.”

In 1972, Marist College awarded him an honorary doctor of humane letters degree. In 1997, Pope John Paul II awarded Brother Paul one of the highest honors of the Roman Catholic Church, the “Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifici” (for the Church and the Pontiff). In 2000, Fontaine Hall, the home of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion and Marist’s School of Liberal Arts and Office of College Advancement, was named in honor of Brother Paul Ambrose Fontaine. Sadly, having decided to invite a pro-abortion speaker to its campus, Marist College is no longer a Catholic institution, according to the declaration of the archbishop of New York in May of 2003.

Archbishop Stanislaus Lo-Kuang was the retired Archbishop of Taipei in Taiwan. He was also the founding Advisor to Cardinal Kung Foundation and was among the first to greet the late Cardinal Kung upon his arrival in the United States. He, representing the Fu Jen Catholic University, awarded Cardinal Kung an honorary doctor of humane letters degree in 1989. After being bedridden for years, Archbishop Stanislaus Lo-Kuang died February 28 at age 93. According to his own wishes, the church displayed no photo of him and there were no flowers. His coffin was placed on the floor. Placed next to his coffin were a crucifix and Easter resurrection candles.
In his homily during the Mass, His Eminence Paul Cardinal Shan, S.J., Bishop of Kaohsiung, said that in order to adhere with and respect the will of the late Archbishop, no mention will be made for his achievements and dedications: rather, the Archbishop wanted us to use the spirit of Christian love to remember him and pray for him. The Cardinal pointed out that his coffin's being placed on the floor is to symbolize "Thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return." (Genesis 3:19) The crucifix and Easter candles being placed next to the Archbishop's coffin is to symbolize, emphasize, and reconfirm the foundation of our faith that the miracle of the crucifix and Easter saved all people on earth.

Archbishop Lo-Kuang was born in 1911 in Hunan province, central China. He has served as the first advisor to the ROC, otherwise known as Taiwan's ambassadorial mission to the Holy See, until he was appointed bishop of Tainan in 1961. He headed the Taipei archdiocese from 1966 until his retirement in 1978. The archbishop is also remembered for his dedication to Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan and was the second president of the University from 1978 to 1992. During his 14 years as president, the university doubled its departments and student enrollment.

Recently Arrested... and Released Underground Roman Catholic Bishop.  
Vatican’s Historically Unprecedented Protest. A New Vatican Policy?

On March 8, this Foundation press released to the world media that Bishop Wei Jingyi, the underground Roman Catholic Bishop of Qiqihar, Heilongjiang, was arrested on March 5, 2004. He was then released on the afternoon of March 14.

Bishop Wei was born in May 1958, ordained a priest on November 21, 1985, and consecrated a bishop on June 22, 1995. He was detained in a Chinese labor camp from 1987 – 1989, and from 1990 – 1992. He was last arrested on September 9, 2002. He was the secretary of the underground Roman Catholic Bishops Conference from 1993-1995.

The bishop had gone to the airport to pick up some foreign friends. But on leaving the airport and paying the toll, his car was stopped and arrested. His two foreign guests (both French citizens) were arrested as well, and released just a few hours later.

The news of Bishop Wei’s arrest provoked strong reaction from the Vatican. The director of the Holy See’s press office, Dr. Joaquin Navarro Valls, said the Vatican was “worried and saddened” and asked Chinese authorities to reveal their accusations against the bishop “as occurs in any lawful state.” “The Holy See,” the statement concluded, “has no reason to doubt the bishop’s innocence.” The next day an indirect response came from Beijing via the country’s foreign ministry spokesman, who specified that the prelate was being held “for questioning” about falsifying a document to leave the country. Catholics in the Qiqihar diocese feared the bishop would be released only after Easter in order to avoid unauthorized Holy Week gatherings and festivities. In addition, the head of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on International Policy, Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida, sought an explanation from China’s ambassador to the United States as to why Bishop Wei was arrested.

Bishop Wei’s sudden release, according to AsiaNews sources in Rome, was particularly due to the Vatican’s quick and strong reaction and at a time when the National People’s Congress was in session. The annual meeting of Chinese parliament found Chinese leaders debating whether to introduce the terms “freedom of faith” and “protection of human rights” into the country’s constitution. The bishop’s release saves the government from embarrassment, as it is often criticized for stating things in theory but not backing them up in actual practice. Moreover, with the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva in March/April 2004 (at which the undersigned was also invited to speak, but could not do so because of illness), the Chinese government is perhaps fearful that the world community will pay more attention to the ongoing persecution of the underground Roman Catholic Church by the Chinese government.

In any case, to the best of my memory, this is the very first time that the Vatican has intervened with the Chinese communist government on behalf of an arrested underground bishop, even though countless bishops and priests were arrested in the past. This is historically unprecedented. We hope and pray that this signals a new approach on the part of the Vatican to both the plight of the underground Church and the Chinese government’s policies and behavior. This would certainly be good news for the approximately 50 underground bishops and priests still detained in jails or prevented from effectively practicing their ministry.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

News has reached us that Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is one step closer to becoming the first American-born male saint in the Roman Catholic Church. The Vatican's internal inquisition regarding Sheen’s vices and virtues has been given holy confirmation to proceed to the next step. Accordingly, we reprint below an article about Archbishop Sheen with the underground Roman Catholic Church in China.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Joseph Kang, President
Let the Son Shine Out
By Rev. Martin Lucia
Director of Apostolate for Perpetual adoration
Reprint - Date Originally Published: December 1995

The communist took the ciborium and threw it on the floor with all of the Sacred Hosts spilling out. A small girl saw every thing. The little girl came back. There she made a holy hour. After her holy hour she bent over and with her tongue received Jesus in Holy Communion. The little girl continued to come back each night to receive Jesus in Holy Communion on her tongue. On the thirty-second night after she had consumed the last and thirty-second host, she accidentally made a noise and the guard caught her and beat her to death.

Few men in the 2,000-year history of Christianity have had such a great and spiritually positive influence upon the Catholic Church as Bishop Fulton Sheen. The author of many books and the first televangelist, he touched the lives of millions of people all over the world.

What made this man of God so special was a keen intellect combined with a profound humility. He often said that the secret to his great success in touching hearts and winning souls for Christ was that every day of his life he would set aside an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. This is known as a holy hour of prayer, because it is spent in the Presence of Jesus, truly, personally, and really present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Bishop Sheen called this the hour of power, and the purpose of every talk he ever gave was to inspire everyone, priests and laity alike to make a daily holy hour. He would quote Jesus in saying that whoever would remain in union with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament for an hour of prayer would "bear much fruit". When Bishop Sheen spoke, everyone listened, even those who were not of the Catholic faith. His message was both compelling and transcending.

A couple of months before his death he was interviewed on national television. One of the questions was this: "Bishop Sheen, you have inspired millions of people all over the world. Who inspired you? Was it a Pope?"

Bishop Sheen responded that it was not a Pope, a Cardinal, another Bishop, or even a priest or a nun. It was a little Chinese girl of eleven years of age. He explained that when the Communists took over China, they imprisoned a priest in his own rectory near the Church.

After they locked him up in his own house, the priest was horrified to look out of his window and see the Communists proceed into the Church, where they went into the sanctuary and broke into the tabernacle. In an act of hateful desecration, they took the ciborium and threw it on the floor with all of the Sacred Hosts spilling out. The priest knew exactly how many Hosts were in the ciborium: thirty-two.

When the Communists left, they either did not notice, or didn't pay any attention to a small girl praying in the back of the Church who saw everything that had happened.

That night the little girl came back. Slipping past the guard at the priest's house, she went inside the Church. There she made a holy hour of prayer, an act of love to make up for the act of hatred. After her holy hour she went into the sanctuary, knelt down, bent over and with her tongue received Jesus in Holy Communion, since it was not permissible at that time for laymen to touch the Sacred Host with their hands.

The little girl continued to come back each night to make her holy hour and receive Jesus in Holy Communion on her tongue. On the thirty-second night, after she had consumed the last and thirty-second host, she accidentally made a noise and woke the guard who was sleeping. He ran after her, caught her, and beat her to death with the butt of his rifle.

This act of heroic martyrdom was witnessed by the priest as he watched grief-stricken from his bedroom window.

When Bishop Sheen heard the story he was so inspired that he promised God he would make a holy hour of prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament everyday of his life. If this little Chinese girl could risk her life everyday to express her love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with a holy hour and Holy Communion, then, at the very least, the Bishop thought he should do the same.

If this frail, little child could give testimony and witness to the world concerning the real and wonderful Presence of her Savior in the Blessed Sacrament, then the Bishop was absolutely bound by all that was right and true, to do the same. Bishop Sheen, henceforth, would not be afraid to speak out on the love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. His sole desire from then on was to bring the world to the Burning Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The little girl showed the Bishop what true courage and zeal really is; how faith could overcome all fear, how true love for Jesus in the Eucharist must transcend life itself.

Everywhere Bishop Sheen preached on the value and benefits of the Holy Hour of prayer. Invited to give retreats to Bishops all over the world, this was his main theme and objective.

The Bishops who responded to the message of the importance of the daily holy hour are the Bishops who now invite me into their dioceses to spread perpetual adoration in their parishes.
This means that the act of courage and heroic love expressed by that little Chinese girl so long ago still continues to influence and impact the Church today. She inspired Bishop Sheen, who in return has inspired millions with love of the Blessed Sacrament. Those who are now Bishops who were inspired by Bishop Sheen, now inspire every member of their diocese by encouraging perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout their dioceses.

What the little Chinese girl did is a modern version of what the Blessed Mother did when she stood by her Beloved Son Jesus at the foot of the Cross. Standing up for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament today is the same as standing up for Jesus when He was crucified on the Cross. Then He was abandoned, even by His friends. His very apostles fled in fear. Only the Mother of Jesus, the beloved apostle, John, and Mary Magdalene gave witness to their faith and love. Today the Blessed Mother is calling all of her children consecrated to her to give witness to their faith and love by coming to her Son in the Blessed Sacrament in perpetual adoration.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta says that perpetual adoration is what will renew the Church and save the world. When we do on earth what is done in heaven, adoring God perpetually, then there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Jesus was mocked and nailed to the cross for claiming to be King. When His Bride, the Church, finally proclaims Her King by giving Him the honor He deserves through perpetual adoration on earth, then He will reclaim and establish His Kingdom on earth.

Man is beyond a human solution. What we need is divine intervention. This divine intervention will be a great Eucharistic Miracle. In every place and in every chapel all over the world, where Jesus is loved and honored in perpetual adoration, what has been hidden will be revealed. What is hidden in the Sacred Host is the glory of His love. As soon as there are enough chapels to satisfy God’s divine justice, then He will show the whole world His Divine Mercy by manifesting to all what has been concealed from the human eye. He will make visible what has been invisible. What will be made visible will be the fire of His divine love. Brighter than any sun, the light of His love will shine through the Blessed Sacrament with the splendor of His glory radiating on all mankind.

This is why the sun danced at the Marian Shrine on Dong Lu in the Province of Hebei in China on May 23, 1995. (For details, please read the article titled “A Miracle” at our website: www.cardinalkungfoundation.org) The sun in the sky is symbolic of the Son of God in the Blessed Sacrament. This is why most monstrances are in the form of a sunburst. As the sun is the natural source of all energy, the Blessed Sacrament is the supernatural source of all grace and love. This is why Jesus said His Kingdom would come and He would reign through the all powerful, omnipotent power of His love in the Blessed Sacrament.

Satan is still the prince of this world as Jesus said he is. Until the children of the Blessed Mother follow her example, and the example of the little Chinese girl, and make Jesus King of love and mercy through perpetual adoration, we will continue to live in darkness. The message of Dong Lu is the message of Fatima. The message of Dong Lu is a dramatic appeal from heaven to expose the Son and come into His Light through perpetual adoration.

The Father wants to restore earth to paradise. He is just waiting for us to glorify His Son through perpetual adoration so that He can transform the world in glory. The message of Dong Lu is the same message as Fatima. The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be the Eucharistic Reign of her Son Jesus. His Eucharistic reign through perpetual adoration will win the graces of His Reign of Love throughout the world. The new era Mary promised will be brought about by the power of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

This is why Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II prayed for the spread of perpetual adoration throughout the world at the International Eucharistic Congress in Seville, Spain in 1993. He said that this would bring about God’s Kingdom on earth as an everlasting peace to all mankind.

The Blessed Sacrament is Jesus, the Light of the world. When we expose this light through perpetual adoration it will cast out all the darkness in the world. Through perpetual adoration, let the Son shine out. Mary wants all of her children to experience a new day, the new era, the Kingdom of Love.

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Please remember that the annual Mass for the persecuted Roman Catholic Church in China for this year is on October 3, 2004. We invite you to offer a Mass on this day in your parish for this intention. Thank you.

Please Remember The Cardinal Kung Foundation In Your Will. Thank You.