



THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

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Christmas 2011

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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* In Memoriam

contemporaries, wrote tersely: “a fine, talented Chinese father was taken from our faculty recreation room after lunch on the 9th; can’t say we’ll see him again.” One of his betrayers reportedly told party magistrates: “If you cannot dispose of Father Beda Chang, all your efforts will come to nothing, for he will foil all your maneuvers.”

Father Chang was imprisoned in Ward Road Jail north of Shanghai. Father Aidan McGrath, founder of the Legion of Mary in China, was locked away in the next room. He testified that all he could hear from the holy Jesuit's cell was incessant coughing and vomiting. In his work, *Father Beda Chang: Witness for Unity*, Jean-Claude Coulet capsulizes for us the martyr's four month ordeal:

“...every effort was made to break his will and to use him in spite of himself. Nights on nights of interrogation followed his refusal, when lack of sleep and continual tension combined to wear down the last resources of his bodily strength. Fellow prisoners heard him, exhausted and at the end of his strength, repeating simply over and over again “Jesus, Mary and Joseph, help me.

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas to all our friends and benefactors! From Old English, the adjective “merry” originally meant *pleasant* or *agreeable*. St. Thomas More often employed the word adverbially in giving farewells to fellow Catholics: “Until we meet again merrily in heaven,” was a favorite expression of his. “Merry” is a good word, conveying festive best wishes. What greater cause for being merry could there be than the joyful Christmas season — a season that gives us a manger for a throne, a stable for a palace, an immaculate Virgin for a Queen Mother, and a Baby for a King of kings! Merry Christmas again.

Remembering Father Beda Chang, S. J. 60th year Anniversary of His Martyrdom in Shanghai, China November 11, 1952

It was more than sixty years ago. I attended St. Ignatius Middle School in Shanghai. I was a grade eight student. Father Beda Chang was the principal. Cardinal Spellman of New York came for a visit to our school. After addressing the students and faculty, he suddenly announced that there would be no classes for tomorrow. We the students roared with joy. Father Chang was sitting there, eyes wide open, with a surprised expression that quickly melted into a warm paternal smile. That smile will never fade from me. I believe that this is the same smile now radiating from heaven. He was one of the first martyrs in Shanghai after the communists occupied the city.



Father Chang was a born leader, very well-educated, and, according to Jack Clifford, an American Jesuit and Chang's contemporary, he was “by far the most influential teacher, lecturer and writer in Catholic cultural circles.” After realizing that the Jesuit was not going to play ball with them, the Reds hauled him in. That was August 9, 1951. Father McCarthy, another of Father Chang's

“...The constant lack of sleep poisoned his nervous system, and Father Beda fell into a coma. Fearing that he would die before they had had their way with him, the authorities ordered his immediate removal to the prison hospital. But it was already too late ...”

Beda Chang was dead. Official given cause: encephalitis. Actual cause: torture and starvation. Even Chang’s brother, a medical doctor, did not recognize the blackened and emaciated corpse.

Father Paul Mariani wrote: “The CCP (Chinese Communist Party) was afraid that Chang might be canonized a saint. In response, the police called in a representative of the bishop. He was asked if the bishop was going to canonize Beda Chang. The priest insisted that the bishop did not have this power. It was to no avail. The authorities warned him that they would hold the bishop responsible for any miracles performed by Beda Chang. The irony, of course, was that the cadres were supposed to be atheistic materialists who did not believe in supernatural activity...”

Dear Father Beda, you are now in the bosom of God. Please whisper to God for the well-being and peace of the human race on earth. And, if you do not mind my naggings, also for my own holy death. I love you, Father.

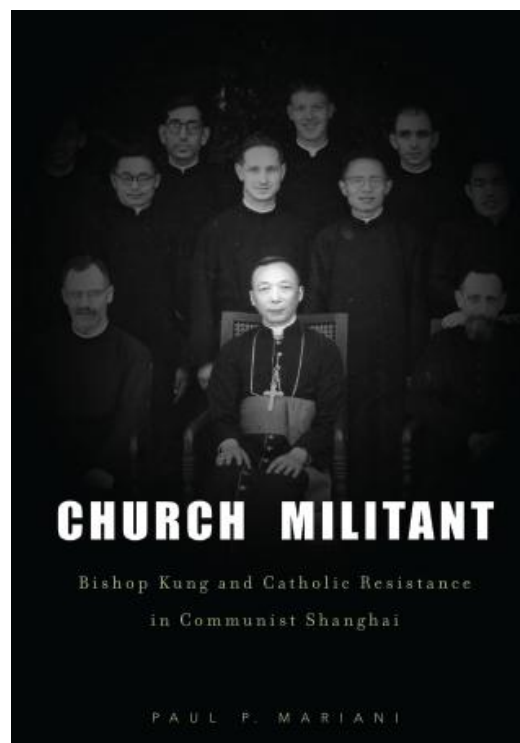
A New Book on Cardinal Kung
Church Militant -- Bishop Kung and Catholic Resistance in Communist Shanghai
By
Rev. Paul P Mariani, S. J.
Published by Harvard University Press – Tel: 800-405-1619

Quoted from the flyer of *Church Militant*:

“By 1952 the Chinese Communist Party has suppressed all organized resistance to its regime and stood unopposed, or so it has been believed. Internal party documents – declassified just long enough for historian Paul Mariani to send copies out of China – disclose that one group deemed an enemy of the state held out after the others had fallen. A party report from Shanghai marked “top-secret” reveals a determined, often courageous resistance by the local Catholic Church. Drawing on centuries of experience in struggling with the Chinese authorities, the Church was proving a stubborn match for the party.

“Mariani tells the story of how Bishop (later Cardinal) Ignatius Kung Pinmei, the Jesuits, and the Catholic Youth resisted the regime’s punishing assault on the Shanghai Catholic community and refused to renounce the pope and the Church in Rome. Acting clandestinely, mirroring tactics used by the previously underground CCP, Shanghai’s Catholic persevered until 1955, when the party arrested Kung and 1,200 other leading Catholics. The imprisoned believers were later shocked to learn that the betrayal had come from within their own ranks...”

New in cloth / \$39.95. Available in most book store in the U. S. A. Some offer discounts. www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674061538



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If you are seventy and one-half years old or older and an IRA holder, you may make a direct transfer from your IRA to an IRS qualified charity before December 31, 2011, without paying taxes on this distribution. This is a win-win situation to support your favorite charity, and to satisfy your distribution requirement without increasing your tax obligation. Cardinal Kung Foundation (CKF) is a 501 (c) (3) charity. Donation to CKF is tax deductible to the extent of the law. If you wish to take advantage of this IRS regulation for CKF, please consult with your IRA administrator or your financial consultant.

Welcome Support From Archbishop Dolan

Sometimes when one least expects it, a ray of sunshine breaks through the gray clouds and warms the blood and the heart. Just when I thought that the Church in China was perhaps forgotten in the West and the Holy Father's call for the whole Church to pray for China on May 24 the feast day of China's patroness, Our Lady Help of Christians, had gone unheard (CKF newsletter July 2011, page 4), a letter of support and encouragement appeared in the September 22 column in the *Catholic New York*., America's largest Catholic newspaper. It was written by the Archbishop himself, Timothy Dolan.

This article is reprinted below for your appreciation. My joy was boundless. For so many years the Cardinal Kung Foundation has been sounding this alarm and now to have read it in a letter by a prestigious prelate writing in the largest Catholic newspaper in America was more than I would have hoped for. I immediately sent the Archbishop a thank you letter. Here is the essence of it:

“Your summary of the situation under which the Catholic Church in China endures its persecution is so succinct and lucid...It is also the same message... that we at the Cardinal Kung Foundation have been disseminating since the arrival of Cardinal Kung in the United States approximately twenty-two years ago...Thank you also for the most important thing, the appeal for prayers, and for calling attention to the official World Day of Prayer for the Church in China...We must speak out, urging our congress and business leaders to demand religious liberty, and release of those religious and faithful unjustly imprisoned in China...Your column...will increase the awareness of other bishops of the universal Catholic Church to join the Holy Father and to speak out with one strong, uncompromising voice for the true worldwide religious freedom and for the liberty of the true Roman Catholic Church in China.”

Thank you, Archbishop.



September 22, 2011

Prayerful Support for China's Catholics

What if one of your brothers or sisters told you they were being harassed just because of their faith? Wouldn't you want to help?

Tragically, our brothers and sisters in Christ in many parts of the world right now need our help. Religious minorities, especially Christians of late, often find themselves harassed and even attacked, simply because of their faith.

As the Second Vatican Council declared, “religious freedom has its foundation in the very dignity of the human person.” Religious freedom is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is theoretically recognized by all nations. It certainly is a foundation of our American democracy.

But Christians throughout the world are suffering for their faith. In some societies they are discriminated against. In others they are not even allowed to meet for prayer, charity, or religious study. If they do meet, they may be harassed and beaten, their houses of worship assaulted. They may be detained, put in prison, tortured, or even killed. According to a Pew study, Christians face some form of harassment or persecution in two-thirds of the countries around the world!

One area where this is happening is in China. Our Catholic brothers and sisters who refuse to register with the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, the official body sanctioned by the People's Republic of China, form part of what is known as the “underground church.”



As difficult as it is for most Catholics to understand, Chinese government officials want a Catholic Church that is not in communion with the Holy Father, which, of course, is an oxymoron. They insist on independence from Rome and seek to control the religious activity of all Catholics in China. This includes where Catholics worship, how priests and religious are trained, and even who is ordained as bishop.

For a few years, there appeared to be some progress in the dialogue between the Holy See and the government of the People’s Republic of China. Some bishops were happily ordained with the agreement of both the Vatican and Chinese authorities. Back in 2007, Pope Benedict wrote a moving letter to the Catholics in China—who, while many are “underground,” were said to number close to 12 million—expressing not only love and solidarity, but much hope for progress and even cooperation and peace with civil officials.

However, recent illicit ordinations of three bishops by the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association (CCPA), often taking place over explicit Vatican objections, have reversed that progress. To make matters worse, coercion was used.

Some bishops, who are in communion with the Holy Father, went into hiding to avoid these illicit ordinations, but other bishops were not so fortunate. They were taken by police and forced to attend and participate in the ordinations.

No wonder the Holy Father has expressed “pain and concern” over this turn of events. The Vatican has said such acts are “contrary to the unity of the universal Church.”

The three bishops just ordained by the CCPA are of course considered excommunicated by their actions. Lacking communion with the Universal Church and the Holy Father, they have no authority to govern dioceses. Imagine the dilemmas this will create for local Catholics striving to be faithful. As the heroic Cardinal Joseph Zen, the former archbishop of Hong Kong, just bluntly stated, the Chinese government is forcing the Catholics in China into schism. “Why should our brothers not be allowed to live peacefully their normal life of faith?”

So what can we do to support our brothers and sisters in Christ in China?

First and foremost, we can pray.

Pope Benedict XVI had designated a World Day of Prayer for the Church in China in his 2007 letter to Catholic Church in China. In that historic letter, Pope Benedict XVI expressed his closeness to Catholics in China and affirmed that the Church in China is part of the universal Church. Prayer strengthens our communion.

We can also speak out.

China is a big player on the world stage. There may be opportunities to engage Chinese officials in economic, academic, political, and social circles.

What’s our message? The Catholic Church is not a threat to the Chinese government. Catholics simply want to live out their faith and make their contributions to the common good of China. We can ask our government and the many U.S. businesses that operate in China to urge Chinese officials to dialogue with the Holy See.

In his 2007 letter, Pope Benedict expressed hope for “concrete forms of communication and cooperation between the Holy See and the People’s Republic of China” and for a “dialogue [that] would make it possible for us to work together for the good of the Chinese People and for peace in the world.”

The Holy Father continues to leave the door open for dialogue. Let us respond to that initiative by encouraging Chinese officials to walk through that door, not slam it shut.

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Yours sincerely in Christ



Joseph Kung
President, Cardinal Kung Foundation

Please Remember The Cardinal Kung Foundation In Your Will

Thank You