



THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

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Easter 2012

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

custody. Four of them were released a week later. The whereabouts of the other two priests, Father Ban Zhanxiong, rector of the underground seminary, and Father Ma Mumin, are still unknown. Although released, the four priests must attend daily indoctrination classes. They were also forced to concelebrate a Mass with Patriotic bishops and priests. Sources told *Asia News* that the four priests were at the altar physically but they were “not praying, not even moving a finger.”

Another Mongolia province, **The Suiyuan Diocese** has about thirty-five priests and ninety nuns. With the increased presence of security forces, all the priests have now gone into hiding and the once thriving seminary has temporarily closed down. Consequently, the faithful have has no Mass or sacraments for about one month.

Pray for China

PIME Missionary Fathers Piero Gheddo and Angelo Lazzarotto, in conjunction with *Asia News*, have petitioned 530 cloistered convents in Italy to pray for the suffering Church in China and especially for the clergy who are in prison. Although Father Lazzarotto has not given up on dialogue with the Chinese government in practical matters, he told *Asia News* (1/24/2012) that any lasting agreement on religious liberty for the Church “requires a real miracle. We need, therefore, a crusade of prayer,

Dear Friends:

In the Paschal Sequence, *Victimae Paschali Laudes*, which is sung throughout the Easter Octave in the Latin extraordinary form of Mass, mark this verse, “Death and life to the combat: O wondrous conflict! The prince of life, having died, reigns living.”

Why do I stress this “conflict” at Easter time? Certainly not to diminish the joy and hope of the glorious season. No, I write of it because we, as serious Catholics, may have to taste more of the agony of Christ in the years ahead. In view of what has transpired since Roe v. Wade in 1973 and in view what is transpiring today with the increasing legislation, aiming at limiting or directly attacking Catholics and Christians practicing their faith, we will not be spared the combat. **May Jesus and His holy mother give us strength, not only to endure, but also to exercise our citizen’s duty and right to speak out against these new legislations. May the Risen Lord strengthen our faith, renew our hope, and fill our heart with love at Easter and always.**

Church in Mongolia Under Assault

In the past couple of months there has been a fierce crackdown launched by the Chinese government's Religious Affairs Bureau on the liberty of the Roman Catholic Church in several provinces. Most recently, the clergy of the underground diocese in Mongolia were the targets of a police roundup. This was unusual. Of all the provinces, Mongolia alone has enjoyed relative peace, until now.

The attack came just prior to the annual week-long March 5 meeting of the Eighteenth National People's Congress in Beijing, attended by three thousand members of the Congress. Many members of this Congress, all communist party members, are multi-millionaires and not a few are billionaires. The Politburo wants no disturbances that might lead to bad press during such convocations. Therefore, dissidents, current and potential, are removed to detention centers. According to “China watchers”, decisions will not be made regarding a relaxation of controls on the Catholic Church until, perhaps, the transition to a new president and prime minister is firmly established later this year.

Inner Mongolia Diocese has thirty thousand faithful in the vast Mongolian region. This underground Church is very fertile and robust. On January 30, six priests were taken into

knowing that 'nothing is impossible for God.'" For this end, Pope Benedict XVI has repeatedly called on Catholics worldwide to join the prayer for their brothers and sisters of mainland China. In particular, the Pope recommended us to seek Mary's intercession to "enlighten those who are in doubt, to call back the straying, to console the afflicted, to strengthen those who are ensnared by the allure of opportunism."

I like to remind everyone that the Holy Father designated **May 24**, the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, as a universal day of prayer every year to Our Lady of Sheshan begging for her intercession for the suffering Church in China. Pope Benedict XVI also personally composed a prayer to Our Lady of Sheshan in May of 2008. (http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope_composes_prayer_to_our_lady_of_sheshan/) Please write to us if you wish to have a holy image of Our Lady of Sheshan.

Archbishop Savio Hon, Secretary for the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, endorsed the prayer campaign, adding "We need to pray for these bishops and priests who have disappeared . . . but we must also appeal to those who are holding [them]. . . . The news of arrests, disappearances, detention in forced labor camps or house arrest of bishops or priests, is quite damaging for China. . . . According to our faith, these sufferings have a great mystical value of salvation. These martyrs make our evangelization fruitful. These figures remain as models of heroism for all the faithful of the world." (*Asia News* 1/17/2012, <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Msgr.-Savio-Hon:-Freedom-for-arrested-bishops-and-priests,-is-also-good-for-China-23713.html>)

Appeal for Release of Catholic Bishops and Priests

On January 16, *Asia News* sent out an appeal to the president of China, Hu Jintao, asking, as Cardinal Kung and the Cardinal Kung Foundation had appealed for a number of times in the past, for the release of three bishops and six priests, whereabouts unknown, who had been taken into custody without charge of any crime. Two of these bishops, James Su Zhimin and Cosma Shi Enxiang of Hebei Province, have been arrested numerous times, this time already having served for sixteen and twelve years respectively. Between them they have spent ninety-two years in prison since they were first arrested in the 1950s. The third bishop, Wu Qijing, one of the few young prelates in the underground Church (secretly consecrated in 2006 for the Zhouzhi diocese) has been under house arrest since November, 2007.

Father Cervellera, the editor of *Asia News*, writes, "In a certain sense, they (Bishops Su and Shi) are the dissidents' prophets. They were the first to suffer persecution, the first to be arrested and convicted, the first to appeal to the international community and the first to be forgotten." Forgotten indeed! Father Cervellera is indignant. So are we. He writes: "The Vatican's mild approach in its dialogue with Chinese authorities has not led to the bishops' release, or that of the dozens of underground priests languishing in China's laogai camps. . . . We hope, (that) the Vatican Commission on the Church in China will make their release a condition for any further dialogue. We call on everyone, Christian or not, to remember these two champions of the faith, truth and human dignity."

Statements of Cardinal Zen – Retired Bishop of Hong Kong

We have seen in previous newsletters with what zeal and forthrightness Cardinal Zen has spoken about the wrong reporting by the media as well as the wrong decisions made by the Vatican on the suffering Church in China.

Betrayal of 30Days Magazine and Saint Egidio Community -- In early February, 2012, the cardinal wrote a formidable article for *Asia News* entitled: "**What is the true good of the Church in China?**" In it, Cardinal Zen takes to task his friends, firstly, Gianni Valente, a writer for *30 Days* magazine, for interviewing John Baptist Li Suguang, a papal approved Patriotic Association coadjutor Bishop of Nanchang, and then he takes to task the Community of Saint Egidio for inviting the same prelate as an honored guest to their international meeting, *Religions and Culture in Dialogue*, from September 11 to September 13, 2011.

It was only two months before this September meeting when Bishop Li officiated in July, 2011, with seven other papally-approved bishops, at the illicit consecration of Father Joseph Huang Bingzhang as bishop of Shantou. For this willful and defiant act, this illicit Bishop Huang was almost immediately excommunicated by name (*nominatim*) by the Pope (*Asia News*, 2/08/2012 <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Eight-bishops-in-communion-with-the-pope-forced-to-take-part-in-illegitimate-ordination-in-Shantou-22099.html>)

What a blow this illicit consecration was to the unity of the Church in China! And what an insult to the Pope! This is especially so, because it was only a month before Father Huang's illicit consecration that Father Joseph Lei Shiyin of Leshan was also publicly excommunicated by Rome when he was illicitly consecrated a bishop on June 29, 2011. Bishop Li Suguang was well aware of this public excommunication.

Zen, therefore, justifiably asked: "**Why Gianni Valente of 30Days should interview such people (like Bishop Li), when it is known that they are not free to say what they think. How can Bishop Li Suguang say that 'the Church in China has not changed one iota from the apostolic tradition, . . .'**"? Cardinal Zen raises the question about Bishop Li's statement, because

Li's "...not changed one iota..." statement flatly contradicts the current situation of the Church in China. Cardinal Zen points out that in presiding at an illicit consecration of a bishop who had no papal mandate, Bishop Li did "seriously (injure) the unity of the Church despite recent clear reminders from the Holy See regarding the severity of such an act." (*Asia News*, 2/08/2012 <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/What-is-the-true-good-of-the-Church-in-China-23911.html>)

Abandonment of the Underground Church -- Concerning the plight of the true Catholic Church in China, Cardinal Zen has now seen enough to make him a realist in the holy Church Militant. He writes, "**I was among the first, twenty years ago, to plead the cause of those of the official community. I even said before ...that there was only one Church in China. But now I'm not so sure...**" This brought to my mind Cardinal Kung's position when he was arrested in 1955 for his eventual 32.5 years imprisonment. He steadfastly held his faithful belief that the Patriotic Association sponsored Church was not a true Roman Catholic Church which he refused to accept even at the risk of death or life imprisonment penalty. Cardinal Kung maintained this same position even after his years of imprisonment. In his letters of appeal to the Chinese authority, he repeated his aforementioned position, because of which he argued that he was innocent of all crimes charged by the Chinese government. He affirmed that as a Catholic and a bishop, he could not accept a membership in the Patriotic Association sponsored "Catholic" Church. **The Cardinal Kung Foundation has always argued** since its inception for the last twenty years that the "**two Catholic Churches in China are not the same church**" and that the **only true Catholic Church is represented by the "underground" or "unofficial" Church in China**, at a time when many Cardinals and church officials advocated the opposite. For an example, **Cardinal Tomko**, the retired Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of peoples, **declared** in his speech to the United States bishops in 2001 that "**the two groups in the Church in China are not two Churches because we are all one Church...**".

Cardinal Zen even expresses his regret that "**a strategy of compromise has been adopted (by the Vatican) . . . the underground community that once flourished so well, now runs the risk of dying of frustration and discouragement, because it seems to be neglected and considered inconvenient by the Holy See... (This) overly accommodating policy had not obtained the desired reciprocation from the Chinese Government** Meanwhile, an erroneous compassion had weakened the church from within..." (ibid., *Asia News.it* 2/08/2012 <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/What-is-the-true-good-of-the-Church-in-China-23911.html>) These frustrations and discouragements were amply described in our newsletter dated Christmas 2008.

(http://www.cardinalkungfoundation.org/articles/newsletter/christmas_greetings2008.htm)

The True Good of the Church in China - "The true good of the Church in China," writes Cardinal Zen, "**is not in comforting the oppressed who remain in their ambiguous situations, but in encouraging them to get out of them.**" The Cardinal is referring here to those clergy who still belong to the Patriotic Association but have been legitimized by Rome. Their situation is "ambiguous" in that they appear belonging to both Churches in China and they should get out of this ambiguity by resigning membership in the Patriotic Association.

"The true good of the Church in China," he continues, "**is not in continuing to bargain with organisms** (the Patriotic Association and the illegitimate Chinese Catholic Bishops Conference appointees) **but in mobilizing bishops and faithful to rid the Church of them.** . . . Am I speaking of the impossible? Everything is possible for those who want to remain faithful to God's designs, He who gives strength to the humble and courage to the weak." (ibid., *Asia News.it* 2/08/2012 <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/What-is-the-true-good-of-the-Church-in-China-23911.html>) In fact, on the eve of Bishop Kung's trip to Rome in 1991 to accept his cardinalate, he urged and invited, through the Voice of America, the Patriotic Association sponsored bishops in China to return to the Holy See.

Liberty of Conscience or Coercion - Contraceptive Mandate from the Current President of the United States

We are entering into a time of grave challenge for the Roman Catholic Church in the United States and for the individual's right to liberty of conscience. As I write this newsletter, the Catholic Church in this country is in the throes of an unconstitutional federal executive mandate that, under the penalty of monetary fine or jail time or both, requires all employers and private insurers to provide health care insurance that covers contraceptives, abortifacient drugs, and sterilizations by August 13, 2012 with very narrow exceptions. "In effect," said Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "**the president (Obama) is saying we have a year to figure out how to violate our consciences.**"

Our consciences are simple and clear: Life starts from conception. Life is a gift from God. In general, such a gift not only should never be interrupted or terminated by any contraceptive means, but also should never be prevented by any method of sterilization. The resultant fetus, no matter how small and how early stage of his or her development, is a fully-fledged human being with a soul. Accordingly, he or she, once conceived, should never be harmed and violated in any way, including but not limited to, by abortion and/or by abortifacient drugs. We shall not kill and we shall not harm, not only those who have been born, but also those who have not yet been born. This is our belief. This is the law of God and it trumps all laws of the earth.

This has informed our conscience. This is also our religion. For President Obama, who has the responsibility to protect the liberty of the citizens of the United States of America, to force us to go against our conscience, belief, morality, and religion is downright despicable. It is tantamount to a persecution on our Catholic and Christian religious believers as, for example, what the Chinese government is doing in persecuting its own people and their religious and moral beliefs. We, as the citizens of the United States of America, at least the American Catholics, should learn from the experience in China so that we will all follow the lead of our bishops to fearlessly protect our religious freedom and our rights and duties to protect the unborn. We have been encouraged by the words of our late Pope John Paul II: “Be Not Afraid”. In addition, we do have Our Lady and Saint Michael on our side.

Has a Sleeping Giant Been Awakened?

All 181 American bishops have denounced the mandate. I have never heard the bishops, from all across the country, speak more strongly and with more verve and unity, than they have today in rejecting this assault upon the liberty of conscience.

Here are just a few instances:

- 1) An exasperated Cardinal Dolan said in a *Zenit News* interview, “The government should not force Americans to act as if pregnancy is a disease to be prevented at all costs....To force American citizens to choose between violating their consciences and forgoing their healthcare is literally unconscionable.”
- 2) Bishop Lori of Bridgeport, Connecticut, who is the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop's Committee on Religious Liberty, minced no words in his pastoral letter: “We cannot — and will not — comply with this unjust law.”
- 3) In asking for the help of the saints in this moral crisis, Bishop Jenky of Peoria, Illinois, required all parishes in his diocese to reinstate the Saint Michael Prayer after each Sunday Mass.

This is the land of the free. Freedom is why we came to America. Such a system of government, as ours, must be sustained by leaders who have religious and moral principles. In a speech on October 11, 1798, President John Adams warned his fellow countrymen “. . . Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other...” (<http://www.revolutionary-war-and-beyond.com/john-adams-quotations-1.html>)

Remembering Rev. Paul Chan, S. T. D., J. C. D. (1917 – 2011)

Father Paul Chan, an adviser to the Cardinal Kung Foundation since its inception in 1992, a theologian, canon lawyer, and expert on China, passed away on December 28, 2011. He was 94.

Ordained a priest in 1940, in Rome, Father Chan graduated with doctoral degrees in Theology and Canon Law from the Propaganda Fide University and Pontifical Lateran University. He spoke fluent English, Chinese, and Italian.

Father Chan came to the United States after World War II. He was appointed by the Vatican as the United States Representative of Overseas Chinese Student Service of the Catholic Central Bureau of China.

In 1950, when Paul Cardinal Yu-Pin of China was exiled to the United States, Father Chan became his secretary. He assisted Cardinal Yu-Pin to establish the Sino-American Amity Fund, Chinese Catholic Information Center, and Chinese Catholic Student and Alumni Society in New York City. He also helped Cardinal Yu-Pin to re-establish the Fu-Jen Catholic University in Taiwan. He helped thousands of Chinese students to find scholarships at universities in the U. S. and Canada. He offered spiritual, material, and moral support to those refugee students. Many were entirely cut off from communication with their families in Mainland China at that time.

When Cardinal Kung Foundation was established in 1992, Father Chan was one the first ones to offer valuable advice, encouragement and financial assistance for its start-up. He worked with us together in jointly establishing various scholarships for underground students and clergymen studying in China and overseas.

Thank you so much, Father Paul, for all the work that you have volunteered for this Foundation. Rest in peace.

Yours sincerely in Christ



Joseph Kung
President, Cardinal Kung Foundation

Please Remember The Cardinal Kung Foundation In Your Will

Thank You