



THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

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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

Easter, 2019

Dear Friends,

“You should have no illusion about your future. You will be arrested. You may be martyred. Jesus prepared this for you because he loves you. What are you afraid of? If you died for Christ, you will have resurrection.”

China turned communist in 1949 and persecution started immediately. In 1952, Cardinal Kung delivered the above message of faith and hope to the priests of the Shanghai Diocese at their semi-annual retreat. It was on this promise of resurrection that Cardinal Kung and thousands of bishops, clergy and faithful in China definitively rejected the Three-Self movement: Self-governance, Self-support and Self-propagation. In 1957, this movement was formally established as the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association (CCPA). The leadership of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association declared its independence from the Vatican. In order to practice the fullness of their faith, the Catholics loyal to Vatican went underground.

Reconciliation and Unity In recent years, Vatican started referring the catholic church in China as ONE church with TWO communities: it is a kinder and politically correct way of referring to those who accept an independent church and those who rejected the government's demand to join an independent church. Cardinal Kung explained his decision in 1960. On the eve before his trial, the chief prosecutor offered him one last chance to “work with the government”, to join and lead the CCPA which will earn him an immediate release and a comfortable life. Without hesitation, Cardinal Kung responded, “I am a Catholic bishop. If I deny the Holy Father, not only will I not be a bishop, I will not even be a Catholic.” He was then sentenced to life imprisonment. Many clergy made similar decisions: Archbishop Dominic Tang, S.J., Archbishop of Canton who was jailed 22 years without a trial; Father Beda Chang, S.J. who became the first martyr in Shanghai; Father Xavier Chu, S.J. who died in jail after numerous arrests and over 30 years of jail and labor camp; Father Francis Xavier Cai, S.J., Pastor of St. Ignatius Church in Shanghai, who was put in jail and labor camp for 34 years; Bishop Ford of Maryknoll, martyred in China, and thousands of clergy, nuns and faithfuls. They did not make those decisions lightly. Accepting the membership of an independent church (Patriotic Association) is not a position that one can reconcile. They believed as Cardinal Kung did, “it is basic dogma and not a discipline of the church.”

The Chinese Constitution guarantees freedom of religion. But do Chinese citizens really have religious freedom? The same clause in the Constitution has existed in the past half century. In his appeal letter to the government in

1981, Cardinal Kung pointed out that the constitution protects citizen religious freedom in China. This reminder did not earn Cardinal's release from life imprisonment. It did not stop the government from throwing thousands of religious believers in jails.

Sinicization. It was true in the 1950s and it is equally true today that the Patriotic Association:

- Pledges to support a policy of an independence church,
- Acknowledges that religion is to support the agenda of the communist party,
- Maintains that religion must not have any foreign influence.

In February 2018, the government implemented new policies for Sinicization of all approved religions. Patriotic Association (PA) reports directly to the United Front Work Department, an agency of the communist party charged to make

and implement policies to support the agenda of communist party. According to UCANEWS, Wang Zuoan, Deputy Minister of the party's United Front Work Department, summarized his position, "*China church must be autonomous from foreign powers, self-electing of bishops and converting underground forces into loyal to the state.*" Sinicization is not merely to add Chinese art, music or culture into the religion. A director of the National Religious Affairs Administration explained, it must change '*religions in China*' into "*religions of China.*" The Vatican-China Agreement was signed under such environment.

Trust, a prerequisite of the Agreement Pope Francis said that the Agreement is a dialogue which must start with trust. After the agreement, the underground community would suffer, but that gradually, reconciliation between the official bishops and the underground bishops would give China Catholic unity and a normal religious life. Cardinal Feloni further said that "for the first time, the agreement set out stable elements of cooperation between the state authorities and the Apostolic See...I hope, therefore, not to read about local situations in which the Agreement is exploited to compel people to do what is not even required by Chinese law, such as joining the Patriotic Association (PA)."

Prior to signing the Agreement, Pope Francis lifted the excommunication of the eight Patriotic Bishops. This was a powerful proof of his sincerity in the Vatican-China Agreement. Wouldn't a similar gesture from the Chinese government in an immediate release of Bishop Su Zhimin a convincing sign of true religious freedom in China? Bishop Su is a Vatican appointed bishop of Baoding arrested twenty years ago. Releasing all unjustly held underground Bishops and clergy would surely achieve the reconciliation and unity so fervently desired by Pope Francis.

However, in recent months, numerous reports in both secular and Catholic media around the world have reported that there is wide spread cases of underground clergy and bishops being forced to choose between joining the PA or stopping all religious activities. They were told that unauthorized religious activities will result in significant fines and imprisonment. If Vatican has an understanding with the Chinese government that membership in the PA is not required for the underground bishops, and there is now "an elements of cooperation between them", shouldn't the Vatican raise its serious concern with the Chinese government about this abuse to protect its duly ordained bishops from further needless suffering? Wouldn't eliminating this membership requirement in the PA bring about immediately reconciliation and freedom to practice religion, a prayer of the underground church for 70 years? If Cardinal's understanding is correct and that membership in the PA is truly not required, why all PA bishops now recognized by the Pope still concurrently members of the independent Patriotic Association?

Post Agreement in Catholic Church in China. In spite of the Agreement (its terms have not been released), the underground clergy and bishops have found themselves to be in the same predicament as they were in the 1950s. Without membership in the PA, all religious activities are deemed unauthorized and illegal, risking not only their own arrests but also fine and loss of properties of the faithful. The government and the PA hope to severely limit the access of underground faithfuls to the liturgy and sacraments. Underground bishops and clergy are taken away to learn the new religious policy. They have been told that they must have membership in the PA to conduct any religious activity. They were offered a Transfer Form entitled Voluntary to Transfer to The Patriotic Association Diocese. On the Form, the clergy pledges to obey the Patriotic Association and its bishops, to promote an independent church, to promote Sinicization, and to agree that religion must not have foreign influence.

Sinicization and Patriotic Association Bishops Each province of the Patriotic Association held its own conference with its bishops to study the new religious policy and to formulate a 5-year plan to implement Sinicization. The following were included in one of its PowerPoint presentations: 1) The PA will continue to promote the independent church, 2) Study and promote the party's policy of Sinicization, 3) The Vatican-China agreement is another example of Vatican's attempt to interfere with the internal affairs of China.

Some recent events in China

1) **Bishop Vincenzo Guo**, underground Ordinary Bishop of Mindong, was demoted by the Pope to be Auxiliary Bishop in the same diocese giving control of the diocese to **Patriotic Bishop Vincenzo Zhan Silu**, whose excommunication was lifted by Pope Francis prior to the Agreement. Bishop Vincenzo Zhan Silu continued his position as a member of the Consultative Conference and Vice Chairman of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association (PA). Meanwhile, Bishop Vincenzo Guo, even as an Auxiliary Bishop, may not be able to concelebrate the Chrism Mass this Holy Week when bishops throughout the world celebrate Chrism Mass with diocesan clergy. For refusing to pledge obedience and support to an independent church, he was forbidden by the government and the Patriotic Association to carry out the duties of a bishop.

2) Some dioceses have reported that senior official(s) of Vatican have instructed the underground bishops not to reprimand underground priests for joining the Patriotic Association.

3) AsiaNews reported in mid April 2019 the arrest of **Bishop Cui**, underground Bishop of Xuanhua. His crime? Bishop Cui banned a priest from working in the underground diocese after this priest joined the Patriotic Association. The priest claimed that the Bishop failed to follow Vatican's instruction. This priest reported on Bishop Cui and the Bishop was arrested.

4) UCANews just reported that Father Zhang, an underground priest of the same diocese of Xuanhua, was also arrested very roughly in front of his parishioners in mid April 2019. For many years, the Chinese government typically stepped up its arrests prior to major feast days to limit liturgies in the underground church during major feast days and to intimidate the underground clergy. The United Front Works Department (UFW) exercises very tight control over religious policies and its implementation. These are likely not works of over-zealous local officials.

5) At last year's Youth Synod, Pope Francis emotionally welcomed two Patriotic Bishops, Bishop Guo Jincai of Chengde and Bishop John Yang Xiaoting. China's current law bans youth under 18 from all religious activities including attending Masses. This will affect evangelization and religious training to the next 2-3 generations in China. This law has been widely reported internationally, and yet was not mentioned by Synod participants. It is important to note that after Bishop Guo's excommunication was lifted by Pope Francis, he continues to be a Vice President of the Patriotic Association.

6) To encourage enrollment in the Patriotic church, some Patriotic Dioceses offer underground clergy significant enrollment awards up to US\$30,000. Some cities also offer up to US\$1,500 award for tips leading to arrests on foreign religious influence in China.

President Xi's State Visit to Rome, Italy On March 21 to 24, 2019, President Xi visited Rome, Italy to finalize the much publicized trade cooperation with the Italian government. It is customary for Heads of States visiting Rome to also call on the Pope at the Vatican. Most Heads of States, including from non-Catholic countries find it an honor to meet with the Pope even though Vatican is one of the smallest states in the world. They regard the Pope as the moral authority in the world. Vatican said that "the door is open" and was ready to welcome Xi most warmly. Such a meeting would be the first for a President of China with a Pope. Disappointedly, Xi came and left without calling on the Pope.

Religion and politics Dalai Lama, a Nobel Peace Prize winner has met with a few Popes during his years of exile from Tibet. In 2014, he was in Rome attending a Nobel Peace Prize Winners Conference. His request to meet with Pope Francis was turned down. Taiwan, a country offering true religious freedom with a vibrant Catholic Church invited Pope Francis to visit after the Vatican-China Agreement was signed. Vatican issued a statement that Pope Francis has no plan to visit Taiwan. Around that time, South Korea announced that Pope Francis is willing to visit North Korea if he has an invitation.

Grateful remembrance of Eleanor Lyons Schlafly

Dec 21, 1919 - Oct 31, 2018

Eleanor Schlafly was the Co-founder of Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, dedicated to educating the public on the evils of communism and to promoting traditional religious and family values. Many of you are familiar with the important contributions of the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, including its scholarly newsletters and conferences. Today, I hope to share with you some fond memories of Eleanor with Cardinal Kung and the Cardinal Kung Foundation.

An enthusiastic admirer of Cardinal Kung. When Cardinal Kung arrived from Shanghai at JFK airport in May 1987 almost at midnight, Sister Grace Vincent, representing the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, was there to welcome him. When Bishop Kung saw Sister from Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, he was very moved and rejuvenated. Archbishop Sheen wrote in 1953 in the magazine, *America*, "*The West has its Mindszenty, the East has its Kung. God is glorified in His saints.*" When Cardinal Mindszenty was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1948, the then Father Kung watched and learned from Cardinal Mindszenty while the Chinese communist army was sweeping through China. A year later in 1949, China turned communist and Father Kung in obedience to the Pope accepted the call to be the Bishop of Soochow. Years later, Bishop Kung said that the fidelity and bravery of Cardinal Mindszenty was a model for him during his forty years under the communist.

In 1989 Eleanor found out it would be Cardinal's 40th anniversary of episcopal ordination. She suggested that Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, Free the Fathers, and our family to sponsor Cardinal's first public celebration. As Eleanor put it, this would not be a celebration for Bishop Kung alone. This occasion would also be a special thanksgiving from the church in China. Eleanor came to Stamford to participate in this memorable event. Beside other new friends from the tri-state area, over 40 former prisoners of conscience who were students, parishioners and clergy (Chinese and foreign) of the Shanghai Diocese. They were in prisons and labor camps in various parts of China for 5 to 32 years. They came from around the world eager to see their bishop again. Never had they dreamed that after their long incarceration, they would be alive and meet with their beloved Bishop Kung in America.

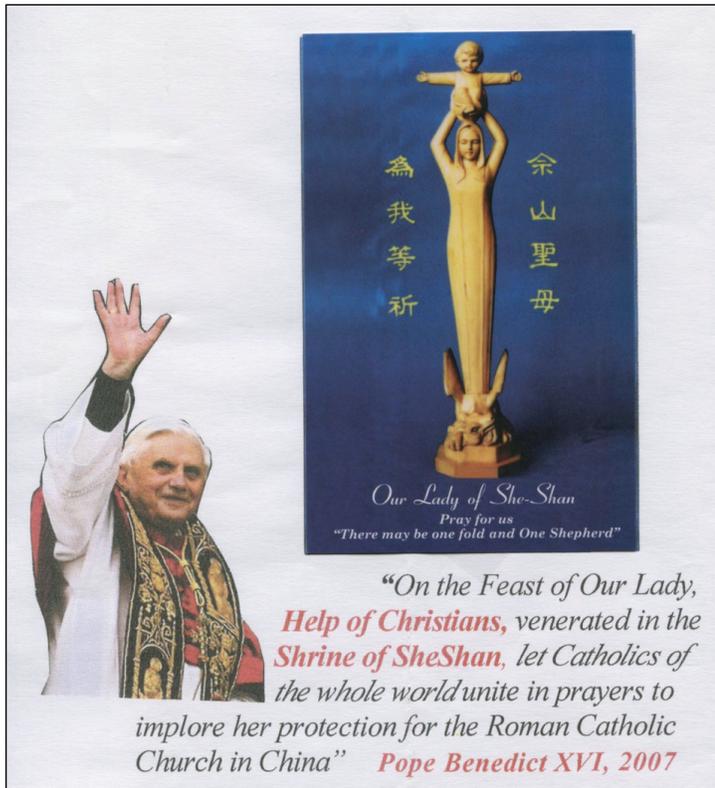
Eleanor was overjoyed when Bishop Kung agreed to offer a Mass at Cardinal Mindszenty Conference in Tarrytown, NY.

An advisor & friend When Cardinal Kung requested to start a Foundation in America to assist the underground church, Eleanor patiently advised us how to spread our message to the free world. She provided Joseph Kung and the Cardinal Kung Foundation exposure through her conferences. Joe spoke at many Mindszenty Foundation conferences and met other speakers who became enthusiastic friends of the underground church. For about 15 years, Eleanor continued to

support us with great ideas, personal recommendations and in countless other ways. Joseph and I deeply value her friendship and advice .

Please pray with us for Eleanor in grateful remembrance of her significant contribution to the underground church.

Annual World Day of Prayers for China



Established in 2007 by
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

A Solemn Latin High Mass
will be celebrated by **Rev. Cyprian P. LaPastina**
Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Greenwich, CT
in the **Basilica of St. John the Evangelist**
Stamford CT

Friday, May 24, 2019 at 7PM.

We welcome you at the Basilica of St John, Stamford. Clergy who wishes to join at the sanctuary please email cardinalkungfdn@cs.com.

You can also offer your own Mass, request a Mass in your parish or attend a Mass for China.

[If a priest wishes to promote Pope Benedict's World Day of Prayers for China in his parish or chaplaincy](#), we would be pleased to support you with a supply of the beautiful prayer cards. At its back is the **Prayer to Our Lady of SheShan by Pope Benedict.**

Sharing a moving experience May is graduation month. We all remember the pride and excitement of sitting in a stadium eagerly waiting for our child, nephew or niece to appear at the stage to receive the diploma, the fruit of four years of challenges . A couple of weeks ago, I opened a package from Europe. I was overcome with the same pride and joy, but most of all the gratitude for God's blessings on China. It was a Ph.D. thesis sent by a nun from Europe who wished to offer it to thank the Foundation and its benefactors. She wrote: *"With God's blessing, I completed the objective of my journey to Europe, to obtain an education to help my community and the Catholic church in China. I am keenly aware that without the prayers and generosity of the benefactors of the Foundation, I will not be able to focus on my studies during the past 8 years. I know that I will never have a chance to thank them in person, but rest assured that I will carry them in my heart and in my daily prayers for the years to come. I will be returning to China in 2 months, please pray for me for the grace and strength to carry out the work for the underground church in this very difficult time...."*

During the past 18 months, we have had 5 graduates (3 PhD's and 2 Masters) returning to serve the underground church. Earning these degrees from prestigious universities in Europe are very challenging for any student. Considering the background of these nuns and priests, the result is no less than miraculous: usually in their mid thirties with only a few months of language training having to cope with cultural differences. By the grace of God and with sheer determination , they studied alongside with other American and European students . After seven to nine years, our Chinese students all graduated with honors, one even with Suma Cum Laude. In the defense of her PhD thesis, she received full marks, a rare achievement in this prestigious university in Rome. With their new achievements and fluent language of their host countries, their only ambition was to return to serve the underground church. This is God's blessings on China's persecuted Church. It is the fruit of your generosity and love. Together with these future leaders of the church in China, we thank you !

A blessed Easter to you from China Masses will be offered in the underground church during Easter Week for you and your family. May the Risen Christ bless you for your love to the persecuted church.

Thank you for your charity standing with the underground church in China.

Joseph & Agnes Kung and the Directors of the Foundation

Please remember Cardinal Kung Foundation in your will so that the work so dear to you may continue.