

Dear Friends of the underground RC Church in China,

## **UPDATE -**

Cardinal Zen was arrested on May 11, 2022 by the Hong Kong National Security Police under China's Security Law serving as one of the Trustees of a charity fund 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund established in June 2019 to help the democracy demonstrators to pay their legal fees and emergency relief when arrested.

Cardinal Zen was also attacked for a few days a few weeks ago by Da Gong Bao, a popular Hong Kong newspaper backed by the Beijing Government for Cardinal's support and sympathy to the peaceful demonstrators a few years ago to remember the Tiananmen Square Massacre and later against the extradition bill proposed for Hong Kong. Cardinal Zen also had accepted many interviews and meetings with Catholic media and American politicians whom have been concern about the significant and quick erosion in religious freedom in China. The Beijing government and Hong Kong government regard any visits and interviews given overseas by any citizen of China or Hong Kong are deemed colusion with foreign forces. **Beijing regard all Chinese by race are under the Chinese law, if you the person is born overseas, or holds an overseas passport or if this persons has never travel to China or Hong Kong.** The government also consider any foreign national if found within the Chinese jurisdiction, the Chinese government can apply the National security Law on this person, using their past record overseas, and may be arrested or deported without trial.

The charity was established prior to the National Security Law announced in June 2020. and it had to shut down in Autumn 2021. After the National Security Law was applied to Hong Kong in 2020, it was increasingly difficult to operate this fund. The national security law may apply retroactively to any actions of an individual or groups that the law consider It appears that the law can be applied retroactively. If found guilty, this 90 year of Prince of the Roman Catholic Church may be given a jail sentence from 3 years to life. He is currently released on bail. **The court trial date is set on Tuesday, May 24, 2022.** This is the beginning of Cardinal Zen's long journey to Calvary which he has expected and has accepted for his beloved China and the Church. He has been very outspoken on the religious persecution in China and on the Provisional Vatican-China Agreement. Vatican has repeatedly said that this it hoped that the agreement will normalized the life of the Catholic in China. Since the Agreement was first signed in 2018, and renewed again in 2020, persecution has intensified, and many new religious laws that is contrary to Catholic faith or discipline were implemented. Faithful has no sacrament because of the imprisonment or house arrest of the underground clergy unless they join the Independent Catholic Patriotic Association. Bishops are constantly arrested for "religious studies" then released only to be arrested again.

Cardinal Zen tried to present his view to Pope Francis during the past 2-3 years, and even as one of the less than 220 Cardinals, he was not able to get an hour with Pope Francis during the past few years. Any 90 year old clergy deserve a

quiet retirement instead of taking long flights with no result. Cardinal Kung at the age of 78 and already had been in jail for 24 years, mostly under long period of isolation. He was writing his appeal letter to the central government which was required. That title of this section of the Appeal Letter was “ Refusing to Make a Deal.” He wrote, : By Human nature, we prefer to live rather than to die. However there is something that is even more preferable to life. To a man of virtue, they are integrity, righteousness and morals. To the faithful, it is the integrity of faith. There is something even more detestable than death. To a loyal patriot, it is the betrayal of the ruler and the nation. To a Christian, it is the betrayal of God and Jesus. To separate from the sole representative of Jesus Christ on earth, the Roman Pontiff, is to make myself losing the most basic Catholic faith, becoming a heretic without the Pope.....”. Cardinal Zen must felt the same, two Shanghai prelates I recall a quote of Cardinal Kung, writing during

**May 24th is a day of graces for Cardinal Zen. This is the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians.** St. Don Bosco founded the Salesian order under the patronage of Our Lady Help of Christians. Cardinal Zen is a Salesian.

May 24 is a **the Feast of Our Lady of SheShan**, a Marian shrine in the Diocese of Shanghai, China. As a Chinese born in Shanghai who loves his country, this is a most important May 24 has very special meaning for him.

In 2007, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI established this day as the **World Day of Prayers for China** to pray for the end of the persecution on the Roman Catholic in China, now in its 73 year..

Holy Mother has gathered the whole church around Cardinal Zen, the Prince of the Church and of the Roman Catholic Church in China, to accompany Cardinal Zen walk towards Calvary.

**Please attend a Mass for Cardinal Zen, in person or via livestream.**

**You can also attend a Mass during May, Offer a rosary or a sacrifice.**

Some parishes have requested the Our Lady of SheShan prayer cards or the Prayer for China (Cardinal Kung) to say this prayer together at the end of the Mass. Any priest who wishes to do this please contact me to rush the cards to you.

**Saturday, May 21 at 12:10PM**

**A Mass for the persecuted church in China**

**Basilica of St. John the Evangelist**

**279 Atlantic Street**

**Stamford, CT 06901**

**Tuesday, May 24 at 7:30PM,**  
**A Latin High Mass**

**Basilica of St. John the Evangelist,**  
**Very Rev. Cyprian P. La Pastina**

**279 Atlantic Street**  
**Stamford, CT 06901.**

This Mass will be livestream.

[https://stjohnbasilica.org/livestream.](https://stjohnbasilica.org/livestream)

**Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 7:30AM**  
**St. Mary Star of the Sea**

**10 Huntington Street**  
**New London, CT 06320**

**Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 7 PM**  
**Ascension Day**  
**A solemn High Tridentine Mass**  
**Saint Edward's Church**

**Rev. Robert McTeigue, S.J.**  
For the suffering Church in China

**5788 Thomtorn Avenue**  
**Newark, CA 94560**

Upon learning the arrest of Cardinal Zen, the first reaction from Cardinal Parolin, Secretary of States was that he hoped the arrest of Cardinal Zen would not affect the Vatican-China agreement.

We received words from many priests, Sisters and friends who promised Masses, novena and rosaries for China and for Cardinal Zen. Many have also notified CKF of their participation in the [10/22 Prayer Campaign for China](#) (*see below for more details*). They will pray very specially for China until October 2022 and place the Agreement in the hands of Holy Mary. I know that when the words reach the underground church, they will be encouraged by your compassion for their suffering and fidelity.

**Thank you**  
**Agnes Kung**  
**Director of Programs**