

May Mission Intention

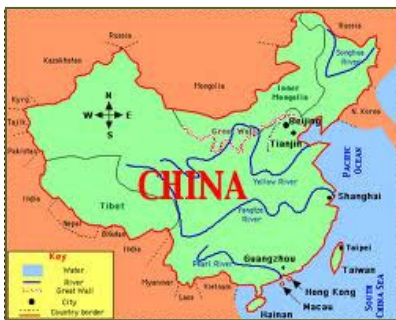
We pray that the Lord may grant the Church in China the capacity to persevere in fidelity to the Gospel and grow in unity.



I am the vine, you are the branches...

Country Focus: China: An ancient land meets the modern world

China is considered the oldest continuous civilization with records dating back about 3,500 years. This culture was organized under successive dynasties, the philosophy of Confucius and a common language that brought tremendous stability despite great changes.



Beginning in the 20th century, China began its move toward its own unique form of Communist ideology and cultural revolution. Today, China is in the midst of tremendous economic and social reform as it opens more and more to the outside world. It is trying hard to balance its ancient cultural roots with its modern presence on the world stage.

Christianity has had a long and difficult history in China. Since the 7th century, there have been five distinct attempts to evangelize the Gospel in China. One of the most significant moments came when the Jesuit missionaries in the 16th century found ways to communicate the faith that were understandable

in the Chinese culture. When the communist revolution took hold in 1949, Christian missionaries were forced out of the country and many Chinese Christians were tortured and imprisoned. Despite this persecution, the faith continued in an “underground” fashion.

Beginning in the 1980’s a new period of evangelization and openness to faith in China began to emerge. Today, the renewal of Catholic faith in China is being led by Chinese Catholics themselves bringing Gospel values to their brothers and sisters who search for meaning and purpose in an ever-changing world.

Watch more about the Church in China
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWpFycmw-uM>

God's Word for Mission

Promoting Knowledge of Faith

Jesus said, “There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us.” (Mark 9:39-40)

“The missionary task implies a respectful dialogue with those who do not yet accept the Gospel. Believers can benefit from learning to appreciate better those elements of truth and grace which are found among peoples (and cultures) that reveal a secret presence of God.” (Catechism of Catholic Church, #856)

Saints for Mission - Our Lady of China

Education for Community Life

There have been a number of occasions in the history of the Church in which the Virgin Mary is known to have appeared to Christians. Her image often reflects the physical and cultural traits of those she visits. She belongs to every age, to all people and to every race.

In 1900, Christians in a poor village of Tong Lu near Peiping, China witnessed the presence of Mary with Child. She appeared in the midst of great trial and social uprising in this area. Upon seeing Our Lady, the rioters ceased their uprising. Fr. Wu, a Chinese priest, told his



flock that he had prayed for Mary’s intercession.

The painting of Our Lady of China has her dressed as a Chinese empress with the Christ child on her knees—a vivid expression of Chinese tradition.

The Church has set aside May 24th, Feast of Our Lady, as a day to pray for her intercession for the Church in China.

Religious Freedom

All persons have a right to practice their faith and are not to be coerced or forced to limit or change that practice. This same freedom to practice one's faith also applies to communities and societies. The Church teaches that this is a fundamental human right. All people must be free to seek the truth without coercion. Therefore, the missionary practice of the Catholic Church is one of "proposing" Christian life and practice; never "imposing."



Living Mission

Moral Formation

We live in a country founded on the principle of religious freedom. Therefore, the USA is home to many communities of faith who are able to profess many different religious expressions.

Despite this freedom of religious expression, there is a separation of Church and state meaning that the government may not endorse or establish a particular religion over another.



On the other hand, people of faith may petition their local, state and national government and advocate for particular laws and policies that express the values of religious faith.

As Catholics, we are compelled to advocate for laws and policies that preserve human dignity of all people from the womb until natural death. For example, we can write to our representatives to uphold protections for the most vulnerable, the poor, the immigrant and fair labor practices.

Petitions for Mission

Liturgical Education

- ✚ Let us pray for the Church in China that it may grow in faith and unity.
- ✚ Let us give thanks for the freedom to practice our faith.
May we cherish this gift and be unafraid to live out our Christian life.
- ✚ Let us pray for all people who seek truth with a sincere heart.
May their search lead them to you, O God, who is the way, the truth and the life.
- ✚ Let us pray for the sick and the vulnerable; the poor and the homeless; the immigrant and the refugee.
May their struggle for life and dignity be maintained and protected.

Prayer for Mission

Missionary Initiative

Our Lady of China, Mother of God and help of all Christians. Be with those in pain and suffering as you once were present at the foot of the cross of your son, Jesus. May the hope of resurrection bring light and peace to those who seek God with a sincere heart. Amen.