

## *Intervention of Joseph Ti-Kang, Archbishop of Taipei*

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Jesus Christ clearly foresaw that there would be no lack of suffering and persecution for his followers: this occurred wherever the Church spread, even in the Far East, where missionaries brought the Gospel and founded those communities that live their Christianity with fervor. First comes China, and the vitality of the Church was marked, here to, by the witness of love for Christ offered through martyrdom by many of its faithful.

The Bishops of China, for some time, have manifested their vivid desire that these heroes of the Christian faith be declared Saints.

Already in February 1996, the President of our Episcopal Conference made this request to His Holiness, who manifested his intention of proceeding. Informed of this, the Congregation for the Cause of the Saints asked the postulators for the Cause of the group of Chinese Beatified Martyrs to draw up *dossiers* to prove the existence of a *fama signorum* in substitution of proof through a material miracle due to the impossibility of having a canonical inquiry in China on the matter.

However, we, the Chinese Bishops, have declared that we are persuaded that “the perseverance of the Chinese Christians in faith, lived under long and brutal persecution for almost half a century--as well as the increase of the number of Christians--are in themselves a great miracle granted by God through the intercession of the Chinese beatified martyrs “whom the faithful invoke in prayer”. This official declaration by our Episcopal Conference accompanies the *dossiers* prepared by the postulators.

Therefore, we dare ask His Holiness to proceed, in the near future, with the solemn canonization of the Chinese Beatified Martyrs.

[Original in Italian]