

Reflections

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Is The Sense of Evil & Sin Lost Wuhan China Two Saints China Arrests Christian for Zoom Easter Services

Blessing to All:

By: Richard Pickard

The time before we knew God and His Son, Jesus Christ, was a time of searching the earth and the heavens for a Creator that we did not know. We were ruled by our passions, fears and fed by stories passed on from our ancestors about life. There was something about our lives, that made us reach for the unknown God.

We knew love in the children born to us and sorrow that we experienced in the death of those we loved. But we also sorrowed for others that we did not love, but through our kinship through friends and their family members, we also wept at the death of others. This was a spiritual upheaval within us that somehow made us think outside of ourselves. This need to love and to be loved and to sorrow at the death of family and friends was deep rooted in us.



We buried our dead and put up sticks or rocks to mark where they were buried. We told stories about our ancestors as a reminder and as a living memorial within our hearts as to their lives and their passing. These stories were told with respect and love.

We still do this today throughout the world. This thread of spiritual realization is a sign that we are all connected somehow. We remember our friends and loved ones on the

anniversary of their deaths. Or we tell stories about events and places that we shared with our loved ones and friends. We are all bound by this common thread. It is called our soul. We are different from the animals and other living creatures on this planet. For Christians, we know God through His Son, Jesus Christ and hope in eternal life through Him. We will one day, if Grace abides in us, see again our friends, and loved ones. Heaven awaits us, where we will no longer be separated through death from our friends and family. And for others who have non-Christian beliefs, this thread of spiritual connection to each other is real and guides their lives. Jesus said, He came for all, not just those that believe in Him. I believe Jesus will look at each individual soul, by the love and forgiveness they show to others.



God took great joy in our creation, even though He foreknew our disobedience yet to come. God needs us and we need God is a simple answer. Why He made mankind is a mystery. I think God loves to create and wanted us to see His glory in all creation. Including ourselves.

We are a part of God. His spirit resides in us. We have within us the Divine Spark and Free Will that at times, fight against God's desire for us to love one another and to love Him.

The ruler of the world is Satan. A powerful spiritual being who has no spirit of God within him. Jesus talks about him through the Apostle John. "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me." John 14:30

Jesus is telling His apostles of His coming death, but that Satan has "no claim on Him." This is a powerful statement for we know that through Christ, death is defeated. Death entered the world through sin of Adam & Eve. The devil through the manipulation of reason to our first parents promised something that was not his to give us. To be Gods. The lie given to Adam and Eve was accepted as truth. They trusted the devil and paid the price for all mankind. God was very harsh to Adam and Eve and to all that followed. But He also, wanted His children

back. In the future of mankind, there would be a Redeemer. We believe this person is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.



Jesus performed miracles and cured the sick and drove out the devil in people. He told all that He was God and at the same time, the Son of God. A mystery that shocked those He preached too. He would prove His divine nature after His death.

Jesus resurrection, which was witnessed by His apostles and hundreds of others, was proof of His claim to be the Son of God. The Messiah. He was who He said He was. He defeated sin and death by His resurrection. And through Him, people of faith, can be reestablished as children and heirs of God and to eternal life.

The world still belongs under the rulership of Satan. But for Christians, we are alive in Christ and Satan has no claim on us. To remain in Christ is difficult. For some who call themselves Christians, it is so difficult, that they have transferred their hope in Christ to the world order of No-God, No-Problem, mentality. Sin is of no consequence to them. Money, power, fame becomes their lives.



St John Paul II, in the General Audience of August 18, 1999 had a powerful spiritual statement that points out our many struggles as people of God. In this General Audience John Paul II discusses the Our Father and its implications. Here are excerpts from his speech. *"It is only in and through him [Jesus] that we become aware of evil and call on the Father to deliver us from it."*

*In the prayer of the Our Father, the reference to evil becomes explicit; here, the term *ponerós* (Mt 6:13), which in itself is an adjectival form, can indicate a personification of evil. In the world, this is provoked by that spiritual being, called by biblical revelation the devil or Satan, who deliberately set himself against God (cf. CCC, n. 2851f.). **Human "evil" constituted by the Evil One or instigated by him is also presented in our time in an attractive form that seduces minds and hearts so as to cause the very sense of evil and sin to be lost.** It is a question of that "mystery of*

evil" of which St Paul speaks (cf. 2 Thes 2:7). This is certainly linked to human freedom, "but deep within its human reality there are factors at work which place it beyond the merely human, in the border-area where man's conscience, will and sensitivity are in contact with the dark forces which, according to St Paul, are active in the world almost to the point of ruling it" (*Reconciliatio et paenitentia*, n. 14).

Unfortunately, human beings can become the protagonists of evil, that is, of "an evil and adulterous generation" (Mt 12:39).

"We believe that Jesus conquered Satan once and for all, thereby removing our fear of him. To every generation the Church represents, as the Apostle Peter did in his discourse to Cornelius, the liberating image of Jesus of Nazareth who "went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him" (Acts 10:38).

"If, in Jesus, the devil was defeated, the Lord's victory must still be freely accepted by each of us, until evil is completely eliminated. **The struggle against evil therefore requires determination and constant vigilance.** Ultimate deliverance from it can only be seen in an eschatological perspective." (cf. Rv 21:4).

"Over and above our efforts and even our failures, these comforting words of Christ endure: "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (Jn 16:33).

The ultimate destiny of each soul created by God is an ongoing war within each of us. Which side do we believe is telling us the truth? Do we believe Satan who is the father of lies and the ruler of the world, or do we believe our Creator and our Savior, Jesus Christ. **The world is being divided into two camps. Make no mistake about it. One camp promises pleasure, riches, and no consequence of sin and the other promises Christian hardships with an eternal reward of peace and joy and love.**

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many." Matthew 7:13

Wuhan China Saints



An image of St. Jean-Gabriel Perboyre from Wuhan, China courtesy of Dr. Anthony Clark

By [Courtney Mares](#)

Vatican City, Apr 9, 2020 / 08:00 am MT ([CNA](#)).- China's first canonized saint was martyred by suffocation on a cross in Wuhan, the epicenter of today's coronavirus pandemic.

St. Jean-Gabriel Perboyre, a Vincentian missionary priest from France, was betrayed by one of his catechumens for money, bound in chains, tortured, tied to a wooden cross and strangled to death in Wuhan in 1840.

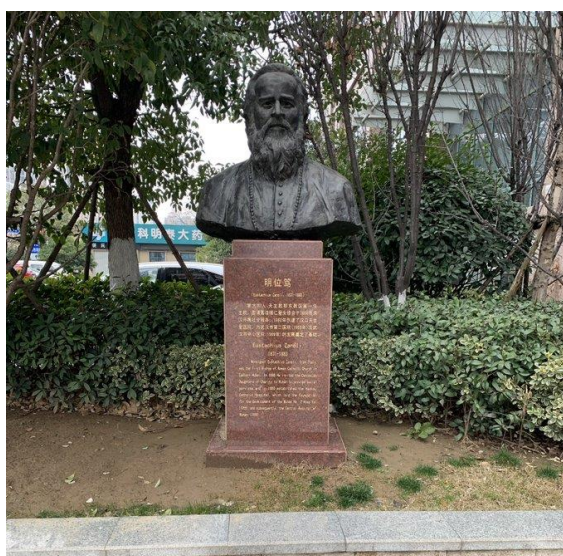
Dr. Anthony Clark, a professor of Chinese history, spent time in Wuhan researching the life of Perboyre and St. Francis Regis Clet, another 19th-century Vincentian priest martyred in Wuhan.

Clark told CNA that Wuhan's martyr saints are particularly suitable intercessors for those suffering from COVID-19 today.

"Sts. Perboyre and Clet were both killed by strangulation; they died because they could not breathe," he said. "How could they not be appropriate intercessors for this particular illness?"

"Among the torments against Perboyre were continued beatings on his lower back and he was forced to kneel on broken glass. He certainly knew the agonies of physical suffering and would be a good comfort for those who now suffer from this virus."

Wuhan, now infamous as the origin of the coronavirus, was once an outpost for Catholic missionaries who founded Catholic hospitals in the city.

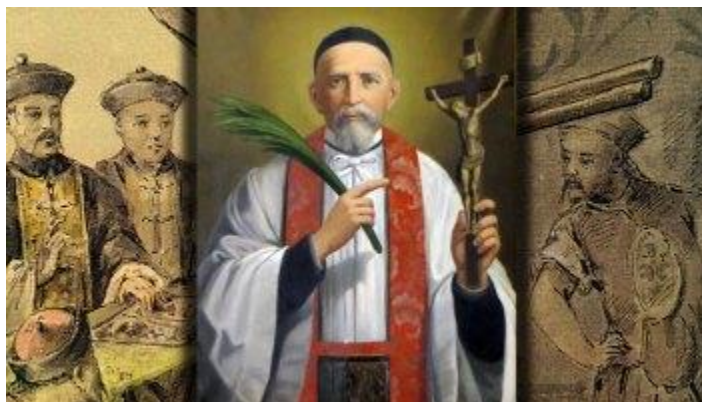


Outside of Wuhan Central Hospital, **where coronavirus whistleblower Dr. Li Wenliang died**, is a statue of Italian missionary, Msgr. Eustachius Zanolli, photographed by New York Times correspondent, Chris Buckley.

The plaque beneath the bust reads in Chinese and English: "Monsignor Eustachius Zanolli, from Italy, was the first Bishop of Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Hubei. In 1886 he invited the Canossian Daughters of Charity to Wuhan to provide social service and in 1880 established the Hankou Catholic Hospital, which laid the foundation for the development of the Wuhan No. 2 Hospital (1955) and

subsequently the Central Hospital of Wuhan (1999)."

Another nearby coronavirus facility, Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital, can trace its roots back to an infectious diseases hospital founded by Franciscan missionaries in 1926, the Father Mei Memorial Catholic Hospital of Hankou.



It was named for Fr. Pascal Angelicus Melotto (1864-1923), a Franciscan missionary friar from Italy martyred in Wuhan, who took Fr. Mei Zhanchun as his Chinese name. He was kidnapped for ransom and then shot in the stomach with a poisoned bullet in 1923.

"I am happy to die for the Chinese," the missionary priest said at his death, according to the Franciscan Order's website. "I lived in China for the Chinese and now I am happy to die for them."

The Father Mei Memorial Catholic Hospital of Hankou was staffed by Franciscan Sisters of Christian Doctrine until missionaries were expelled from China in 1952 after the Chinese Communist Revolution.

"The Catholic community of Wuhan has suffered greatly during the era of Chairman Mao and the Cultural Revolution, and through that time they hid the tombstones of Saints Perboyre and Clet to protect them, because of their deep devotion to those martyrs," Clark said.



"While I was there I visited the seminary where the two tombstones are now displayed for veneration; the Catholics of Wuhan have a great devotion to the Eucharist and to the Vincentians, such as Perboyre and Clet, who died for them, and shed their blood on the soil of that city," he added.

Many missionaries left for China in the 19th century with the knowledge that they would never return.

"I don't know what awaits me on the path that opens before me: without a doubt the cross, which is the daily bread of the missionary. What can we hope for better, going to preach a crucified God?" St. Perboyre wrote in a letter during his journey to China.



Perboyre's remains were eventually moved to Paris to the Vincentian motherhouse. Today his tomb is located in a side chapel in the same church where St. Vincent de Paul's incorrupt body is located. He was beatified in 1889 by Pope Leo XIII.

"St. Thérèse of Lisieux had a special devotion to Perboyre and kept a holy card dedicated to him in her personal prayerbook," Dr. Clark pointed out.

At Perboyre's canonization in 1996, St. John Paul II said: "Along the streets where he had been sent, he found the Cross of Christ. Through the daily imitation of his Lord, with humility and gentleness, he fully identified with him. After being tortured and condemned, reproducing the Passion of Jesus with extraordinary similarity, he came like him to death and death on a cross."

St. John Paul II canonized St. Francis Regis Clet in October 2000, along with 33 other missionaries and 87 Chinese Catholics martyred under the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Michael Fu Tieshan, a bishop of China's state-run church, the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association, called the canonization a "public humiliation" in an interview with state-run television, AP reported at the time. **His appointment as bishop lacked the approval of the Pope. He was appointed bishop by the Chinese Communist Party.**

Today, Catholics in Wuhan have a particular devotion to St. Francis and the Sacrament of Penance, Clark observed.

Catholics in Wuhan are "known to make long lines near the confessionals of priests who are most faithful to the authentic teachings of the Church; they are a beautiful witness," he said.

"It is rare to find a church without a statue of St. Francis, and sometimes a devotion to St. Vincent de Paul. The faith there is strong, and has even flourished especially during times of persecution," Clark added.



Chinese Girl At Confession, Wuhan, China

The Persecution of Christians in China is Real

Pastor Huang Lei leads a church in China in Wuhan, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak. As one of the few church leaders who stayed in Wuhan during the outbreak, Pastor Lei is talking about what he's seen as a result. The crisis has forced him to look at things differently, with new vision. His church meets only online—and they're learning to be the church, he says, instead of do church. Pastor Lei shares how the crisis is driving more prayer and deepening community. "The virus can't stop us," he says.

"First, we have more than 50 [prayer] groups. Almost all the groups are meeting via internet. Praying, studying the Bible, sharing, witnessing, praising and worshiping. Among them, we have more than 30 groups that are spending two hours a day, from 7 am to 9 am, to pray, worship, share and testify together. That's far more frequent than our normal meetings.

So, the epidemic hasn't cut down our meetings. It's the opposite. And there's 24-hour fasting and prayer. And we are doing an every-hour prayer as well. So, I think after this, many of the brethren will be more willing to take part in the communication with other brethren. To encourage each other, and to share with each other."

"Of course, now we have more free time, everybody is staying home, so that's given us the chance to do this. But, we usually have the group meeting weekly, and now we're doing this daily, sometimes even more. So, we are very grateful for that. And we have heard that our elderly and disabled have been thankful to the Lord and are greatly encouraged by this opportunity for online meetings. Before this, they felt alienated, staying at home alone, like they're abandoned. Now they cherish the connection between brethren more than ever. And they're more connected. So, bit by bit, they started to actively throw themselves into online pray meeting. 'It's bringing us closer than ever'

"As to the group leaders and deacons, we hold online meetings about twice a week. The deacons used to meet once a month, and now we have doubled it. I

think it's especially bringing us closer more than ever. We pray, share information, and make decisions together. The virus can't stop us.

"And another thing is, we are praying with ministers in Wuhan twice a week mainly for prayer and information sharing. Other than that, we want to connect with ministers across China through this. So that's the situation for now."

The Chinese government has recently installed facial recognition cameras in the building which houses Pastor Lei's church services. He says the persecution is worst than the 1960-1970's persecution of Christians. They use fear to try to rule over the Christians, by threatening their jobs, and how they are to behave.

Facial Recognition Cameras Used Against Christians in China



10/28/2020 Washington D.C. (International Christian Concern) – Congregants at the Muyang Church in Hubei were alarmed when Chinese authorities suddenly showed up at their church to **install facial recognition and fingerprint scanners** in the building. Suddenly, attending Sunday morning church service became much riskier for congregants.

Reports circulated that the fingerprints and scans were being used to not only monitor and track individuals attending worship services, but also their extended families. The regular scans were used to determine who was consistently attending services so that the CCP could keep tabs on their families and even pressure them to stop attending if they became too much of a threat.

Religious Profiling

In China, it is estimated that there are approximately 626 million facial recognition cameras in the country – one camera for every two people. The Chinese government has installed these cameras to spy on religious activity and prevent non-sanctioned religious worship. In China's northwest province of Xinjiang, for example, the CCP tracks ethnic Uyghur Muslims by marking and tracking men with beards, which is common among Uyghur men.

Benedict Rogers, a human rights activist and Hong Kong expert, shared in an interview with Jeff King that using cash is almost impossible. "Credit cards are not widely used. Instead, facial recognition technology on your phone allows you to buy something." The CCP has been using that same technology to racially and religiously profile individuals and use that information to control and extort them.

Monitoring the Church

Christians in China feel constantly watched by their "Big Brother" government. Liao Qiang and his family, who were members of Early Rain Covenant Church,

experienced this. The government stationed a 24/7 surveillance team outside of their residence after the church raid.

Each member of Liao's family had a designated team to follow them around wherever they went. If they were out of sight, the police used GPS tracking on their cell phones to monitor them. The police would follow them and appear suddenly to instill fear. At one point, seven people were tasked with following one family member. Twenty people watched them inside their own home. They were everywhere.

The country has long been monitoring state-run churches with cameras placed all around the premises and inside. This initiative, known as the Sharp Eyes Project, intended to achieve "blind-spot free monitoring" by 2020, including rural regions of the country.

Through the use of facial recognition, fingerprint scanners, and other developing technology, China can track every movement of the Church and punish Christians for following their religious beliefs.

Social Credit System

When integrated with China's Social Credit system, this new surveillance system has become even more dangerous. China's social credit system is used to penalize religious worship by limiting access to travel, jobs, or even a place to live.



Through this system, China can track its citizens' movements and economic transactions and use it to profile and assess citizen activity. China integrates a points

system alongside the surveillance and uses these points to control and manipulate citizens into obedience. Maintaining good standing in the points system is vital as it affects all aspects of one's life. For instance, if you want to travel across the country to see your family, whether you travel by plane or by bus depends on your social credit score. It also allows you to stay employed in a good job.

Surveillance of Christians and churches is used by the CCP to control and punish church leaders under the auspice of fake charges, such as "subversion of the state." ***The CCP will also demolish churches that will not be controlled by the CCP, because, according to them, unregistered churches are extremists.***

Paranoia in China

Paranoia is the driving force behind the CCP's new surveillance and social credit system. ***In 2018, President Xi made it illegal to share religious material or evangelize in a non-state-approved church. He has steadily been shutting down any space for dissent, religion, or civil society.***

The CCP has built an intricate and inescapable surveillance system like something out of George Orwell's famous novel, 1984. It allows the communist party to control every aspect of the lives of its citizens to ensure its own survival. Religion is a threat to the CCP, and government leaders will do everything in their power to stop its spread.

The Noose of Communism

Religious freedom is an essential human right. If religious freedom declines, the rest of our fundamental freedoms decline. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback told ICC, "Communism cannot survive with religious freedom."

Religious freedom is foundational to democracy because it involves the freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of thought, and freedom of the press. Understanding that central fact helps to explain why the CCP is constantly attempting to strangle the Church.

China is closing many Churches.



**PRAY FOR OUR CHRISTIAN SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHINA. THEY ARE
CARRYING A HEAVY BURDEN**

China: Police arrest Christians participating in Zoom Easter worship service



Several members of China's heavily persecuted Early Rain Covenant Church were arrested by communist authorities for participating in an online Easter worship service on Zoom and ordered to cease all religious activity.

Persecution watchdog group International Christian Concern reports that the Christians were participating in a Zoom worship service from their homes on Easter Sunday when six leaders were arrested and detained by the Public Security Bureau.

The 5,000-member Sichuan house church, led by pastor Wang Yi, has not been able to gather in person since the communist regime shut down the church in 2018 and arrested their pastor and other leaders. Since then, it has opted to gather online.

A member of ERCC told ICC, "At that time I was also in the Zoom call, but there was a long period of time where I did not hear a thing. I thought it's the network connection issue at first, but I soon heard a quarrel erupt. Our co-worker Wang Jun was questioning some people, [saying], 'Who are you to do this [to us]?'"

She added that in addition to Wang, other key church leaders including Guo Haigang, Wu Wuqing, Jia Xuwei, Zhang Jianqing and Zhang Xudong were also taken away. One member's home had its electricity cut off, while others received phone calls that "police [were] coming to visit them soon."

A supporter of ERCC also shared on Twitter, "Since 8:30 a.m., some security officials have entered these Christian families' homes and pretended to be chatting with them casually. At 9:30 a.m., the worship began, and they were also invited to participate. Once they realized that the sermon was from ERCC's imprisoned pastor Wang Yi, they immediately shut it down."

Her account was corroborated by Zhang Jiangqing, who was warned by the police at his house, saying, "Don't participate in already banned [religious] activities anymore! Don't listen to pastor [Wang]'s sermons anymore! If you do this again, we will deal with it seriously and take you away!"

The six Christians have since been released, and their electricity was restored in the afternoon.

Early Rain Covenant Church was first raided during a Sunday evening service in December 2018 after authorities claimed it violated religious regulations because it was not registered with the government. Wang was detained along with his wife, Jiang Rong, and more than 100 members of his congregation.

Pastor Wang was later sentenced to nine years in prison on charges of subversion of power and illegal business operations.

Gina Goh, ICC's regional manager for Southeast Asia, condemned the government's actions, pointing out that local authorities have continued to monitor and harass ERCC members since 2018 "with the hope that the church will disperse itself."

"In a time when the Chinese people are suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic, the heartless regime chose to inflict more trouble on its citizens," she said. "The U.N. should immediately suspend China's appointment to the Human Rights Council for its lack of respect for human rights."

In China, where the novel coronavirus originated, isolating in place has presented an opportunity for communist authorities to ramp up its campaign against Christianity.

On Ester Sunday, the state-sanctioned Donghu Church in China's Qinghai province was demolished. According to China Aid, a team from the Xining City Chengxi District Urban and Rural Construction Bureau demolished the church in just two hours, labeling it as illegal while citing "safety concerns."

On April 2, Bethel Church pastor Zhao Huaiguo was arrested after being criminally detained since March 14 for "inciting subversion of state power."

According to China Aid, a local Christian shared that the authorities have been hostile toward pastor Zhao since his church refused to join the state-sanctioned church and rejected government officials' intervention.

"He was accused of proselytizing and distributing Gospel tracts, which were considered illegal acts. After the Lunar New Year last year, the religious bureau forced the church to disperse, to which it refused. The official ban arrived last April," said the local Christian.

Religious liberty magazine Bitter Winter reported that in mid-March, ***crosses were removed from multiple churches in the eastern provinces of Jiangsu and Anhui and in the neighboring Shandong, the prefecture-level city of Linyi.***

In February, officials removed a cross from a government-approved Three-Self church in Hexi village. The church was built in 2007 and has complied with state regulations, implementing the four requirements of the government's religion "sinicization" campaign. Additionally, it had stopped all gatherings during the coronavirus epidemic. Nevertheless, it was not spared in the crackdown.



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Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.

<https://www.catholicfamilynewsletter.com>

**I am watching over you. Pray my children,
Pray, Pray, Pray My Rosary For The Salvation of Sinners**



**I am your Mother because Jesus gave me to you. Ask me and I
will intercede for you.**