Less than four years later, in March 1937, Pius XI backpedalled in an encyclical (the highest form of papal letter) Mit Brennender Sorge (with Burning Anxiety). He condemned racial theories and the mistreatment of people on the grounds of their race or nationality. It did not refer to Hitler or the Nazis by name but the letter was addressed only to the church in Germany.

This time, the church still has a chance to get out while it can. If it fails to take it, it will wear the historical opprobrium. As Zen says, if and when, sometime in future, "people will gather to plan the new China, the Catholic Church may not be welcome".

The portents were bad when the pact was finalised on September 22, 2018. And much has deteriorated since. We Australians are well aware of China's aggression in the South China Sea and towards Taiwan, its persistent cyber-attacks and "soft power" incursions into universities and politics, the problems of the "Thousand Talents" and its manipulative Belt and Road program.

Francis is vocal about climate change and condemning market capitalism, but his silence about China's human rights record, including religious freedom, is deafening. There are over 380 internment camps for the Uighur Muslim minority in far western China, despite Chinese claims that "re-education" was winding down. Witnesses attest to widespread forced abortions and sterilisations. Vatican apologists for the secret pact like to claim it brought to fruition the work of previous popes St John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Both wanted progress with China. But neither was prepared to make the compromises this pact entails.

Today throughout China the Communist authorities are subjecting Muslims to an unprecedented amount of surveillance, shutting down or bulldozing Christian churches, forcing monks to pledge allegiance to Marxist-Leninism, forbidden children to hear or read the word of God, and rewriting the New Testament to say that Jesus stoned to death innocent men and women.

Under Xi Jinping's "sinicisation of religion" diktat religious signage and imagery are being destroyed or replaced. Mao instead of the Virgin Mary; Xi instead of Jesus.

This is an utter abomination and the work of minds possessed by Satanism.

Should the CCP-Vatican pact be renewed by Pope Francis then this infamy will stain the walls of the Church with the blood of the innocent.

Either the Church understands the significance of its mission or it itself has become a temple of money changers. For in the words of Jesus "It is written that my house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers." - Matthew 21:12-13.

Yours truly

Arthur Tane

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