

## **Chairman Gallagher Calls on Pope Francis to Stand Up to the CCP**

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*as prepared for delivery*

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“Be not afraid!” It was June, 1979, and Pope Saint John Paul II was celebrating mass near communist controlled Krakow, where he had served as archbishop.

His three simple words – an exhortation to live in truth and love – eventually brought the communist regime to its knees.

Fast forward to last month. In Mongolia, Pope Francis had another opportunity to speak truth in the face of Communist oppression. But instead of courage he chose deference.

Deference to the CCP’s campaign to “sinicize” all religions.

Deference to Beijing's Marxist rewriting of the Bible and the intrusion of Xi Jinping Thought into churches.

Deference to the CCP’s genocide of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang.

Pope Francis made a secret 2018 deal that gave the Communist party the right to nominate Catholic Bishops—in practice, tantamount to appointing them. Atheist tyrants are now deciding who are consecrated as successors to Jesus’ apostles.

This agreement has also been a disaster for other faiths in China, most notably bolstering the CCP’s perverse attempt to coerce Tibetan Buddhists into accepting a CCP-identified Dalai Lama.

Francis may fear that he lacks the power to confront the tyrants in Beijing. But John Paul II knew better.

He saved Jewish people from Nazis, ministered to the assassin who shot him, and stood up to godless communist tyranny. He repeated those three earth-shaking words throughout his homilies: Be not afraid.

As a Catholic, I pray that Francis may heed John Paul II's advice in dealing with the Chinese Communist Party. Holy Father, I implore you: "Be not afraid."