

Their miraculous survival was attributed to the appearance of a woman in white, Our Lady of Deliverance. Bishop Favier had a chapel erected in thanksgiving, in the church of Beitang in her honor. She is represented as the Empress of China holding in her arms the Child Jesus, Who is depicted as an imperial prince.

Bishop Favier expressed his absolute confidence in Providence which thus manifested Its protection:

"The good God wishes to save the missions of China. The persecution had been so cleverly organized, that it seemed that the Catholic religion in China was going to be extinguished. However nothing of the kind happened. Thanks be to God. Death gives birth to life. Blessed are those who succumb to death, they prepare the way for the final triumph, they are martyrs crowned by God." \*(excerpted from: [www.tfp-home/about-our-lady](http://www.tfp-home/about-our-lady))

#### **PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF CHINA**

Hail, Holy Mary, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Mother of all nations and all people.  
You are the special heavenly Mother of the Chinese people.

Teach us your way of total obedience to God's will.  
Help us to live our lives true to our faith.  
Fill our hearts with burning love for God and each other.  
Stir up in our youth an unconditional giving of self to the service of God.

We call on your powerful intercession for peace,  
reconciliation and unity among believers and  
the conversion of the unbelievers in China and throughout  
the world, for God's mercy is our only hope.

Our Lady of China, Mother of Jesus,  
hear our petitions and pray for us.  
Amen.

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.pamphletstoinspire.com](http://www.pamphletstoinspire.com)**

## *Our Lady of Deliverance* **Empress of China**



*...We call on your powerful intercession  
for peace, reconciliation, and unity among believers;  
and the conversion of the unbelievers  
in China and throughout the world...*

## OUR LADY OF DELIVERANCE, EMPRESS OF CHINA

\*In 1900, the Catholic Church was healthy and growing in China. There were forty bishops, about 800 European missionaries, 600 native Chinese priests, and the number of native Catholics throughout the whole of China proper was estimated at 700,000.

It was during this time that the Boxer Uprising (1898-1900) started which ushered in a period of animosity against all things European.

It was from this hatred that the Boxer Rebellion was born. In June, 1900 the Boxers besieged the Beitang Cathedral. Directing the defense during the siege was the French Lazarist Bishop Pierre-Marie-Alphonse Favier, C.M. of Peking. Bishop Favier, who designed the cathedral, kept a journal during the siege and gave vivid accounts of what was endured not only before, but during the siege. He provides the following account of the Boxer revolt:

"The Boxers are a truly diabolical sect; invocations, incantations, obsessions, and even possessions, are common among them. Servants may attribute their extraordinary doings to magnetism of hypnotism or may look upon them as victims of hysteria and fanaticism, but to us they seem to be even more directly instruments of the devil. The hatred of the name Catholic drives them to the greatest excesses. Established as they are in every village they unite on a day specified to attack any one Catholic settlement, destroying and murdering everything and everyone in it. Small children were quartered, women were burned in church or run through with a sword, men were stabbed or shot and some were even crucified. The conduct of the Catholics is admirable; apostasy is proposed to them, but they prefer flight, ruin, even death."

The cathedral, which was the Lazarists' usual place of residency, was besieged by 10,000 Boxers and soldiers from the regular army. Behind the walls of the church, were over 3,000 Chinese Catholics, 30 French seamen led by a 23-year-old Lt. Paul Henry (who died in the siege,) 11 Italian soldiers led by a 22-year-old Lt. Olivieri, and numerous French and Chinese priests and sisters. This siege resulted in the deaths of more than 400 people. Over the two month siege, the Catholics endured continuous bombardment, mine attacks, flaming rockets, and starvation. Many of the children died from smallpox.

Among the admirable figures in the siege was Sister Helen de Jaurias, the Superior of the Sisters of Charity in Beitang, of whom it is said that she possessed the virtue and character of their foundress, Saint Louise de Marillac. Her siege diary provides proof of this: despite having to lodge and feed 1,800 women and children, she overcame the burden of old age and fatigue, she recorded the daily events of the siege until her death on August 20. She went, as she expressed it, "to observe from Heaven the triumph of Holy Church and the conversion of China." A few days before her death, a company of French marines arrived to rescue the heroic defenders of Beitang.

In 1901, at the Lazarists' mother house in Paris, Bishop Favier would recount events of this dramatic siege:

"...Every night during those two months, the Chinese [Boxers] directed heavy gunfire at the roofs of the cathedral and the balustrade surrounding it. Why? wondered [Lieutenant] Paul Henry and the missionaries. There was no one there to defend the cathedral. After the liberation, the pagans provided the key to this mystery: 'How is it,' they said, 'that you did not see anything? Every night, a white Lady walked along the roof, and the balustrade was lined with white soldiers with wings.' The Chinese [Boxers], as they themselves affirm, were firing at the apparitions."