

Father Mary Joseph Han – Rector of International Shrine of Haemi Martyrs (SOUTH KOREA)

South Korea has been chosen as the esteemed host for World Youth

Day 2027. The International Shrine of Haemi Martyrs, at just 4 years

old, is fervently laying its foundations to embrace the Pilgrims of Ho

pe in 2025 and the participants of World Youth Day in 2027.

It is young not only in its status as an international shrine but

also in its core identity as a shrine. This brief history is due to

the comparatively recent timeline of the Catholic Church in Korea. It

was not until 1784 that the first baptized Catholic believer appeared

in Korea.

These dedicated individuals, who embraced Christianity without missionaries' guidance, maintained their commitment, even when

confronted with the immense challenge of mortality. The history of the Korean

church is a history of martyrdom. The Haemi Shrine eloquently embodies

this divine tale of the Korean Church, resonating with God's grand act

of self-revelation.

The hallowed grounds of Haemi serve as the resting place for

mar

tyrs who were executed. The horrors and martyrdoms stemming from the 1

868(Thousands were martyred) were unmatched in their cruelty and scale,

closely linked with the origin of the Haemi Shrine. The Catholic idea

of equality was unacceptable in a Confucian society with a strict hie

rarchy.

Rosaries were excavated from most of the graves of martyrs. It c

an be said that most of the martyrs in Haemi prayed the rosary while w

aiting for martyrdom. In this way, during the persecution when it was

not east to get Bible, devotion to the Virgin Mary and the rosary were

important parts of the prayer life of the martyrs. Therefore, I'd like

to participate on World Rosary Day on the 7th of October 2024, while

remembering the martyrs.

website

<https://www.haemi.or.kr>

Photo1: International Shrine of Haemi Martyrs

Photo2: Jindongbeong – a pond where martyrs were buried alive.

해미 순교자 국제성지
International Shrine of Haemi Martyrs



