

Holy Martyrs of China

Regarding the Holy Martyrs of China, I have often wondered when, where and how it happened. After doing some research in order to answer these questions, I came up with this homily based on an article published by the Chinese Regional Bishops Conference of Taiwan.

How many martyrs were canonized as saints by the Church? The total number of martyrs is unknown, but there were 120 known martyrs who were canonized.

When and where were they martyred? The martyrdom did not happen in one single time or place; it happened through a long period of time and in different places: First period of religious persecution was in the Yuan dynasty (1281-1367). Second period of religious persecution was during the Ming dynasty (1606-1637). Third period of religious persecution was during the Ching dynasty in the province of Hebei (1648-1907). There was also widespread religious persecution during the Boxer Rebellion in the early 1900s that were centered in Shanxi, Hebei and neighboring provinces.

A historical account of the martyrdom in Hebei during the Boxer Rebellion describes the massacre in a village where Christians had gathered in a church. The boxers broke into the church while Mass was going on and began to set fire to the church. The people were terrified and did not know what to do. Screaming and crying filled the church until the priest shouted: "Dear people, do not be disturbed. Have a little patience before we all go to heaven!" Then he began the Confiteor. Hearing the familiar prayer, the people calmed down and prayed with the priest. At the conclusion of the prayer, the priest faced the people to give absolution. The boxers aimed to shoot at the priest while some people stood in front of the priest to defend him. They were all gunned down. The boxers looted the church and searched for valuables. After draping the sacred vestments on their horses, they marched northward to Beijing.



Many foreign missionaries were among the holy martyrs of China: In 1648 the Manchu Tartars invaded the region of Fujian and killed Blessed Francis Fernandez de Capillas, a Dominican priest. After he was imprisoned and tortured, he was beheaded. He was recognized by the Vatican as the protomartyr of China. In 1747, five Dominican priests were martyred in Fuzhou. In 1900, fifteen Franciscan priests and nuns were martyred in Shanxi and Southern Hunan.

The martyrs were beatified at various times: by Pope Leo XIII on May 27, 1900, by Pope Pius X on May 2, 1909, by Pope Pius XII on Nov. 24, 1947 and on April 17, 1955.

Here are some martyrs whose individual stories were recorded: Joseph Zhang DaPeng (1754 –1815) and Peter Liu Wenyan (1760 – 1834) both of Guizhou Province, Mary Zhu-Wu (1850 – 1900) of Hebei Province.

The Holy Martyrs of China consisted of both foreign and local clergy and religious, and a considerable number of Chinese lay faithful who died for Christ. Although they come from various races and cultures, they are strongly united by a faith that endured even in the face of death. Pope John Paul II canonized all of them as the Holy Martyrs of China on October 1, 2000. Today, we commemorate their faith, love and sacrifice with this special Mass; their courage and devotion teach us that our faith is precious and that Jesus Christ is worth dying for.

耶穌聖名華人天主堂
THE HOLY NAME of Jesus CHINESE CATHOLIC MISSION
5395 Light Circle NW, Norcross GA 30071 678-691-3261 hnojatl.org
每周公告 Weekly Bulletin
2025 年七月六日 July 6, 2025

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In lieu of the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we will be commemorating the Holy Martyrs of China with a special Mass today.

We are offering a Summer Music Camp for our parish children on July 12. We will be teaching the basics of keyboard and teaching our children to sing our Mass songs in Chinese. Please sign up with Long Che Chan. Come and bring your children and let us all learn together!



Fr. Bill will administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in the Sanctuary after the Mass. Those who would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick, please come to the front of the Sanctuary right after Mass.



Attention Chinese Cursillo members! We will have our Ultreya meeting today.

Prayer List: Chen Kun, Chen Shupeng, Ni Yufang, Lydia Chen, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	Anointing of the Sick	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		