

“MARY, I WOULD LIKE TO BELONG TO YOU”

The Statue of Mary of Nam Yang

The statue of Mary of Nam Yang stands at 3.5 meters in height and was sculptured in granite. Mary's arms are open in an expression of welcome for all of those who come to her. The child Jesus clings to the ends of the garments of his mother, Mary.

As part of the dedication of the Nam Yang Korean Martyrs Shrine on October 7, 1991, Bishop Nam Su Angelo Kim suggested the creation of the statue so that pilgrims could come to prayer to her in Nam Yang. It took awhile for the statue to be sculptured. The director of the Martyrs' Shrine, Fr. San Gak Francis Xavier Lee commissioned Mr. Sang Il Oh to create the statue. Bishop Duk Ki Paul Choi dedicated the statue on May 3, 2003, 10 years after its creation.

The statue of Mary of Nam Yang presents a very Korean version of Mary. Mary has a beautiful Korean face and the body line of an oriental lady. The head is without a veil and is in the shape of the head of a Korean lady. The elegance and modesty of the shape of an ancient Korean lady's head is said to fit with the image of Mary. This is why the sculptor tried to create the statue with a beautiful image of a Korean lady while not abolishing the more common image of Mary. The statue is our Mother who loves, serves, and makes herself known to those who look at her and who, in turn, is loved, served and known.

All those who come to the Marian Shrine of Nam Yang and see the statue will reflect upon Jesus' words on the Cross: "Mother, this is your son, this is your mother." These pilgrims will also want to pray, "Mary, I would like to belong to you. Mary of Nam Yang, you are our mother who is poor and has mercy, and is Mother for all people."

Mary welcomes and embraces with her two arms all of these pilgrims who come with their bundles of homemade rosaries. Today pilgrims continue to run to her breast and pray.

Intentions for Our International Day of Prayer of the Marianist Family:

1. For fidelity to and a deeper knowledge of our common charism.
2. For peace and mutual understanding among all peoples.
3. For the sick of the Marianist Family.
4. For those who suffered from the Tsunami last year.
5. For our newly elected Pope, Benedict XVI.
6. For the poor, the needy and those who suffer from our unjust environment.
7. For the peaceful reconciliation and reunification of South and North Korea.
8. For vocations for all of the Marianist Family.

NAMYANG SANCTUARIUM B.M.V. MATRIS NOSTRAE



The shrine of Lady at Nam Yang is the site where unknown Catholic martyrs shed their blood for Christ during the persecution of 1866 called Pyeong In Persecution. It was dedicated on October 7, 1991 to Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, and became the first Marian Shrine in Korean church history.



The Nam Yang Shrine of Martyrs was especially dedicated to Our Lady, the mother of all martyrs. It is a holy place where all Korean Catholics, who have inherited the valuable heritage of faith from the martyrs, can pray anytime in the name of Our Blessed Mother. In this only shrine of Our Lady in the Korean Church, people can pray the rosary with their family or friends, walking through the beautifully designed 1-km long rosary trail which has 20 decades of stone beads.

It is truly a meaningful and graceful opportunity that people can pray in the name of Our Lady in this shrine as ancestors of the faith did at the moment of their martyrdom. Those martyred here endured harsh persecutions, holding their beads in their hands and praying the Rosary.



The Nam Yang Shrine of Our Lady is a special place for us not only to cherish the memory of martyrs who had great devotion to Our Lady, but also to commit and pray to Our Lady with deep love and faith dedicating all our sufferings and pains. Furthermore, this shrine, because it is so beautifully landscaped and surrounded by a naturally undisturbed environment, has been nominated and promoted by the Hwa Sung City Council as one of the 8 most scenic areas in Hwa Sung.

