

“On Earth, as it is in Heaven”

Seoul, and 230 years of the Catholic Church of Korea



PRESS KIT

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1. General Introduction

About the Exhibition

For the first time in history, a special exhibition introducing the 230-year history of the Korean Catholic Church will be opened in the Vatican. A collaboration between the Vatican Museums and the Korean Martyrs Exaltation Committee of the Archdiocese of Seoul, the exhibition, “On Earth as it is in Heaven: Inside the Catholic Church of Seoul, Korea,” is co-curated by the Seoul Museum of History and sponsored by the Seoul Metropolitan Government and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Holy See.

The exhibition features not only the early persecution history of the Korean Catholic Church but also the Church’s participation of modern social movements, presenting a comprehensive introduction of the 230-year history of the Korean Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church has always played an important role during the development process of the Korean society. This can also be seen from the friendly relationship between Korea and the Holy See.

The diplomatic ties between the Holy See and Korea began in 1947 when Pope Pius XII sent the first “apostolic delegate”, Father Patrick James Byrne M.M (1888-1950) to Korea, shortly after the liberation of Korea from Japanese dominion. The Holy See played an unseen hand in the process that led to the country’s international recognition as the sole legitimate government on the Korean peninsula. St. John Paul II visited Korea in 1984, which marked the 200th anniversary of the Korean Catholic Church; Pope Francis visited Korea in 2014, a year after the 50th anniversary of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between South Korea and the Holy See.

The Catholic population in Korea has continued to grow. In the 50s, there were only 500 thousand Catholics in Korea, making up only 2% of the total population; in 2016, the number of Catholics grew to 5,740,000, making up 10% of the total population. In the 50s, there were only 290 priests in the country and there are approximately 5,100 priests now. The Catholic Church of Korea recognizes its mission to spread the Gospel to all nations in Asia.

Through the special exhibition, we hope to introduce the unique history and culture of the Korean Catholic Church worldwide, and to take a step forward to fulfill our mission of the evangelization of Asia.

1. General Introduction

Schedule

Date & Time	Event	Location	Note
September 8 10:00	Guided exhibition tour for journalists	Braccio di Carlo Magno	- Korean and Italian guide available - Q&A session
September 9 10:00	Opening Mass & Congratulatory Ceremony	St. Peter's Basilica	- Korean tradition music performed
September 9 11:50	Opening Ceremony of Exhibition	Braccio di Carlo Magno	- President of the Korean Martyrs Exaltation Committee, Bishop Peter Chung Soon-taek interview available
September 9 12:00	Exhibition Tour	Braccio di Carlo Magno	
September 10 10:30	Holy Mass for the Korean Faithful	San Crisogono	

* The schedule may be subject to change under certain circumstances.

* Detailed information on certain event will be distributed on the day before.

2. Main Events

Press Tour

September 8, 2017 / 11:00

Braccio di Carlo Magno

A guided tour for both the Korean and foreign journalists will be held on the day before the official opening of the exhibition. The curators who oversee the exhibition will give an overall introduction on some of the notable relics and will be ready to answer questions from the press.

The curators who will be present at the press tour are:

- **Sr. Elizabeth Soo-ran Park**, from the Korean Catholic Martyrs' Museum
- **Ran-hee Song**, from the Research Institute for Korean Church History
- **Jin-hyun Lee**, from the Seoul Museum of History
- **Ji-yung Oh**, from the Seoul Museum of History

The spokesperson of the Archdiocese of Seoul, Fr. Matthias Young-yup Hur, will also be present to answer questions from the press concerning the Archdiocese.

Timetable for the Press tour

Date & Time	Event	Location	Note
September 8 10:00~11:00	The exhibition opens	Braccio di Carlo Magno	
September 8 10:30~11:00	Accreditation	Braccio di Carlo Magno lobby	
September 8 11:00~11:20	Speech	Braccio di Carlo Magno lobby	- Barbara Jatta : Director of Vatican Museum - Fr. Matthias Young-yup Hur: the spokesperson of Archdiocese - Sangbin Park : Manager of the exhibition
September 8 11:20~11:30	Q&A	Braccio di Carlo Magno lobby	- Q&A session
September 8 11:30~12:30	Press tour	Braccio di Carlo Magno	-Audio guide available (KOR-ITA)

* The schedule may be subject to change under certain circumstances.

2. Main Events

Opening Mass

September 9, 2017 / 10:00~11:30

St. Peter's Basilica

The special exhibition will be officially opened on September 9, with an opening Mass presided over by Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung. The day holds a special significance to the Catholic Church of Korea because Pope Gregory XVI announced the establishment of the Apostolic Vicariate of Joseon on September 9, 1831. The fact that Pope Gregory XVI was buried in St. Peter's Basilica also adds special meaning to the occasion.

An estimated 600 people will participate in the opening Mass, including the Catholic Bishop Conference of Korea, the Vatican officials, 83 ambassadors to the Holy See, and youth delegates from 15 countries.

5 days prior to the opening mass, 48 young delegates from 15 countries (19 from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, East Timor, Brunei, the Philippines, and India) were invited to a special pilgrimage tour in Seoul. The participants visited holy places related to Fr. Andrew Kim Dae-gon, the first priest of Korea, and traveled to Rome to attend the opening ceremony of the exhibition. They will also travel to Assisi as part of the pilgrimage.

Korean traditional music will be performed during the opening Mass, with choir joint by the Rainbow Chorus (a choir consists of children from multicultural families) and the chorus from the Korean Martyrs Exaltation Committee. This will be the first time that the Korean traditional music will be performed in the St. Peter's Basilica.

Timetable for the Opening Mass

Time	Event	Note
10:00~11:20	Holy Mass	Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung , the Archbishop of Seoul, will deliver his welcoming remarks in his homily.
11:20~11:30	congratulatory ceremony	Congratulatory Message from: - Archbishop Hyginus Kim Hee-joong (President of CBCK) - Shim Jae-chul , (Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea) - Park Won-soon , (Mayor of Seoul)

2. Main Events

Opening Ceremony/ Tour

September 9, 2017 | 11:50~12:40

Braccio di Carlo Magno

After the Opening Mass, and ceremony will be held at the entrance of Braccio di Carlo Magno to officially launch the exhibition.

The prelates who will participate in the ribbon-cutting are:

- **Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung**, Archbishop of Seoul
- **Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello**, President of the Governorate of Vatican City State
- **Cardinal Fernando Filoni**, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
- **Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella**, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation
- **Archbishop Hyginus Kim Hee-joong**, President of Catholic Bishop Conference of Korea

In addition, **Park Won-soon**, Mayor of Seoul, **Shim Jae-chul**, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, **Woo Yoon-geun**, Secretary General of the National Assembly, **Yang Jun-wook**, President of the Catholic Legislator Committee of the Seoul Metropolitan Council, and **Jeong Jong-hyu**, South Korean Ambassador to the Vatican, will also participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Afterwards, all the guests will be invited into the exhibition hall, and a guided tour by the curators and translators will begin. An audio guide will be available for the other visitors.

2. Main Events

Holy Mass for the Korean Faithful

September 10, 2017 / 10:30~12:00

San Crisogono

Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung will celebrate a Holy Mass with the Korean faithful at his Titular Church, San Crisogono, in the morning of Sept. 10.

The Holy Mass is the last official event related to the exhibition. An estimated 300 people will participate in the Mass, including the personnel from the Korean Government, the Rainbow Chorus (a choir consists of children from multicultural families), the Korean Catholic community in Rome, and other Korean faithful.

The Holy Mass for the Korean Faithful serves as a sign of thanksgiving to the successful opening of the special exhibition. Cardinal Yeom will extend his gratitude to everyone involved in the exhibition during the homily. The Mass will be concelebrated by the Korean Bishops and the priests from the Archdiocese of Seoul.

A commemorative photo will be taken after the Mass.

3. Introduction to the Catholic Church of Korea

A brief history of the Catholic Church of Korea

Catholicism was introduced to Korea through Catholic books that were translated and written in Chinese characters. The research developed into a religious belief among the Korean scholars who studied the books. Lee Seung-hoon, one of the scholars, was baptized in Beijing in January, 1784. He then returned to Korea and gave baptism to Jung Yak-jeon, Jung Yak-yong, and Kwon Il-shin at the house of Lee Byeok near Supyogyo. That was the formation of the first Catholic community in Korea.

The lay community continued to spread the Gospel and requested for a priest in the country for decades. Finally, in 1794, Fr. Chu Mun-mo(1752-1801), a priest of the Beijing diocese, became the first missionary to Korea. Fr. Chu celebrated the first Mass in Bukchon in 1795. The Catholic population soon increased to 4,000.

Persecution began in 1785, when the government started to ban the religious gathering; not long after, the Catholic Church of Korea began its suffering journey of persecution of various scale. Despite a century-long persecution, our ancestors of faith has continued to keep their faith and lived out the spirituality of Christianity.

In the modern era, the Catholic Church of Korea, following the example of ancestors, participated in a series of democratic movements which pursue dignity and peace under the violent dictatorship. The 230-year history of the Korean Catholic Church is a history of salvation that witnesses the Lord's will "On Earth as it is in Heaven."

3. Introduction to the Catholic Church of Korea

Current Situation of the Archdiocese of Seoul

The Archdiocese of Seoul, formerly called the Apostolic Vicariate of Joseon, is the center of the Catholic Church of Korea. With an area of 17,349 km^2 which includes the region of Seoul Capital City and Hwanghae-Do, the Archdiocese of Seoul

There are 2 Cardinals, 4 bishops, 8 Monsignors, 889 priests, and 232 parishes present in the Archdiocese of Seoul. The parishes belong to 18 districts, which belong to 3 regions (Middle Seoul, East Seoul, and West Seoul); each region is led by an Episcopal Vicar.

Pastoral Features of the Archdiocese of Seoul

1) Spreading the Gospel through TV, radio, and newspaper

The Archdiocese of Seoul has its own radio station, TV station, and newspaper to achieve effective, modernized evangelization. This year, an MoU between the Secretariat for Communication and the Archdiocese of Seoul was signed, giving the Archdiocese of Seoul the possibility to operate the Korean page of the Vatican Radio.

2) Pastoral approach to poor and marginalized people in the region of Seoul

Following the role model of our ancestors, the Archdiocese of Seoul puts great effort in the pastoral approach to the needed people. Seoul Caritas and its 26 institutes operate various charity programs including free medical service and soup kitchen.

3) Centering on the pastoral approach to the young people

The Archdiocese of Seoul has relatively more young people and is quite successful in the area of youth vocational programs. For 20 years, an average of 15,000 young people has taken the 6-month lesson of bible study in small groups every year. 4,000 young people continue to a 4-day workshop.

Prayer for Peace on the divided country

As the Archbishop of Seoul, Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung is also the Apostolic Administrator of Pyongyang. For the last 20 years, the Archdiocese of Seoul has continued to provide humanitarian aid to the North, including 22 billion worth of medicine, food and other supply.

Since 1995, a “Holy Mass for peace and reconciliation” has been celebrated every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Myeongdong Cathedral; until now, more than 1000 Mass has been dedicated to the same intention. Since 1995, a non-official agreement was made to offer “Prayer for Peace” at the same time in Seoul and in Changchun Church in Pyongyang. The Archdiocese of Seoul has also launched a prayer movement in Nov. 2015 called “North Korean Church in My Heart” to especially remember the 57 parishes and 52000 Catholic believers in the North. As far as we know, there is no priest and no religious left in North Korean now.

3. Introduction to the Catholic Church of Korea

The Popes and the Catholic Church of Korea

Pope Gregory XVI

Pope Gregory XVI (in papacy 1831-1846) established the Apostolic Vicariate of Joseon on Sept. 9, 1831, and proclaimed the papal bull in the Papal Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. The Holy Father delegated responsibility for missionary works in Joseon to the Society of Foreign Missions of Paris and, in the cause of developing the Korean Catholic Church, granted the leader bishop authority to choose the new vice-diocesan bishop possessing the right of succession to the top position in the Apostolic Vicariate, to ensure that persecution would not leave a vacancy for the leading position. On top of that, the Holy Father announced the Blessed Virgin Mary conceived through the Immaculate Conception as the patronus for the Joseon Catholic Church.

Pope Saint John Paul II

Pope Saint John Paul II (in papacy 1978-2005) was the first Roman Catholic pontiff to visit South Korea. Upon his first arrival in May 1984, the Holy Father kissed the ground and said, “Ground of the martyrs.” He presided over the canonization ceremony of 103 Korean martyrs in Seoul, the first time a canonization was celebrated outside the Vatican. The Pope revisited South Korea in 1989 to participate the 44th International Eucharistic Congress in Seoul. The Pope’s visit to Korea had a great impact on the younger generation desperately longing for a democracy, and had helped the growth of the Korean Catholic Church. He in advance greeted Korean Catholic by saying “Chanmi-Jesus,” which means “Praise the Lord,” and is widely used among Korean Catholics as a greeting. In addition, Pope John Paul II said to the Korean Bishops during their Ad Limina visit in 2001 that “inter-Korean reconciliation and solidarity and the evangelization of Asia is the mission of the Korean Church.”

Pope Francis

Pope Francis visited Korea in August 2014, as his first pastoral visit to an Asian country. The Holy Father beatified 230 martyrs during the Holy Mass celebrated in Gwanghwamun; around 1 million people gathered for the occasion. Pope Francis brought great consolation to the Korean people by meeting with the families of Sewol victims. A few months before his visit to Korea, Pope Francis expressed his affection to the country by saying “I love Korea very much” to Cardinal Andrew Yeom during the Consistory in Feb. 2014. In a recent interview with La Croix, the Holy Father said the follow. “A clergy isn’t necessary needed for evangelization. We can see a good example from the Korean Church, that the lay people have done a fine job spreading the Gospel.”

Notable Personnel

Personnel of the Holy See



H.E.Card. Giuseppe Bertello, Governorate of Vatican City State



H.E.Card. Fernando Filoni, Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples



H.E.Card. Mauro Piacenza, Apostolic Penitentiary & President of ACN international



H.E. Msgr. Salvatore Fisichella, Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization

Catholic Church of Korea



H.E.Card. Andrew YEOM Soo-jung, Archbishop of Seoul (and Apost. Adm. of Pyongyang)



H.E. Msgr. Peter Kim Hee-jung, President of Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea (CBCK)



H.E. Msgr. Matthias RI Jong-hoon, Bishop of Suwon



H.E. Msgr. Gabriel CHANG Bong-hun, Bishop of Cheongju



H.E. Msgr. Lazzaro YOU Heung-sik, Bishop of Daejeon

Catholic Church of Korea



H.E. Msgr. Bededicto SON Hee-song, Vicar general of Seoul



H.E. Msgr. Peter JEONG Soon-taek, President of Korean Martyrs Exaltation Committee



Rev. Damaso JEONG Ui-cheol, President of Pontifical Korean College



Rev. Mattias HUR Young-yup, Spokesman of the Archdiocese of Seoul



Rev. Jacob WON Jong-hyun, Vice president of Korean Martyrs Exaltation Committee

Guests from the Asian Catholic Church



H.E. Msgr. Cornelius Sim, Prefect the Vicar Apostolic of Brunei Darussalam



Rev. Yang Tao Yong, Parish priest of Xiao Hengtang Church in Suzhou, China

Personnel from the Korean Government



Mr. Park Won-soon, Seoul's Mayor



Mr. Peter Shim Jae-cheol, vice parliamentary speaker, member of Korea Catholic Legislators Network



Mr. Stephanus Woo Yoon-keun, Secretary General of National Assembly Secretariat, member of Korea Catholic Legislators Network



Mr. Joseph Oh Jae-sae, chairman of Korea Catholic Legislators Network, Democratic Party of Korea



Mrs. Asella Na Kyung-won, member of Korea Catholic Legislators Network, Liberty Korea Party

Personnel from the Korean Government



Mrs. Park Young-sun, Democratic Party of Korea



Mrs. Agnes Yoo Eun-hye, Democratic Party of Korea



Mr. SONG In-ho, Director of the Seoul Museum of History



Mr. Ambrosius JEONG Jong-hyu, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Holy See



Mr. KWON Byoung-Hyon, Former ambassador in China



Mr. OH You bang, Democratic Party of Korea

H.E.	His Eminence
Card.	Cardinal
Msgr.	Monsignor
Rev.	Reverend
Fr.	Father

4. Additional Information

If you still wish to receive additional information and other follow-up press releases, please contact us through the following channels:

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