Pope Francis has authorized the beatification of 124 Korean martyrs who were executed during the anti-Christian persecution between 1791 and 1888 for their refusal to renounce the Catholic faith. Pope Francis will visit Korea to lead the beatification ceremony scheduled on 15th of August.

Maria Yi Seong-rye is one of those 124 martyrs. During those years of persecution, Maria helped her husband, a lay leader of the church, to set up a Christian village for uprooted believers and to take care of them. They also secretly took care of the martyrs' bodies from the execution site and buried them.

When she was arrested along with her husband, they had six children. The eldest among them was being trained for priesthood in Macao and the youngest, two-year-old, was with her in the prison. She had to face interrogations and torture. However, she had to suffer more from her maternal love for her little child than from physical pain. The desperate condition of her baby dying on the dirty prison floor and her husband beaten to death shook her faith. Finally she had to renounce her faith in order not lose her children. Maria was set free and returned home.

However, she was arrested again because the police found out that her eldest son was in Macao studying theology. She was taken to the prison for the second time. At this time she repented her first betrayal deeply and declared that she retracted what she had said earlier. She was sentenced to death after the final interrogation and torture. She asked her children "not to come to the execution ground" because she was afraid of losing courage again. She was beheaded on 31st of January in 1840 at the age of 39.

Her eldest son was ordained as the second Korean priest in China in 1849 and arrived in Korea in the same year. He carried out pastoral ministry for 11 years and 6 months and died of overwork and food poisoning at the age of 40. The authorization of his beatification is also expected in the very near future.
We pray for the Church:

Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father entrusted to the Apostleship of Prayer

July

- **Sports.** That sports may always be occasions of human fraternity and growth.
- **Lay Missionaries.** That the Holy Spirit may support the work of the laity who proclaim the Gospel in the poorest countries.

August

- **Refugees.** That refugees, forced by violence to abandon their homes, may find a generous welcome and the protection of their rights.
- **Oceania.** That Christians in Oceania may joyfully announce the faith to all the people of that region.

September

- **Mentally disabled.** That the mentally disabled may receive the love and help they need for a dignified life.
- **Service to the poor.** That Christians, inspired by the Word of God, may serve the poor and suffering.

We pray for the world:

Addressing Mary as "mother of refugees," Pope Francis offers prayers for the millions of people in the world forced to flee their homelands, and he asks us to reach out to them with assistance and a real welcome.

"Remember, Jesus was a refugee; he and Mary and Joseph had to go to Egypt to save his life. Pray to Mary who knows the pain of being a refugee."

"Millions of families -- millions -- of every religious faith" have sought refuge in many countries around the world, the pope said. Even when they reach a safe place, they live with the members of "dramas and wounds that cannot be healed easily."

"Let us be close to them, sharing their fears and their uncertainty about the future and concretely alleviating their suffering."

Pope Francis also prays that God would bless the people and organizations that generously work to ensure refugees find a welcome, recognition of their dignity and hope for the future.

We pray for and with the Congregatio Jesu:

- **JPIC Animators Conference 2014**
  July 13 ~ 19 Rome
  Theme: "I have heard my people cry... (Ex 3:7)" Is the CJ responding to that cry?

- **Lay Conference 2014**
  August 6 ~ 10 Spain Loyola
  Theme: To clarify identity of 'Lay CJs'

- **Missioning of Hungarian Provincial Superior**
  Sr Judit Knáb from 1st of August for three years.

- **Professions**
  3 sisters(2 Delhi & 1 Slovakia): Renewal of vows on July 31
  1 sister(Slovakia) : First Profession on August 8

- **Jubilees**

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- **IBVM General Congregation 2014**
  September 7 ~ 30 Loyola, Spain.
  Theme: "IBVM & Companions following Jesus". Sr Sarah Dobson and Sr Prisca Vadakepoomdikulam take part in this congregation as CJ representatives.