

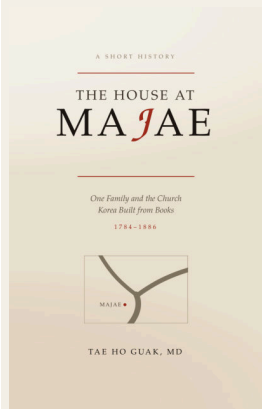
A Church Built from Books

A new English history of how lay readers founded the Korean Catholic Church, ahead of World Youth Day Seoul 2027

In 1784 a Korean envoy's son was baptized in Beijing and carried the books home. There were no missionaries in Korea, and there would be none for eleven years. In the meantime a handful of scholars read their way into the faith, appointed their own clergy and began baptizing one another. When the state understood what had grown up inside it, the killing went on, in waves, for a hundred years.

The House at Majae follows one family through that century: four brothers who grew up in a house on the Han river above Seoul. The eldest never converted, and buried the others. The second was exiled to an island, where he wrote the first catalogue of Korean marine life. The third, Bl. Augustine Jeong Yak-jong, was beheaded; the catechism he wrote in Korean kept the church alive for thirty-three years without a priest. The fourth, Jeong Yak-yong, recanted, survived and became the most quoted thinker Korea has produced. Their children walked to Beijing and back for twenty years to ask for a priest, wrote to the Pope, and got one. Among them was St Paul Chong Ha-sang, one of the 103 Korean Martyrs canonized in 1984.

The book is built from interrogation records, Jeong Yak-yong's own papers and the testimony gathered by St Antoine Daveluy, and it is short enough to read in an evening before a visit to Seosomun, Saenamteo or Majae itself. With World Youth Day coming to Seoul in August 2027, it gives English-speaking pilgrims, parishes and readers a compact account of the Church they will be visiting.



The House at Majae: One Family and the Church Korea Built from Books, 1784–1886

Tae Ho Guak, MD · Riche Books, Republic of Korea

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About the author. Tae Ho Guak, MD, is a Catholic neurologist in Korea and the founder of Riche Books. He is also the author of *The God Neuroscience Found* and *The Brain Turned Toward God*.

For media, parishes and pilgrim groups: review copies (print or digital), Kindle copies for group leaders and parish libraries, and a free four-page insert, “Why Korea? A Short History for Pilgrims,” are available from the author. Contact: Tae Ho Guak, MD · dr.guak@gmail.com · richebooks.com