



*A Sketch of St. Francis
Xavier Tomb Monument
at Shangchuan Island*

between Shangchuan and the Mainland. The

This tomb monument of the famous Spanish missionary Francis Xavier, is located at the western foot of Mt Xiang, Zhu Mansion, in the north of Shangchuan Island, Taisan city. The site covers 20,000 square metres, and consists of a memorial chapel, a memorial archway, path and steps, a plaque and pyramid with statue, a well, a pier and a management office.

Francis Xavier (1506-1552) was born in Navarre, Spain, and was a founding member of the Catholic Society of Jesus. He was sent to India and Asia, and in the space of 11 years preached in south India, Sri Lanka, Malacca, Indonesia, and was the first Christian missionary in Japan. Because the Japanese so admired the culture and religion of China, he wanted to visit China.

In late August 1552, he arrived at Shangchuan from Malacca, hoping to enter China. But while waiting here, he fell ill and died on 3rd December. He was buried at this site, but the following year his body was exhumed to a church in Malacca, and later to Goa, India.

1553: Jesuit Pedro de Alcaceva visited the original burial site on his way back to Europe from Japan.

1639: The Jesuits of Macao built a tomb in commemoration of St. Francis on the site of his burial. At the same time, a slab was erected, carrying an epitaph in Portuguese on one side, and on the other the same inscription in both Chinese and Portuguese: "AQUIFOI SEPULTADO SFRAN. XAVIER DA COMP DE IESUS APLO DO ORIENTE ESTEPADROAO SELEVAN TOU NO ANNO DE 1639" (in English: "*Here was interred St. Francis Xavier of the company of Jesus, apostle of the East. This monument was raised in the year 1639.*")

1688: Italian Jesuit Philippe Caraccio paid a visit to St. Francis' tomb and found that the slab was slanted. He had it restored to the upright position.

1698: A French vessel L'Amphitrite was driven by a storm into the shallow and dangerous water between Shangchuan and the Mainland. The

crew remembered St. Francis Xavier and made a vow that, if their vessel escaped, they would erect a chapel on the island in the memory of the Saint.

1700: The first chapel in remembrance of St. Francis was completed under the auspices of Fr. Turcotti and Fr. Laurcati, Jesuit missionaries in Canton.

In later years it fell into ruin.

1813: Bishop Francisco Chacim of Macao went to Shangchuan Island and found that the church had crumbled to pieces whilst the slab had disappeared. With the assistance of neighbouring villagers, the monument was found and re-erected.

1864: Superior Fr. Rondina S.J. of Macau led a pilgrimage of more than one hundred persons to Shangchuan (2 years after the Jesuits returned to Macau since their expulsion from the Colony in 1759).

1869: Mgr. Philippe Guillemin, the French Vicar Apostolic of Canton, completed the construction of the Chapel of the Tomb and a belfry, in which was hung a bronze bell, a gift

from Empress Eugenie of France. The chapel measured 20m x 10m x 23m high. On 25 April, he blessed and opened the Chapel. A pilgrimage of some two hundred European and one hundred Chinese Christians attended the Mass. He purchased a piece of land nearby on which later stood the church of Our Lady of Lourdes with the mission house and school buildings until 1942 when it was destroyed in the War.

1877: On 29 January, Mgr. Guillemin led the solemn blessing and inauguration of a statue of St. Francis erected on the hill. Three other bishops attended, together with many pilgrims and a crowd of local people.

1884: The chapel was ransacked during the Sino-Chinese War.

1888-9: Many typhoons: one big typhoon badly damaged the chapel of the tomb. Because of the expense, it was decided not to restore it at that time

1910: The chapel of the tomb was restored, with funds raised by French Jesuit Fr Garaix mostly in Montreal.

- 1928:** Bishop Dunn, Auxiliary Bishop of New York and Mgr. Walsh, Vicar Apostolic of Kongmoon (Jiangmun) visited the Chapel of the Tomb and decided that the chapel needed restoration.
- 1932:** A new sarcophagus was placed in the Chapel of the Tomb. Inscriptions on the top panel were same as those of the 1639 memorial slab. A new jetty was built for the easy access of the pilgrims.
- 1933:** On 8-9 December, a pilgrimage consisting of some 500 Catholics from Hong Kong, Macau and Canton attended a Mass.
- 1986:** Taishan government and overseas missionary bodies contributed to the restoration of the chapel, tomb, slab, statue, etc.
- 2006:** In commemoration of the fifth centenary of the birth of St. Francis Xavier, restoration to the monuments was completed in November, with the support of friends of the Society of Jesus, Hong Kong and past students of Wah Yan College.

Blessing Rite:

LEADER: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

ALL: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

AMEN

LEADER: The peace of Christ be with all of you here today.

ALL: **And also with you.**

LEADER: Welcome, brothers and sisters, as we stand together today on this holy site. 454 years ago, this earth beneath our feet held for a few months the exhausted mortal remains of the man we know as St Francis Xavier. Since the end of August that year he'd been waiting impatiently on the beach below here for a boat to take him on a most risky, dangerous trip to the mainland over there. A fatal illness took him, instead, on the final journey of his life, into the presence of God. The place where he was first laid to rest has been marked and honoured since then. A marker-stone, then a shelter, then a chapel : destroyed, damaged or lost, these have been rebuilt or renovated many times. Today we see

the completion of the most recent renovation work, sponsored by members of the Wah Yan Past Students' Association, in collaboration with the Toishan local authorities. It's a fitting memorial, in this year of Francis Xavier's 500th birthday. So we give thanks above all to the Lord who inspired Francis to come to this part of the world, and we ask His blessing on all who've helped preserve this place of grace, and on all who come here to honour Francis. Let us now pray in praise to God.

If the Lord does not build the house,
In vain do its builders labour:

**ALL: If the Lord does not watch over the city,
In vain does the watchman keep vigil.**

LEADER: The Lord builds up Jerusalem,
And brings back Israel's exiles.

**ALL: He heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.**

LEADER: He fixes the number of the stars;
He calls each one by its name.

**ALL: Your house, Lord, is set apart
It is distinguished by holiness**

LEADER: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit

**ALL: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever
shall be, world without end.**

AMEN

LEADER: Let us pray: Lord God, you choose men and women as living stones to become an eternal dwelling, built to the glory of your name. Increase your gifts of grace to the church, and let your faithful people throng in ever greater numbers to form the heavenly Jerusalem, even as we recall the memory of your saints and where they left this world for their heavenly home. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Lord, we ask your renewed blessing today on this place, this stone marking where your apostle Francis Xavier once lay at rest, this chapel of remembrance built on this spot to gather pilgrims together and give witness to the presence of Christ on this island, in this country. The water of blessing is a sign of life, recalling our baptism ; may its sprinkling here give growth to our faith, and to the faith of all who come to visit this holy place. The water we use today has come from another famous shrine, that of our Lady of Lourdes, in France --- and the old parish here on Shangchuan island was dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes.

May this blessing bring Our Lady's protection,
too, on all who travel to this place to celebrate
and remember St Francis Xavier.

BLESSING of slab, altar, sanctuary area,
aisles and doorway

LEADER: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought St Francis to this place where we
now specially remember him, and his burning
desire to bring the love of Christ to the people
and land of China. Through our prayer and our
presence here today, may the gospel of Christ
find a place in the hearts and lives of people in
this part of the world ; may our own faith grow
too and make us more zealous witnesses to the
love of Christ which urged St Francis to come
here and offer his life. AMEN

2006年11月30日

上川島行程表 - Itenary on 30th Nov to Shangchuan

時間/Time	行程	Itinerary
07:00	於尖沙咀中港碼頭集合	Assembly at China HK Pier, Tsimshatsui
07:30	乘珠江客輪前往珠海	Ferry to Zhuhai
08:40	到達珠海九洲港碼頭	Arrival Zhuhai
09:15	乘專車離開珠海九洲港	Coach from Zhuhai to Shantsui
11:15	到達廣海山咀碼頭	Arrival Shangtsui Pier
11:30	乘船由山咀碼頭前往上川島	Ferry to Shangchuan
12:10	到達上川島三洲港碼頭	Arrival Shangchuan
12:15	步行前往酒家午餐	Lunch
13:15	乘專車前往方濟各墓園	Coach to St Francis Xavier Graveyard
13:30	到達方濟各墓園	Arrival St Francis Xavier Graveyard
15:00	離開方濟各墓園	Depart from St Francis Xavier Graveyard
15:05	中途停留大河小學	Short stay at Big River Primary School
16:00	乘船由上川島前往山咀碼頭	Ferry from Shangchuan to Shantsui
16:45	乘專車前往珠海	Coach to Zhuhai
18:45	到達酒家晚膳	Dinner in Zhuhai
20:00	步行前往九洲港碼頭	Arrival Zhuhai Pier
20:30	乘船回上環信德碼頭	Departure from Zhuhai to HK
21:40	全日行程完畢	End of trip

If you want to have more information and pictures of the Tomb Monument, please visit :

http://www.wahyan-pssa.org/pigs/GoodShepherdClub/Shangchuan/Shangchuan_2006%5B1%5D.files/frame.htm