



**Sts. Mark Chong Lu-Bai
and Alexius U Se-Yong**
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1795–1866 and 1845–1866 • Korea

During the 1800s, Catholicism was outlawed in Korea. Catholic missionary priests and Korean converts were hunted down and put to death. Among these brave Korean martyrs were Sts. Mark Chong Lu-Bai and Alexis U Se-Yong.

Mark Chong Lu-Bai was a teacher in Korea. One day, he saw two priests put to death for teaching the Catholic Faith to the Koreans. The calm and peaceful way they approached their death inspired Mark Chong Lu-Bai. He wanted to learn more about this Jesus for whom they so willingly died. There were no books written in Korean about Jesus, so he found some books about Him written in Chinese. The more he read, the more his heart sang within him. This Jesus had suffered and died for the whole world. This meant that Jesus had died for him, too, and for the people in Korea.

Even though it was dangerous, Mark Chong Lu-Bai was baptized into the Catholic Faith. He became a catechist and taught the Faith to other Koreans. One of the converts he taught was the young Alexis U Se-Yong. Alexis U Se-Yong was a wealthy nobleman. His family was opposed to his conversion, but his heart was so on fire for Jesus that he left his rich family to work with the Catholic missionaries. To help the missionaries, he translated a catechism into Korean so that the people could read about the Faith.

But then a terrible persecution broke out, and Mark Chong Lu-Bai and Alexis U Se-Yong behaved in two very different ways. Mark Chong Lu-Bai was offered the chance to escape, but he did not take it. He knew that God wanted him to serve the persecuted Koreans who were unable to leave. He was caught by his neighbors and family, who beat him terribly before they sent him to prison. Through it all, Mark Chong Lu-Bai remained strong in his Faith. Alexis U Se-Yong, however, did not have Mark Chong Lu-Bai's strength. His fear was stronger than the fire of love in his heart. When the persecutors arrived, he gave up his Faith and denied Jesus.

Afterward, Alexis U Se-Yong was sorry. His fear had made him do a terrible thing. He rushed to his bishop, confessed his sin, and received forgiveness. Then he was arrested and imprisoned with Mark Chong Lu-Bai. Together they were tortured and executed along with other Korean Catholics and became glorious martyrs for the Faith. Sts. Mark Chong Lu-Bai and Alexis U Se-Yong, please help my heart be full of love for Jesus!