

# Saint Thomas Nishi

28 September



Martyr of Japan

**Blessed be you our God, for Saint Thomas Nishi  
and for all who gave their lives for you.**

## 聖トマス西と15殉教者



カトリック中央協議会

## Saint Thomas Nishi

Thomas Nishi was born at Ikitsuki in Hirado in 1590. Gaspar Nishi(his father) was the feudal lord's chief retainer. His lord was exiled because of his faith. So Gaspar Nishi lost a local administrator's position. As he did not want to abandon his faith, he, his wife and their eldest son were martyred in the village. The place was called crossroad of Cruz, people called it holy land in Ikitsuki.

Thomas Nishi was a gentle person, working as a missionary, with strong influence among the people. Around 1620, he went to Manila, in order to become a priest. He encountered Dominican group and joined it (1624). He was ordained as the first Japanese priest in the Dominican group (1626). In 1629, he sneaked back into Nagasaki, visiting deserted or hidden Christians, offering mass among the Christian community, offering sacraments and experiencing hardship. Fr Jordano his friend became sick through overwork, and Thomas Nishi visited and cared him, at Mizunoura. At this place, he was arrested and taken to Nagasaki. He was forced to endure heavy torture, but he did not give up his faith. He received the crown of Martyrdom.

When he was forced to arrive at the execution ground in Nishizaka, he kissed the ground and said the Creed. He was hanged up-side down in the pit. He was 44 years old. He was beatified in the Philippines and canonized in 1981.

The characteristic of his group: While Christianity was forbidden, the Japanese government was afraid of Christianity with power. So suppression of religion led to the physical hardship of hunger, coldness in winter and ostracism. In spite of these hardships, they have a strong relationship to God, encouraging the Christian community and evangelizing each other.



## 聖トマス西

司祭

聖トマス西は一五九〇年、平戸の生月に生まれました。父ガスパルは松浦の重臣箆手田家の家老でしたが、主君が信仰のために追放されると同時に代官職を追われ、一六〇九年、藩主の棄教の命令に従わなかったため、妻、長男と共に殉教しました。その場所は、現在も「クルスの辻」と呼ばれ生月の聖地とされています。

聖トマス西はおだやかな人柄で同宿（伝道士）として働き、多くの人々に影響を与えていました。一六二〇年頃司祭になるためにマニラに渡り、一六二四年ドミニコ会に入会し、二六年、日本人として初のドミニコ会司祭として叙階されました。二九年長崎に潜入し、棄教者への働きかけや、信者を集めミサをささげたり、秘跡をさすけ、苦勞多い生活をしていました。ともに宣教していたヨルダン神父が過勞で倒れ、その看病のために水の浦に滞在中、逮捕され、長崎に引いてゆかれました。過酷な拷問にも教えを棄てず、一六三四年十一月十七日、西坂の丘で穴吊りの刑を受け、殉教の栄冠を受けたのでした。彼は殉教の聖なる西坂に着いたとき、地に口づけをし、信仰宣言を唱えたと言われています。四十四歳でした。