

# European Sustainable Religious Heritage

20-21 April in Lund, Sweden

A detailed illustration of a Japanese village, likely a hidden Christian settlement. The scene is set on a hillside overlooking a river. In the foreground, a white-walled church with a blue roof and a steeple stands on the left. A river flows through the center, with several boats. The middle ground shows a large gathering of people in traditional Japanese attire, some in red and white robes, gathered around a central area. The background features a landscape with mountains, trees, and a large, multi-armed cross structure. The overall style is reminiscent of a woodblock print or a traditional Japanese painting.

Hidden Christians in southern Japan.  
A social and religious experience over  
three centuries

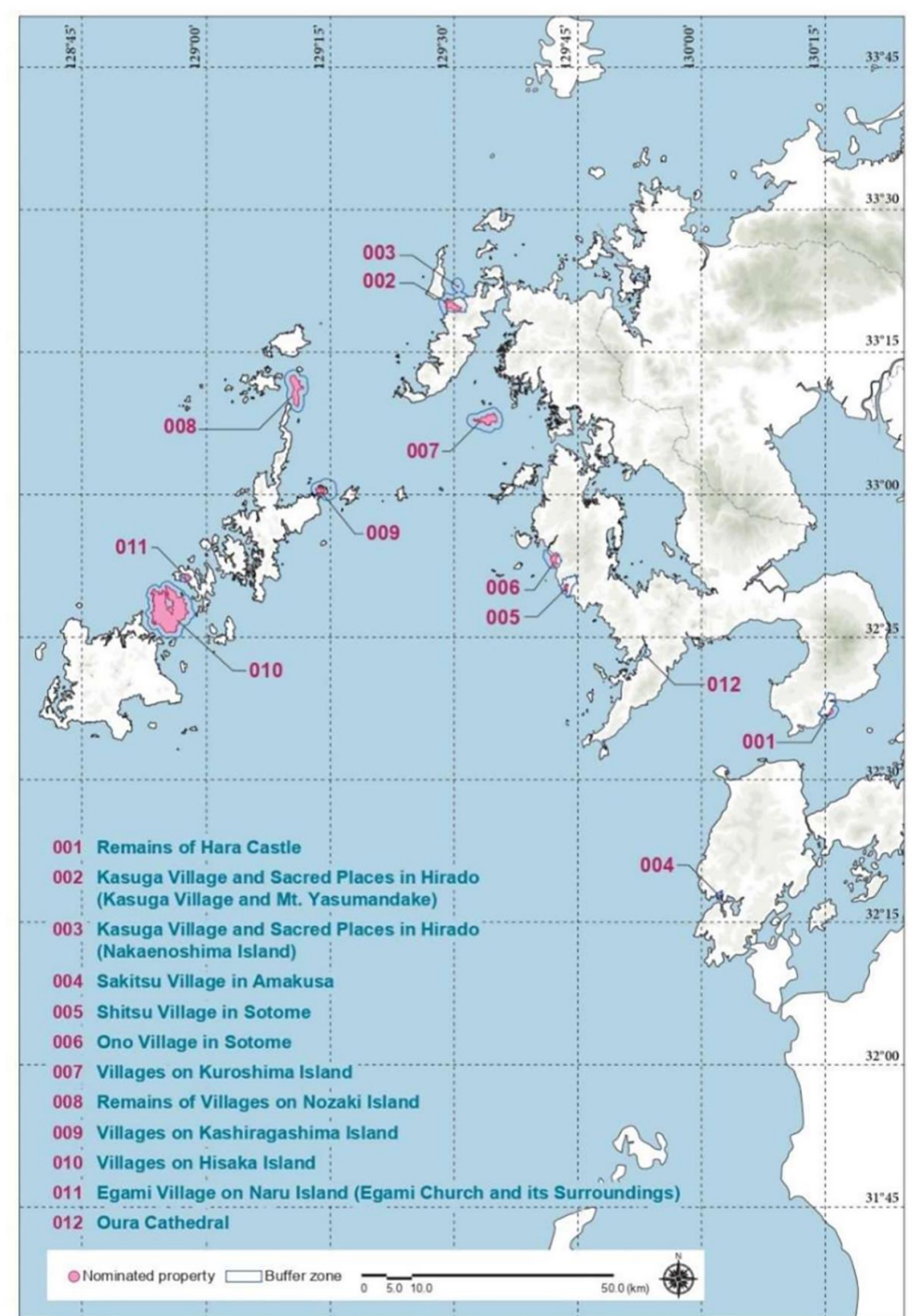
prof. arch. Olimpia Niglio  
University of Pavia  
ICOMOS PRERICO, Vice President

Lund, April 21, 2023

Nagasaki  
Prefecture

# HIDDEN CHRISTIAN WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE

Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region, World Heritage



# Memorial and 26 martyrs Museum Nagasaki



## Kasuga Village and Sacred Places in Hirado



Shiotoist shrine *and* Torii along the sacred route on Mount Yasumandake on Hirado Island

Small altar on the top of Mount Yasumandake on Hirado Island where Christian rites took place



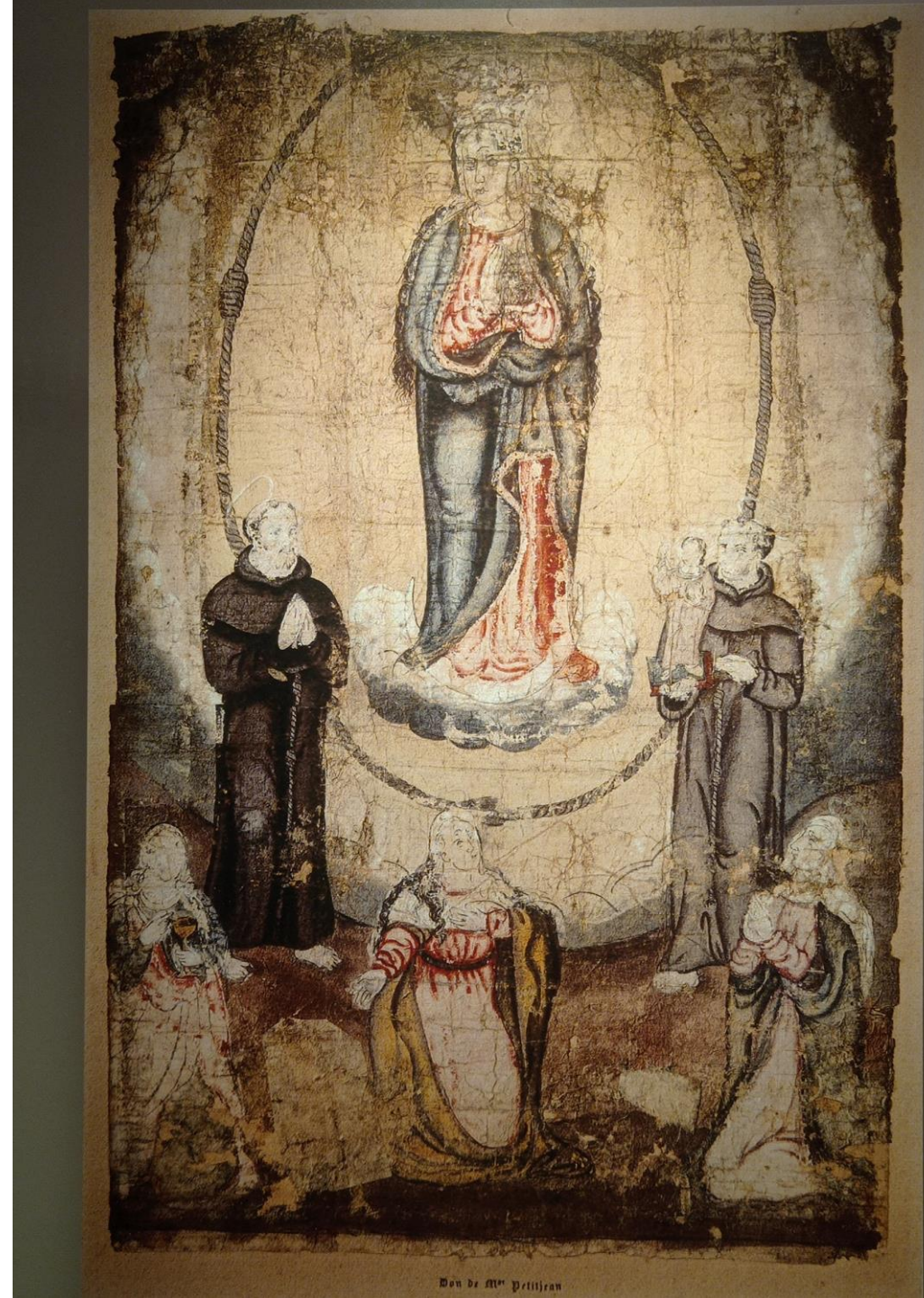


Hirado Island. Village of Kasuga. Devotional and torture object known as *privately owned Otenpensha*

Wooden tablet with sacred image used during ceremonies of renunciation of Christianity



Porcelain figurine representing Madonna and Child, together with another Buddhist figurine. (Shima no Yakata Museum)





Our Snow Lady. This sacred image, transmitted for generations in the Sotome area of Nagasaki Prefecture's Nishisonogi district, is presumed to have been painted around the same time the ban on Christianity was imposed. It was mounted on a fabric to be used as a hanging parchment, a typical Japanese tradition. Today it is preserved at the Twenty-six Martyrs Museum in Nagasaki.





A Shinto domestic altar and on the far right a wooden box containing hidden Christian devotional objects (kept by a resident of the village of Kasuga). The altar is placed near the ceiling in a room called *Nando's*



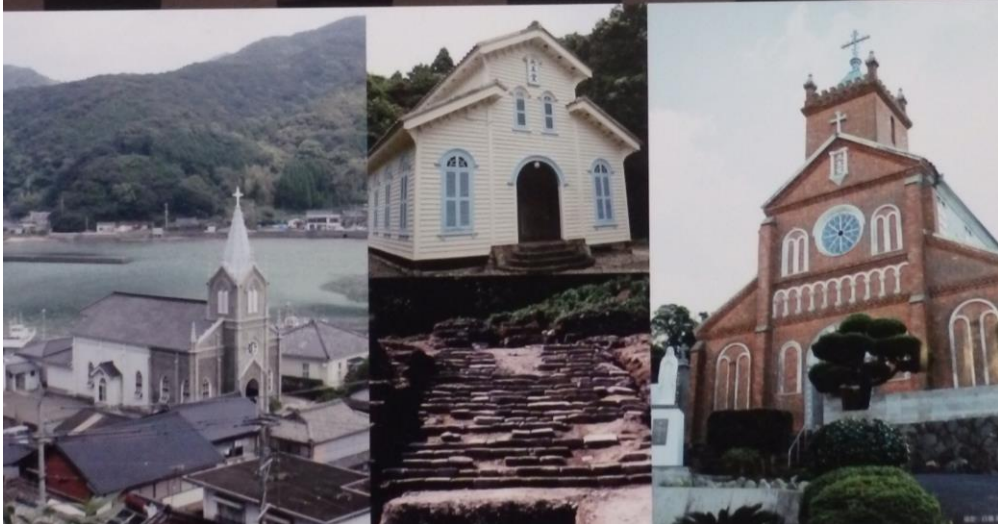
**Remains of the village of  
Funamori on the island of Nozaki  
and the site where hidden  
Christians gathered to pray**



平成 28 年の  
世界遺産登録をめざして!

NAGASAKI WORLD HERITAGE

世界遺産候補 長崎の教会群とキリスト教関連遺産



# ICOMOS

2018

## Evaluations of Nominations of Cultural and Mixed Properties

ICOMOS report for the World Heritage Committee  
42nd ordinary session, Manama, 24 June - 4 July 2018

WHC-18/42.COM/INF.8B1



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# Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region

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## Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region

Located in the north-western part of Kyushu island, this serial property consists of ten villages, remains of the Hara Castle and a cathedral, dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries. They reflect the era of prohibition of the Christian faith, as well as the revitalization of Christian communities after the official lifting of prohibition in 1873. These sites bear unique testimony to a cultural tradition nurtured by hidden Christians in the Nagasaki region who secretly transmitted their faith during the period of prohibition from the 17th to the 19th century.

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English

French

Arabic

Chinese

Russian

Spanish

 Japan

**Date of Inscription:** 2018

**Criteria:** (iii)

**Property :** 5,566.55 ha

**Buffer zone:** 12,252.52 ha

**Dossier:** 1495

N32 48 8 E128 54 14

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FIDEI

信

<https://www.diocesilucca.it/thesaurumfidei/>

**LUCCA, ITALY | MAY 6-30, 2023**