

Today's Martyrs – March 1939

Wednesday March 1, 1939



Spain: Cabeza del Buey, Badajoz

Antonio Garcia Estan (aged 20, seminarian, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC58.htm>

Thursday March 2, 1939



Vatican City

Cardinal Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli (aged 63, Vatican Secretary of State;

UPDATE: elected Pope of the Catholic Church, took the name Pius XII)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Pius_XII

Monday March 6, 1939



China: Shangliandi, Shanxi

Fr Antonio Cocchi OFM (aged 30, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1939.htm>



Russia: Taganka prison, Moscow

Olga Semenovna Koshelev (aged 64, wife of Andrey Koshelev, mother, arrested on [October 27, 1938](#), interrogated; **UPDATE**: **died in prison**)

<http://remnantrocor.blogspot.com/2017/03/martyr-olga-koshelev-1939.html>



Vatican City

Cardinal Michael von Faulhaber (aged 70, Archbishop of Munich, had written the first draft of the encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge* in [1937](#), which had attacked the philosophical underpinnings of the Nazi regime; **UPDATE**: reported to Pope Pius XII on the aftermath of Adolph Hitler's January 30, 1939 Reichstag speech in which he stated "The priest as political enemy of the Germans we shall destroy": Nazis had broken church statues, smeared excrement on altars, used crucifixes for target practice, and attacked his residence in Munich, breaking windows and setting fires)

https://openlibrary.org/works/OL17318218W/Church_of_Spies

Thursday March 9, 1939



Vatican City

Cardinal Theodor Innitzer (aged 64, residence in [Vienna](#) ransacked by a Nazi mob including older Hitler Youth on [October 25, 1938](#); **UPDATE**: reported to Pope Pius XII that the situation in Austria was "quite bad", that the Nazis had tried to keep countryside priests from teaching religion classes but had provoked a backlash from farmers who said "The school, they say, belongs to us. If there are no more religion classes we will riot")

https://openlibrary.org/works/OL17318218W/Church_of_Spies

Wednesday March 15, 1939

Invasion of the whole of Czechoslovakia by Germany



Spain: Nules, Castellon

Br Ludovico Molla Grifo O.Carm (aged 21, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faihwweb.com/martyrs/MSPC43.htm>

Saturday March 18, 1939



Spain: Madrid

Fr Victoriano de la Pena Sanchez (aged 52, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faihwweb.com/martyrs/MSPC49.htm>

Thursday March 23, 1939



Ukraine: Kiev

Sofia Krasovskaya (aged 47, secondary school teacher, arrested for 'assisting a fugitive priest [Fr Andronik Rudenko] and anti-Soviet agitation')

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0419>



Spain: Elche, Alicante

Magdalena Linares Pastor de Vicente (aged 37, wife, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faihwweb.com/martyrs/MSPC64.htm>

March 1939, date unknown



Kazakstan: Karlag labor camp, Akmolinsk sector

Nikolay Karabin (aged 50, arrested in [Kiev, Ukraine](#) on [January 4, 1938](#) on counter-revolutionary and espionage charges; sentenced on [January 21, 1938](#) to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE:** transferred to Vosturallag in Russia)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0992>



Germany: Sontheim

Wilhelm Glaser (husband of Paula Glaser, brother of Maria Ziefle, arrested by the Gestapo in [late October 1938](#) for saying “Hitler is a scoundrel” at his place of employment, committed to a hospital for the insane; **UPDATE:** released, told his extended family how he had been beaten, forcibly sterilized without anesthesia, drugged into incoherence during their family visits, threatened with ‘extermination’ and then released after he promised to never insult Hitler again, said “I had not been a very good Christian before, but I cried out to God as never before and asked Him to help me and to free me from the torture. I spent much time talking to God after that. It was the only way I kept my sanity”)

Germany: Wilsdruff

Pastor Paul Richter (aged 44, husband of Johanna, suspended from his parish for six months in [March 1934](#) for his anti-Nazi views, salary reduced by half; **UPDATE:** fined 200 Reichmarks)

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Richter_\(Pfarrer\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Richter_(Pfarrer)) - with translation

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL25942190M/One_Woman_Against_the_Reich - pages 47-49