

## Today's Martyrs – May 1940

**Tuesday May 6, 1940**



### **Austria: Vienna**

Fr Johannes Maria Lenz SJ (aged 38, arrested on [December 5, 1938](#); **UPDATE**: acquitted)

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes\\_Maria\\_Lenz](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes_Maria_Lenz) - with translation

**Wednesday May 7, 1940**



### **Germany: Freising prison**

Fr Korbinian Aigner (aged 54, arrested in [Hohenbercha](#) on [November 22, 1939](#) for a homily on "Thou shalt not kill" in which he said the recent failed assassination of Hitler might have saved a million people, sent to [Freising prison](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced on [May 7, 1940](#) to seven months' imprisonment)

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korbinian\\_Aigner](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korbinian_Aigner) - with translation

**Wednesday May 8, 1940**



### **Poland: Dzialdowo**

Fr Jozef Wojciech Guz (aged 50, arrested by the Soviets in [Grodno](#) on [March 21, 1940](#), later escaped, crossed into German occupied Poland and was arrested; **UPDATE**: transported to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp in Germany)

<http://missionimmaculata.com/index.php/mi-saints/blessed-martyrs-of-niepokalanow>

**Thursday May 9, 1940**



**Germany**

Martin Gauger (aged 34, attorney, resigned from the judicial service in [Monchengladbach](#) on [August 25, 1934](#) to avoid the loyalty oath to Adolph Hitler; **UPDATE:** swam the Rhine river into the Netherlands to escape military service)

<http://en.evangelischer-widerstand.de/html/view.php?type=biografie&id=10&l=en>

**Friday May 10, 1940**

**Germany invaded the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and France**

**Saturday May 18, 1940**



**Austria: Vienna**

Fr Johannes Maria Lenz SJ (aged 38, arrested on [December 5, 1938](#); acquitted on [May 6, 1940](#); **UPDATE:** arrested by the Gestapo)

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes\\_Maria\\_Lenz](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes_Maria_Lenz) - with translation

**Sunday May 19, 1940**



**Netherlands**

Martin Gauger (aged 34, attorney, resigned from the German judicial service in [Monchengladbach](#) on [August 25, 1934](#) to avoid the loyalty oath to Adolph Hitler; swam the Rhine river into the Netherlands on [May 9, 1940](#) to escape military service, Germany)

invaded the Netherlands the following day; **UPDATE**: arrested, attempted to escape but was shot, returned to Germany, held in Dusseldorf-Derendorf prison)

<http://en.evangelischer-widerstand.de/html/view.php?type=biografie&id=10&l=en>

**Thursday May 23, 1940**



**Poland: Lomza**

Fr Piotr Gaca OFM Cap (aged 33, arrested by the Soviets, charged with resistance activities)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0803>

**Friday May 24, 1940**



**Ukraine: Kholodnaya Gora prison, Kharkiv**

Archbishop Aleksandr Feofanovich Petrovsky (aged 88; church in [Poltava province](#) closed in [1919](#); arrested in [Kharkiv](#) on [June 20, 1938](#) for refusing to share his church building with the collaborative Living Church; sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on [July 17, 1939](#); **UPDATE**: **died in prison**, body saved from cremation at the morgue by a Christian and secretly buried)

[https://www.fatheralexander.org/booklets/english/alex\\_har\\_e.htm](https://www.fatheralexander.org/booklets/english/alex_har_e.htm)

**Thursday May 30, 1940**



**Germany: Buchenwald concentration camp**

Fr Otto Neururer (aged 58, arrested in [Gotzens, Austria](#) for advising a woman to not marry a Nazi; **UPDATE**: **died after being hung upside down** for having performed a baptism for a condemned prisoner)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otto\\_Neururer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otto_Neururer)

### May 1940, date unknown



#### USSR

Fr Bogdan Agopsovich (aged 32, **killed** while trying to illegally cross the border in an attempt to escape the country)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0006>



#### Germany: Landsberg prison

Pastor Julius von Jan (aged 41, Confessing Church member, delivered a [November 16, 1938](#) homily in [Lenninger](#) entitled "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord!" in which he condemned the persecution of the Jews and said great corruption was to come to Germany; beaten by the SA on [November 23, 1938](#) for being a "Jewish servant", arrested and placed in 'protective custody'; sentenced in [Stuttgart](#) on [November 15, 1939](#) to 16 months imprisonment; **UPDATE**: released from prison in late May, survived the war but in ill health)

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius\\_von\\_Jan](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_von_Jan) - with translation