

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – May 1941

**Monday May 5, 1941**



### **Bosnia and Herzegovina: Banja Luka**

Bishop Platon Jovanovic (dragged from his sickbed by the Ustashi, tortured and **murdered**, body thrown into the Vrbanja River)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banja\\_Luka#World\\_War\\_II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banja_Luka#World_War_II)  
<http://orthochristian.com/114594.html>

**Tuesday May 6, 1941**



### **Croatia: Veljun**

**Approximately 600 Orthodox Serbs were captured by the Ustashi from the surrounding area, locked in a police station and tortured**

Archpriest Branko Dobrosavljevic (father of Nebojsa Dobrosavljevic, captured, despite threats refused to perform a funeral service for his son while he was still alive)

Nebojsa Dobrosavljevic (son of Archpriest Branko Dobrosavljevic, medical student, captured on [May 6, 1941](#), severely tortured)

Fr Dimitrije Skorupan (captured)

<http://orthochristian.com/114594.html>

**Wednesday May 7, 1941**



### **Croatia: Kestenovac, near Hrvatski Blagaj**

Archpriest Branko Dobrosavljevic (father of Nebojsa Dobrosavljevic, captured on [May 6, 1941](#), despite threats refused to perform a funeral service for his son while he was still alive; **UPDATE: killed**)

Nebojsa Dobrosavljevic (son of Archpriest Branko Dobrosavljevic, medical student, captured on [May 6, 1941](#), severely tortured; **UPDATE: killed**)

Fr Dimitrije Skorupan (captured on [May 6, 1941](#); **UPDATE: killed**)

### **Croatia: Zagreb**

Metropolitan Dositej Vasic (aged 62, arrested by the Ustashi government, tortured, later released and sent to a monastery in Belgrade)

[https://sr.wikipedia.org/sr-el/Доситеј\\_Васић](https://sr.wikipedia.org/sr-el/Доситеј_Васић) - with translation  
<http://orthochristian.com/114594.html>



### **Poland - now Ukraine: Lviv**

Fr Antoni Guzik SDB (aged 49, arrested on [April 24, 1940](#) for 'anti-Soviet agitation'; **UPDATE: sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Starobelsk POW Camp in Ukraine)**

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0891>

**Thursday May 8, 1941**



### **Poland: Auschwitz Concentration Camp**

Fr Jan Eugeniusz Wilkowska OFM Conv (aged 26, arrested on [February 17, 1941](#) in [Niepokalanow monastery, Teresin](#) by the Gestapo; transferred from [Piwiak Prison in Warsaw](#) to Auschwitz on [April 4, 1941](#); **UPDATE: died**)

Fr Konrad Saweda (administered last rites to Fr Jan Eugeniusz Wilkowska)

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



**Austria: Hartheim euthanasia center, Alkhoven, Eferding**

Fr Gottfried Neunhauserer OSB (aged 59, **gassed**)

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE\\_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.salzburg.com%2fwiki%2findex.php%2fGottfried\\_Neunh%25C3%25A4userer](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.salzburg.com%2fwiki%2findex.php%2fGottfried_Neunh%25C3%25A4userer)

**Friday May 9, 1941**



**Austria: Mauthausen concentration camp**

Fr Jozef Cebula OMI (aged 39, Polish citizen, arrested on **April 2, 1941**; **UPDATE**: **shot dead** after telling a guard "It is not you who are in charge. God will judge you")

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B3zef\\_Cebula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B3zef_Cebula)

**Monday May 12, 1941**



**Kazakhstan**

Catherine Galler (aged 65, widow, arrested in **Kiev, Ukraine** on **July 29, 1935** for donating money to persecuted Christians and keeping religious literature in her home; sentenced to 3 years' internal exile on **May 14, 1936**; sentence extended another 3 years on **May 11, 1938** for 'anti-Soviet agitation'; **UPDATE**: released)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0288>



**Bosnia and Herzegovina: Sarajevo**

Metropolitan Petar (arrested, later **died** in Jasenovac concentration camp)

## Croatia: Glina

Fr Bogdan Opacic (locked inside his church with 160-317 others by Ustase soldiers, killed when the church was set afire, 100 more were killed the next day at Prekopi)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glina\\_massacres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glina_massacres)  
<http://orthochristian.com/114594.html>

**Wednesday May 14, 1941**



## Croatia: Zagreb

Archbishop Aloysius Viktor Stepinac (aged 43, sent a letter to Ustase leader Ante Pavelic protesting the massacre at Glina, received no reply)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glina\\_massacres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glina_massacres)



## Czech Republic

Fr Vaclav Celestin Sulc OH (aged 49, arrested by the Gestapo, sent to Pankrac prison)

<http://www.ustrcr.cz/cs/vaclav-celestin-sulc> - with translation

**Saturday May 17, 1941**



## Ukraine

Fr Ignacy Drozdowicz (aged 38, arrested in Shchitniki, Poland in September 1939, sent to Starobelsk POW Camp in Ukraine; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, possibly sent to Siblrag labor camp in Russia)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0932>



**Poland - now Ukraine: Kolomyia**

Fr Kazimierz Kozlowski SJ (aged 39, arrested in 1940 by the Soviets; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Sevvostoklag in Magadan oblast, Russia)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0899>

**Friday May 23, 1941**



**Poland: Krakow**

Fr Jozef Kowalski (aged 30, arrested by the Gestapo and tortured)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B3zef\\_Kowalski\\_\(priest\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B3zef_Kowalski_(priest))



**Austria: Hartheim euthanasia center, Alkoven, Eferding**

Fr Franz Steurer (aged 34, gassed)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Austria.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Austria.htm)

**Sunday May 25, 1941**



**Poland - now Lithuania: Vilnius**

Fr Kazimierz Kucharski SJ (aged 46, arrested, transferred to Butyrka Prison in Moscow)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1130>

Wednesday May 28, 1941



**Poland**

Fr Maximilian Maria Kolbe OFM Conv aka Raymund Kolbe (aged 47, arrested with four others by the Gestapo on [February 17, 1941](#) in [Niepokalanow monastery, Teresin](#); **UPDATE:** transferred to Auschwitz)

**Poland: Dzialdowo concentration camp**

Bishop Antoni Julian Nowowiejski (aged 83, beaten when he refused to profane Christian symbols, **died**)

**Poland - now Ukraine: Lviv**

Fr Wiktor Cebrowski (arrested by the Soviets on [September 28, 1940](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Starobelsk)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antoni\\_Julian\\_Nowowiejski](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antoni_Julian_Nowowiejski)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximilian\\_Kolbe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximilian_Kolbe)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1502>



**Germany: Dachau concentration camp**

Fr Lacina Jaroslav CCOP (aged 51, Czech national, **killed**)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Czech1.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Czech1.htm)

May 1941, date unknown



**Poland: Belostok Prison**

Fr Ryszard Grabski OFM Cap (aged 31, captured by German border guards while illegally crossing from Soviet held territory in [1940](#), handed over to Soviet border guards; **UPDATE:** sent to Kotlas, Arkhangelsk oblast, Russia)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0315>