

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – June 1944

**Sunday June 4, 1944**

**Allied liberation of Rome**

**Tuesday June 6, 1944**

**Allied invasion of France begun**

**Friday June 9, 1944**



**Croatia: Plesivica, Jastrebarsko**

Fr Ivan Simrak (aged 32, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1944.htm>



**Berlin: Plotzensee Prison**

Emmi Zehden (aged 44, **guillotined** for aiding 3 men avoid military service)

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL1090608M/An\\_Honourable\\_Defeat](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL1090608M/An_Honourable_Defeat) - Chapter 1



**France: Communay, Rhone**

Fernand Belot (aged 26, husband of Raymonde Guyon-Belot, published Christian and anti-Nazi literature, with his wife organized a network to help Jews escape to Switzerland, arrested)

along with his wife, father, and in-laws on [March 27, 1944](#) in [Lyon](#), tortured; **UPDATE:** **shot dead** by the Germans along with 18 other prisoners at the edge of a highway)

### **France: Tulle**

Fr Jean Espinasse (arrested by the Germans at his home after a failed Resistance uprising, reported to have managed to stop the hanging of suspected Resistance fighters, but only after 99 had been hung)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulle\\_massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulle_massacre)

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=FR_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2ffr.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fFernand_Belot)

[US&dl=en&lp=FR\\_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2ffr.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fFernand\\_Belot](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=FR_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2ffr.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fFernand_Belot)

**Saturday June 10, 1944**



### **France: Oradour-sur-Glane**

**German SS soldiers killed 642 men, women, and children in reprisal for local Resistance activities, the women and children had been killed in the village church, the village was largely destroyed and was later preserved as the Germans left it as a memorial**

Emile Francois Xavier Neumeyer (aged 21, seminarian, **killed**)

Fr Jacques Lorich (aged 47, **killed**)

Fr Jean-Baptiste Chapelle (aged 71, **killed**)

<http://www.oradour.info/ruined/chapter2.htm>

**Tuesday June 13, 1944**



### **Germany: Dachau concentration camp**

Br Josef Ausserlechner (aged 39, Austrian, **died**)

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

**Tuesday June 20, 1944**



**France: L'Isle-Adam, Val-d'Oise**

David Regnier (aged 17, **died**)

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

**Monday June 26, 1944**



**Russia: Zerkaly, Shipunovsk region**

Fr Johannes Lang (aged 62, deported from [Rostov-on-Don](#) on [September 18, 1941](#) along with a large number of Germans to [Shipunovo, Altay krai](#); sent to [Zerkaly, Shipunovsk region](#) in [February 1942](#), forced by poverty to perform solder repairs; **UPDATE: died, death believed to be from mishandling of soldering materials**)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0433>



**Germany: Brandenburg an der Havel**

Fr August Worndl OCD (aged 50, Austrian, **died**)

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

**Wednesday June 28, 1944**



**France: Paris**

Fr Corentin Chika OFM (aged 50, **shot** by two French Gestapo agents in his rectory, **died** at a nearby clinic, forgave his killers and said "I offer my life for my brethren and the country")

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=fr&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Ffr.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FP%25C3%25A8re\\_Corentin\\_Cloarec](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=fr&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Ffr.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FP%25C3%25A8re_Corentin_Cloarec)

**Thursday June 29, 1944**



**Italy: Civitella in Val di Chiana**

Fr Alcide Lazzeri (tried to shelter the townspeople in the church when German SS soldiers arrived to kill them in retribution for the deaths of three Germans, gave them absolution, shouted at the Germans "I'm responsible for what happened, kill me", **killed** along with 243 others)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civitella\\_in\\_Val\\_di\\_Chiana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civitella_in_Val_di_Chiana)

<http://www.archiviodellamemoriacivitellavaldichiana.it/en/la-strage-del-26061944/>

**June 1944, date unknown**