

## Today's Martyrs – December 1944

Friday December 1, 1944



### Lithuania: Vilnius

Fr Wladyslaw Kisel (aged 50, arrested)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1023>



### Italy

Gedeone Corra (aged 24, brother of Flavio Corra, arrested together by fascists near [Salizzole](#), Italy on [November 22, 1944](#); **UPDATE**: transferred to German SS control)

Flavio Corra (aged 27, brother of Gedeone Corra; **UPDATE**: transferred to German SS control)

<https://cacina.wordpress.com/2014/04/07/carry-the-gospel-with-you-1899/>  
<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1945.htm>

Saturday December 2, 1944



### Indonesia: Muntok concentration camp

Fr Franciscus Johannes Hofstad SCJ (aged 40, Dutch citizen, **died**)

<https://oorlogsgravenstichting.nl/persoon/65092/franciscus-johannes-hofstad> - with translation

Tuesday December 5, 1944



**Indonesia: Muntok concentration camp**

Br Theodurus van der Werf SCJ (aged 46, Dutch citizen, **died**)

<https://oorlogsgravenstichting.nl/persoon/169491/theodorus-van-der-werf> - with translation



**Austria: Vienna**

Hanns Georg Heintschel-Heinegg (aged 25, seminarian, arrested on **June 23, 1940** for anti-Nazi activities; **UPDATE: guillotined**)

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE\\_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fde.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fHanns\\_Georg\\_Heintschel-Heinegg](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fde.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fHanns_Georg_Heintschel-Heinegg)

**Saturday December 9, 1944**



**Bulgaria: Stara Zagora**

Fr Boris Georgiev Valkanov (summoned to a 'brief inquiry' at the Ministry of Interior, disappeared, **presumed dead**)

<http://prosopography1944-1989.bg/victims/index/page:257/sort:Victim.profession/direction:desc#/>



**Germany: Tegel Prison, Berlin**

Fr Alfred Delp SJ (aged 38, arrested by the Gestapo in **Munich** on **July 28, 1944** in connection with the plot to assassinate Hitler; **UPDATE: secretly made his final vows**)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred\\_Delp](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Delp)

**Tuesday December 12, 1944**



**Belarus: Minsk**

Fr Antoni Borysowicz (aged 51, arrested)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0160>

**Wednesday December 13, 1944**



**Belarus: Grodno**

Fr Jan Krukowski (aged 68, arrested by the Soviets)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1123>

**Friday December 15, 1944**



**Slovakia: Ruzomberok**

Frantisek Munk (aged 49, husband of Gizela Kohnove Munk, father of Tomas Dezider Munk and Juraj Munk, arrested by the Gestapo due to his Jewish ancestry)

Gizela Kohnove Munk (wife of Frantisek Munk, mother of Tomas Dezider Munk and Juraj Munk, arrested by the Gestapo due to her Jewish ancestry, **presumed dead** after deportation to Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp)

Juraj Munk (son of Frantisek and Gizela Kohnove Munk, brother of Tomas Dezider Monk, arrested by the Gestapo due to his Jewish ancestry, **presumed dead** after deportation to Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp)

Tomas Dezider Munk SJ (aged 21, son of Frantisek and Gizela Kohnove Munk, brother of Juraj Monk, novice, arrested by the Gestapo due to his Jewish ancestry)

<http://jezuiti.sk/blog/dejiny/2010/tomas-munk-a-jeho-historia-v-procese-blahorecenia/> - with translation  
<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1945.htm>

**Saturday December 16, 1944**



**Germany: Ravensbruck concentration camp**

Elisabeth "Betsie" ten Boom (aged 59, daughter of Casper ten Boom, sister of Cornelia "Corrie" ten Boom; arrested by the Gestapo on [February 29, 1944](#) for harboring Jews in her home in [Haarlem, Netherlands](#); **UPDATE:** **died**, said before her death "There is no pit so deep that He [God] is not deeper still")

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betsie\\_ten\\_Boom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betsie_ten_Boom)

**Sunday December 17, 1944**



**Germany: Dachau concentration camp**

Fr Karl Leisner (sent to Dachau concentration camp on [December 14, 1941](#); **UPDATE:** secretly ordained a priest)

Bishop Gabriel Piguet (aged 58, arrested for allegedly protecting a priest wanted by the Gestapo on [May 28, 1944](#) in [Clermont-Ferrand, France](#); **UPDATE:** secretly ordained Deacon Karl Leisner to the priesthood)

Josefa Mack (aged 20, children's home employee, under pain of death smuggled into Dachau the liturgical items necessary for the ordination of Karl Leisner, later became a professed religious sister)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl\\_Leisner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Leisner)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel\\_Piguet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Piguet)

[http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josefa\\_Mack](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josefa_Mack) - with translation

**Thursday December 21, 1944**



### Germany: Berlin

Eugen Bolz (aged 63, attorney, Interior Minister, spent several weeks in a concentration camp in 1933, released; arrested in Beuron on August 12, 1944 for having agreed to serve in a post-Nazi government; **UPDATE:** sentenced to death)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugen\\_Bolz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugen_Bolz)  
<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1945.htm>

**Saturday December 23, 1944**



### Poland: Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp

Sr Maria Cecilia Autsch OSST.Ter (aged 44, Austrian national, arrested in Motz, Austria on August 12, 1940 after saying Hitler was a calamity for Europe; transferred to Ravensbruck concentration camp on August 31, 1940, became known for her support of other prisoners despite frequent beatings; arrived at Auschwitz on March 26, 1942; transferred to the Birkenau extermination sub-camp in March 1943, continued to comfort other prisoners; **UPDATE:** killed in an Allied bombing raid)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela\\_Maria\\_Autsch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Maria_Autsch)

**Sunday December 24, 1944**



### Belarus: Minsk

Fr Antoni Borysowicz (aged 51, arrested on December 12, 1944; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment in a labor camp)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0160>

**Tuesday December 26, 1944**



**Germany: Ravensbruck concentration camp**

Sophia Eugenia Maria van Berckel (aged 55, Dutch citizen, **died**)

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

**Wednesday December 27, 1944**



**Hungary: Budapest**

Sr Sara Salkahazi SSS (aged 45, **shot dead** on the bank of the Danube by Arrow Cross gunmen for rescuing Jews)

Vilma Bernovits (religion teacher, **shot dead** on the bank of the Danube by Arrow Cross gunmen for rescuing Jews)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A1ra\\_Salkah%C3%A1zi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A1ra_Salkah%C3%A1zi)

[http://www.salkahazisara.com/bio\\_en.html](http://www.salkahazisara.com/bio_en.html)



**Germany: Hersbruck concentration camp**

Odoardo Focheerini (aged 37, husband of Maria Marchesi, father of Olga and six other children; arrested by the Germans in **Carpi, Italy** on **March 11, 1944** for helping Jews escape to Switzerland with false documents; **UPDATE: died** of septicemia from an infected leg wound)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward\\_Focherini](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Focherini)

[https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odoardo\\_Focherini](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odoardo_Focherini) - with translation

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/blessed-odoardo-focherini-the-father-of-seven-who-saved-100-jewish-lives-68092/>

**Thursday December 28, 1944**





## Italy

Fr Antonio Seghezzi (aged 38, arrested in [Bergamo, Italy](#) on [November 4, 1943](#) for supporting the resistance; **UPDATE**: transferred to Germany)

[https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio\\_Seghezzi](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_Seghezzi) - with translation

**December 1944, date unknown**



## Poland: Auschwitz Concentration Camp

Fr Jean Joseph Rosay (aged 42, arrested in [Douvaine, France](#) on [February 11, 1944](#) for aiding Jews and shot-down Allied flight crews, implicated himself to save others; deported to [Auschwitz Concentration Camp](#) on [April 27, 1944](#), described by a fellow inmate as 'radiant' and as always helping fellow inmates; **UPDATE** evacuated from Auschwitz)

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean\\_Rosay](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Rosay) - with translation