Today’s Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – March 1945

Thursday March 1, 1945

Poland: Gross-Rosen concentration camp
Fr Georges Dellwall (aged 60, French citizen, died)
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/France.htm

Albania
Bishop Louis Bumci (aged 72, died while under investigation)
https://sq.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luigj_Bumçi - with translation

Friday March 2, 1945

Germany: Dachau concentration camp
Fr Engelmar Unzeitig CMM (aged 34, arrested by the Gestapo in Glokelburg, Austria on April 21, 1941 for homilies that supported Jews and encouraged parishioners to resist Nazi propaganda; sent to Dachau without trial on June 8, 1941; UPDATE: died of typhus after volunteering to care for others with the disease, had written to his sister "Whatever we do, whatever we want, is surely simply the grace that carries us and guides us. God's almighty grace helps us overcome obstacles...love doubles our strength, makes us inventive, makes us feel content and inwardly free. If people would only realize what God has in store for those who love Him!")
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Engelmar_Unzeitig
Monday March 5, 1945

Albania: Tirana

Fr Lazer Shantoja (aged 52, arrested and tortured by Communist partisans on January 27, 1945; sentenced to death in Shkodra on January 31, 1945; UPDATE: shot dead, had been forced to crawl on his elbows and knees to his execution due to the effects of torture)

https://sq.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lazër_Shantoja - with translation

Wednesday March 7, 1945

Germany: Flossenburg Concentration Camp

Gedeone Corra (aged 24, brother of Flavio Corra, arrested by fascists near Salizzole, Italy on November 22, 1944; transferred to German SS control on December 1, 1944; sent to Flossenburg on January 18, 1945; UPDATE: died)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1945.htm

Saturday March 10, 1945

Czech Republic: Pankrac prison, Prague

Fr Frantisek Vlk SJ (aged 40, died)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Czech1.htm
Germany: Neuengamme concentration camp
Gerhardus Hendrikus Anthonius Jagt (aged 40, Dutch citizen, died)
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Netherlands.htm

Tuesday March 13, 1945

Czech Republic: Pankrac prison, Prague
Antonin Malimanek SJ (aged 28, seminarian, died)
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Czech1.htm

Friday March 16, 1945

Slovenia
Fr Danijel Halas (aged 37, novelist, tortured, killed)

Austria: Mauthausen concentration camp
Jean Tinturier (French citizen, former seminarian, had been arrested for ministering to conscripted laborers, died)
https://catholicsaintsguy.wordpress.com/tag/mauthausen/
Croatia: Dubrovnik
Fr Nedjelko Barac OP (aged 32, arrested on March 18, 1945 for publishing an anti-communist dissertation; UPDATE: sentenced to death)
https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominik_Bar%C4%8D - with translation

Austria: Mauthausen concentration camp
Fr Heinrich Maier (aged 37, underground resistance leader, arrested in Vienna-Wahring on March 28, 1944, tortured; sentenced to death for treason on October 28, 1944, attempted to excuse his co-defendants and put the full sentence on himself, when asked "What do you get if you take the blame of others?" replied "I will probably not need anything anymore!"; transferred to Mauthausen concentration camp on November 22, 1944, severely tortured for months; UPDATE: returned to Vienna, used to defuse unexploded bombs)
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Austria.htm
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Maier

Monday March 19, 1945

Austria: Mauthausen concentration camp
Marcel Callo (aged 23, printer, fiancé of Marguerite Derniaux, conscripted into forced labor in Rennes, France on March 19, 1943, told by Marguerite that he would die a martyr, replied “I could never deserve such an honor”; arrested by the Gestapo in Zella-Mehlis, Thuringia, Germany on April 19, 1944 for being "too much of a Catholic"; arrived at a concentration camp in Gotha, on October 7, 1944, later sent to Flossenburg; sent to Mauthausen on October 20, 2016, beaten and overworked; UPDATE: died from dysentery and tuberculosis, earlier had fallen into a latrine pit, the French Resistance colonel who pulled him out later said “Then I saw that he was not a normal boy...he had only one look. His eyes were seeing something else...His eyes expressed the deep
conviction that he was going to happiness...[the look] was an act of Faith and Hope in a better life. Never have I seen on another dying man - and I have seen thousands - a look like his. He had the look of a saint. It was a revelation for me”

https://catholicsaintsguy.wordpress.com/tag/mauthausen/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcel_Callo

Wednesday March 21, 1945

Laos: Nakhay

Bishop Ange-Marie Joseph Gouin (aged 57, shot dead by Japanese soldiers)
Fr Jean Thibaud (aged 55, shot dead by Japanese soldiers)

Thursday March 22, 1945

Austria: Vienna

Fr Heinrich Maier (aged 37, underground resistance leader, arrested in Vienna-Währing on March 28, 1944, tortured; sentenced to death for treason on October 28, 1944, attempted to excuse his co-defendants and put the full sentence on himself, when asked "What do you get if you take the blame of others?" replied "I will probably not need anything anymore!"; transferred to Mauthausen concentration camp on November 22, 1944, severely tortured for months; returned to Vienna on March 18, 1945, used to defuse unexploded bombs; UPDATE: beheaded, last words were “Long live Christ, the king! Long live Austria!”)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Austria.htm
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Maier

Friday March 23, 1945
Hungary: Liter, Veszprem
Bodi Maria Magdolna (aged 23, killed while resisting rape)
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1945.htm

Saturday March 24, 1945

Poland: Nysa
Sr Anna Gonschior SSND (aged 34, shot dead while protecting women from rape and resisting rape)
Sr Jadwiga Pohl SMI (aged 77, killed by Soviet soldiers while resisting rape)
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Poland2.htm
http://www.swzygmunt.knc.pl/MARTYROLOGIUM/POLISHRELIGIOUS/vENGLISH/HTMs/POLISHRELIGIOUSmartyr0741.htm
http://www.swzygmunt.knc.pl/MARTYROLOGIUM/POLISHRELIGIOUS/vENGLISH/HTMs/POLISHRELIGIOUSmartyr3284.htm

Sunday March 25, 1945

Bulgaria: Kyustendil
Fr Dimitar Eftimov Petrov (death sentence issued, date of execution unknown)
Albania: Shkoder
Fr Ndre Zadeja OP (aged 53, playwright, arrested by Communists on February 4, 1945; UPDATE: executed without trial along with seminarians and laity)
https://sq.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ndre_Zadeja - with translation

Poland: Glubczyce, Opole
Sr Anna Maria Klaminger SSPS (aged 26, Austrian, killed while resisting rape)

Poland: Nysa
Sr Lucja Peter SSND (aged 34, killed while protecting women from rape)

Germany: Bergen-Belsen concentration camp
Fr Adrianus Leonardus Onderwater (aged 51, Dutch citizen, died)

Germany: Dachau concentration camp
Fr Pawel Januszewski O.Carm (aged 37, Polish citizen, died of typhus after volunteering to care for others with the disease)
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Netherlands.htm
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hilary_Pawe%C5%82_Januszewski

Wednesday March 28, 1945

Ukraine: Volodymyr-Volynskyi
Fr Andrzej Gladysiewicz (aged 31, arrested on January 4, 1945; UPDATE: sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Yagrinlag)

https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0840

Poland: Stutthof Concentration Camp
Fr Alphonse Lipniunas (aged 39, arrested in Vilnius, Lithuania on March 17, 1943 by the Gestapo; UPDATE: died of pneumonia and spotted fever)
http://www.lipniunas.com/biografija - with translation

Thursday March 29, 1945

Austria: Mauthausen concentration camp
Fr Armand Vallee (aged 35, French citizen, died)
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/France.htm

Friday March 30, 1945
Good Friday – Western Calendar

Hungary: Gyor
Bishop Vilmos Apor (aged 53, uncle of Fr Hans Urs von Balthasar and Sandor Palffy, shot while successfully protecting women from rape by Soviet soldiers)
Sandor Palffy (aged 17, nephew of Bishop Vilmos Apor, shot by Soviet soldiers when he tried to protect his uncle the bishop from their gunfire)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vilmos_Apor
http://www.katolikus.hu/hun-saints/apor_en.html
Germany: Ravensbruck concentration camp

Sr Elise Rivet (aged 55, arrested by the Gestapo in Paris for aiding refugees and resistance fighters; **UPDATE**: gassed after volunteering to switch places with a woman with children)

Sr Maria Skobtsova (aged 54, mother of Yuri Skobtsov, arrested by the Gestapo on February 8, 1943 in Paris for aiding Jews; **UPDATE**: was seen by two witnesses to have decided to accompany and console women who were distraught after they were selected for death, held overnight near the gas chamber)

Natalia Tulasiewicz (aged 39, teacher, arrested and tortured after discovered to have volunteered to join Polish slave laborers to support their spiritual needs; **UPDATE**: gave a Good Friday speech on the passion and resurrection of Jesus)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lise_Rivet
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natalia_Tu%C5%82asiewicz
https://openlibrary.org/books/OL8323361M/Pearl_of_Great_Price - pages 146-148

Saturday March 31, 1945

Austria: Horitschon, Oberpullendorf

Fr Josef Bauer (aged 69, killed while protecting women from rape)

Germany: Ravensbruck concentration camp

Sr Maria Skobtsova (aged 54, mother of Yuri Skobtsov, arrested by the Gestapo on February 8, 1943 in Paris for aiding Jews; was seen by two witnesses on March 30, 1945 to have decided to accompany and console women who were distraught after they were selected for death, held overnight near the gas chamber; **UPDATE**: gassed)

Natalia Tulasiewicz (aged 39, teacher, arrested and tortured after discovered to have volunteered to join Polish slave laborers to support their spiritual needs; on March 30, 1945 gave a Good Friday speech on the passion and resurrection of Jesus; **UPDATE**: gassed)

March 1945, date unknown

Germany: Bergen-Belsen concentration camp
Fr Zacharias de Korte (aged 54, Dutch citizen, died in mid-March)
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Netherlands.htm