

Today's Martyrs – April 1945

Sunday April 1, 1945

Easter [Pascha] – Western Calendar



Poland: Kietrz, Glubczyce

Sr Monika von Ballestrem FMM (aged 40, killed while protecting women from rape)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/defense_of_women.htm



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Giuseppe Girotti OP (arrested while assisting a Jew on August 29, 1944 in Turin, Italy;

UPDATE: killed)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giuseppe_Girotti

Monday April 2, 1945



Poland: Nysa

Sr Maria Harbig SMI (aged 39, killed by Soviet soldiers while resisting rape)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Poland2.htm

<http://www.swzygmunt.knc.pl/MARTYROLOGIUM/POLISHRELIGIOUS/vENGLISH/HTMs/POLISHRELIGIOUSmartyr3285.htm>



Hungary: Gyor

Bishop Vilmos Apor (aged 53, uncle of Fr Hans Urs von Balthasar and Sandor Palffy, shot on [March 30, 1945](#) while successfully protecting women from rape by Soviet soldiers; **UPDATE:** died from his gunshot wounds)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vilmos_Apor



Austria: Wiener Neustadt

Fr Alois Rabensteiner O.Cist (aged 70, **killed** by Soviet troops either while protecting women from rape or for moving dead German soldiers' bodies so they would not be run over by tanks [accounts vary])

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberich_Rabensteiner

Tuesday April 3, 1945



Austria: Tattendorf, Baden

Fr Alois Kremar OSA (aged 37, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

Germany: Buchenwald concentration camp

Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer (aged 39, fiancé of Maria von Wedemeyer; **UPDATE:** transferred to Flossenburg concentration camp)

Josef Muller (aged 47, husband of Maria, father of Christa, attorney, interrogated by the SS in [November 1944](#), told that he was a dead man, replied that death was just a passage to eternal life, when asked if he prayed he replied yes, including for the SS and all his enemies; **UPDATE:** transferred to Flossenburg)

http://newsaints.faihweb.com/new_martyrs/defense_of_women.htm

<https://openlibrary.org/books/OL25892903M/Bonhoeffer>

https://openlibrary.org/works/OL17318218W/Church_of_Spies

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_M%C3%BCller_\(CSU_politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_M%C3%BCller_(CSU_politician))

Wednesday April 4, 1945



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Josef Albinger (aged 33, arrested in [Hanaun am Main](#) on [November 8, 1941](#) for circulating a copy of Bishop von Galen's anti-euthanasia homilies, jailed in [Frankfurt](#); arrived at [Dachau](#) on [February 5, 1942](#); **UPDATE**: released)

Germany: Nordhausen concentration camp

Fr Daniel Bonnin (aged 38, French citizen, **killed**)

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_Albinger - with translation
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/France.htm

Thursday April 5, 1945



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Heinrich Hennan (arrested in [Munster](#) on [November 20, 1941](#) for having said in a homily that current books on Church history were not objective; sent to [Dachau](#) on [January 30, 1942](#); **UPDATE**: released)

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pfarrerblock_\(KZ_Dachau\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pfarrerblock_(KZ_Dachau)) - with translation
https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26360161M/The_Priest_Barracks

Friday April 6, 1945



Austria: Kaltenleutgeben, Modling

Fr Johann Wolf (aged 52, **killed**)

Austria: Stein and Krems an der Donau

Agnes Redlinghofer (widow of Rudolf Redlinghofer; **UPDATE**: assisted Peter Goelles escape the massacre of released prisoners)

Peter Goelles (released from prison before the Soviet advance, escaped the subsequent massacre of released prisoners)

Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Joseph Kentenich SAC (aged 59, founder of the Schoenstatt Movement, arrested by the Gestapo in Koblenz on September 20, 1941 for his anti-Nazi views, told his interrogators "My mission is to reveal the inner emptiness of National Socialism, and by there to defeat it": arrived in Dachau in March 1942; **UPDATE:** freed with the arrival of American soldiers)

Fr Karl Leisner (sent to Dachau concentration camp on May 14, 1941; **UPDATE:** freed with the arrival of American soldiers at Dachau)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Kentenich

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Leisner

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolf_Redlinghofer#Rudolf.27s_suit_saved_Christian_brother

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Austria1.htm

Saturday April 7, 1945



Germany: Flossenburg Concentration Camp

Flavio Corra (aged 28, brother of Gedeone 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)

<https://cacina.wordpress.com/2014/04/07/carry-the-gospel-with-you-1899/>

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

Sunday April 8, 1945



Austria: Lafnitzegg, Steiermark

Sr Maria Margareta Kruckl (aged 26, killed while resisting rape)

Germany: Schonberg

Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer (aged 39; fiancé of Maria von Wedemeyer, co-founder of the Confessing Church, arrested on April 5, 1943; **UPDATE:** taken for 'trial' at Flossenburg concentration camp, told a fellow inmate "This is the end — for me the beginning of life")

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/defense_of_self.htm
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietrich_Bonhoeffer

Monday April 9, 1945



Germany: Flossenburg concentration camp

Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer (aged 39; fiancé of Maria von Wedemeyer, co-founder of the Confessing Church, arrested on [April 5, 1943](#); taken for trial on [April 8, 1945](#), told a fellow inmate "This is the end — for me the beginning of life"; **UPDATE: hanged**)

Josef Muller (aged 47, husband of Maria, father of Christa, attorney, interrogated by the SS in [November 1944](#), told that he was a dead man, replied that death was just a passage to eternal life, when asked if he prayed he replied yes, including for the SS and all his enemies; **UPDATE: taken to be hanged, execution stopped due to the intervention of Hitler's chief bodyguard, who was an old friend**)

https://openlibrary.org/works/OL17318218W/Church_of_Spies
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietrich_Bonhoeffer
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_M%C3%BCller_\(CSU_politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_M%C3%BCller_(CSU_politician))

Wednesday April 11, 1945



Ukraine: Lviv

Bishop Josyf Slipyj (aged 58, arrested by the NKVD)

Bishop Nikolay Charnetsky CSSR (aged 60, arrested)

Bishop Nykyta Budka (aged 68, Canadian citizen, arrested, later sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josyf_Slipyj
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nykyta_Budka
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1508>

Friday April 13, 1945



Italy: Piani di Monchio

Rolando Rivi (aged 14, seminarian, **killed** by Communist partisans)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolando_Rivi

Sunday April 15, 1945



Austria: Krems an der Donau

Fr Anton Granig (aged 43, arrested on **July 6, 1943** for anti-Nazi activities; **UPDATE: executed by firing squad**, the Soviet army was only 6 kilometers away)

Fr Eduard Steinwender OFM (aged 50, arrested on **July 6, 1943** for anti-Nazi activities; **UPDATE: executed by firing squad**, the Soviet army was only 6 kilometers away)

Fr Johannes Wilhelm Pieller OFM (aged 53, arrested on **August 23, 1943** for anti-Nazi activities; **UPDATE: executed by firing squad**, the Soviet army was only 6 kilometers away)

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%2fAnton_Granig
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%2fAngelus_Steinwender

http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2faustria-forum.org%2faf%2fWissenssammlungen%2fBiographien%2fPieller%252C_Wilhelm

Tuesday April 17, 1945



Austria: Matzen-Raggendorf, Gansendorf

Fr Georg Halzl (aged 47, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

Austria: Niedersulz, Gansendorf

Fr Rudolf Frank (aged 42, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

Germany: St Wolfgang

Leopold Engleitner (aged 39, Austrian, conscientious objector, sent to work on a farm as a slave laborer, **UPDATE**: received a conscription notice, fled the farm and hid in a cabin and a cave from searchers)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/defense_of_women.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopold_Engleitner

Thursday April 19, 1945



Italy: Felina, Castelnovo Monti, Reggio Emilia

Fr Giuseppe Jemmi (aged 25, beaten and **killed** by Communist partisans while travelling to say a funeral Mass for their victims)

[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=IT_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.salpan.org%2fMISCELLANEA%2fDon_Jemmi.html)

[US&dl=en&lp=IT_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.salpan.org%2fMISCELLANEA%2fDon_Jemmi.html](http://www.salpan.org%2fMISCELLANEA%2fDon_Jemmi.html)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Italy2.htm



Germany: Bergen-Belsen concentration camp

Fr Henri van Oostayen SJ (aged 39, Belgian citizen, arrested in **Brussels** on **July 25, 1944** by the Gestapo for sheltering Jews; **UPDATE**: **killed**)

<http://college.holycross.edu/faculty/vlapomar/hiatt/oostayen.html>

Friday April 20, 1945



Germany: Brandenburg-Gorden prison, Brandenburg an der Havel

Fr Josef Jilek (aged 36, Czech national, **killed**)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Czech1.htm

Saturday April 21, 1945



Germany: Neuengamme concentration subcamp, Neustadt in Holstein

Johannes Bernardus Josephus Scholte (aged 45, Dutch citizen, husband, **killed**)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Netherlands.htm

Sunday April 22, 1945



Austria: Mistelbach

Fr Titus Helde SDS (aged 39, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

Germany: Neuruppin, Ostprignitz-Ruppin

Frantisek Munk (aged 49, husband of Gizela Kohnove Munk, father of Tomas Dezider Munk and Juraj Munk, arrested in [Ruzomberok, Slovakia](#) on [December 15, 1944](#) by the Gestapo due to his Jewish ancestry; **UPDATE**: **shot dead** during a death march from Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp while protecting his son)

Tomas Dezider Munk SJ (aged 21, son of Frantisek and Gizela Kohnove Munk, brother of Juraj Monk. novice; **UPDATE**: **shot dead** during a death march from Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp due to illness)

<http://jezuiti.sk/blog/dejiny/2010/tomas-munk-a-jeho-historia-v-procese-blahorecenia/> - with translation

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/defense_of_women.htm

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

Tuesday April 24, 1945



Japan: Okinawa

Fr Larry Lynch (aged 38, U.S. Army chaplain, **killed** by Japanese shellfire after deliberately exposing himself to give Last Rites to a dying soldier)

<http://the-american-catholic.com/2015/04/24/april-24-1945-death-of-father-cyclone/#more-58867>

Wednesday April 26, 1945



Germany: Dachau Concentration Camp

Fr Korbinian Aigner (aged 59, arrested in [Hohenbercha](#) on [November 22, 1939](#); sent to [Dachau](#) on [June 23, 1941](#); **UPDATE**: left [Dachau](#) in a death march)

Fr Wilhelm Schamoni (aged 40, arrested in [Bad Oeynhausen](#) on [December 30, 1939](#) for homilies based on the papal encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge* [*With Burning Anxiety*] which called the Nazis barbarians; **UPDATE**: forced out of the camp and into a death march, later escaped)

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korbinian_Aigner - with translation

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_Schamoni - with translation

Thursday April 27, 1945



Germany: outside Dachau Concentration Camp

Fr Hermann Scheipers (aged 31, arrested in [Hubertusburg](#) on [October 4, 1940](#) for assisting Polish laborers, later sent to [Dachau](#); **UPDATE**: escaped from a death march)

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann_Scheipers - with translation

Saturday April 28, 1945



Germany: Aufkirchen

Fr Korbinian Aigner (aged 59, arrested in [Hohenbercha](#) on [November 22, 1939](#); sent to [Dachau](#) on [June 23, 1941](#); left [Dachau](#) in a death march on [April 26, 1945](#); **UPDATE**: escaped from the death march)

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korbinian_Aigner - with translation

Sunday April 29, 1945



Ukraine: Odessa

Fr Pietro Leoni SJ (aged 36, Italian citizen, arrested)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1837>



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Camp liberated by the U.S. Army

Fr Johannes Burkhart (arrived in [Dachau](#) on [February 2, 1942](#); interrogated in [September 1943](#) for attempting to send illegal letters; **UPDATE**: freed)

Fr Johannes Maria Lenz SJ (aged 43, Austrian national, arrested in [Vienna](#) on [December 5, 1938](#); acquitted on [May 6, 1940](#); arrested by the Gestapo on [May 18, 1940](#); arrived at [Dachau](#) on [August 9, 1940](#), abused and tortured; **UPDATE**: freed, later wrote *Christ in Dachau*)

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes_Maria_Lenz - with translation

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26360161M/The_Priest_Barracks

Monday April 30, 1945



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Konrad Just OC (aged 43; arrested [June 10, 1938](#); **UPDATE**: escaped during a death march)

http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=de&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Fde.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FKonrad_Just

April 1945, date unknown



Ukraine: Ivano-Frankivsk

Bishop Hryhory Khomyshyn (aged 78, arrested by the NKVD, sent to Kiev, tortured)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hryhory_Khomyshyn



Hungary: Sopron

Bishop Jozsef Mindszenty (aged 53, arrested in [Veszprem](#) on [November 27, 1944](#) for opposition to government seizure of church property to quarter troops; **UPDATE**: released from house arrest)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B3zsef_Mindszenty



Austria: Nickelsdorf, Neusiedl am See

Fr Josef Weber (**killed**)

Germany: Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp

Fr Jean Joseph Rosay (aged 43, 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; evacuated from Auschwitz in December 1944; **UPDATE**: died of exposure and exhaustion sometime between April 10-15, 1945)

Germany: Berlin

Pastor Heinrich Gruber (married, father of three, arrested by the Gestapo on December 19, 1940 for attempting to travel to occupied France to visit more deported German Jews, released on June 23, 1943; **UPDATE**: organized the hiding of women to protect them from rape)

Germany: Munster

Bishop Clemens August Graf von Galen (aged 60, **UPDATE**: complained on or about April 12, 1945 to the British occupation authorities that churches had been desecrated and girls raped)

Germany: Ravensbruck Concentration Camp

Maria Borgato (aged 46, Italian citizen, killed toward the end of April 1945)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Austria1.htm

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

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_Church_\(Berlin-Kaulsdorf\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_Church_(Berlin-Kaulsdorf))

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Rosay - with translation

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26246325M/The_Lion_of_Munster